# St Columba’s Church, Selsdon

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**27 NOVEMBER 2022 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**First Reading:** A reading from the prophet Isaiah: 2:1-5

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 121:1-2.4-5.6-9. Rcf v.1: I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’

**Second Reading**: A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Romans: 13:11-14

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew: 24:37-44

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**THIS WEEK’S MASSES**

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| **Date** | **Mass** | **Time** | **Intention** |
| Sun 27 Nov | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6.30pm-Sat | Pro Populo |
| 8am | Christopher Sampson, RIP |
| 10am | Thomas & Darly, wedding anniversary |
| 6.30pm | Zena Dennett, RIP |
| Mon 28 Nov | Advent Weekday | 10am | Geoff Turner, RIP |
| Tues 29 Nov | Advent Weekday | 10am | May Corbett, RIP |
| Wed 30 Nov | St. Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland | 10am | Jerome Sudsbury, thanksgiving |
| Thurs 1 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Holy Souls |
| Fri 2 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Sean O'Halloran, RIP |
| Sat 3 Dec | St. Francis Xavier, Priest  *Day of Prayer for Migrants* | 10.30am | Priest’s intention |
| Sun 4 Dec | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6.30pm-Sat | Colleen Hiett, RIP |
| 8am | Holy Souls |
| 10am | UCM |
| 6.30pm | Pro Populo |

**Please note that Mass will be celebrated every Thursday in Advent and during the Christmas Octave.** Weekday Masses are preceded by Morning Prayer (at 9.40am). Tuesday’s Mass is followed by Holy Hour; Friday’s Mass, by the rosary. There are devotions to Our Lady every Saturday morning at 10am. There is now Mass every Saturday morning at 10.30am (following 10am devotions). Confessions: on Saturdays directly after morning Mass and from 6-6.15pm.

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT** Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas [from 17 – 24 December], in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ`s Second Coming at the end of time [from today until 16 December]. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. We remember especially in this season all migrants and refugees (3 December) and all expectant mothers (Fourth Sunday of Advent – 18 December).

This year (2022/3) is the Year of St. Matthew and he will dominate most of our Sunday Gospels.

**NEXT WEEKEND’S READERS & WRITERS** Saturday 6.30pm Richard Tomlinson, Sunday 8am Sybille Kpami, 10am UCM, 6.30pm Alan Thorpe. The Bidding Prayers writer is Marion De Souza.

**COLLECTIONS** The collection last Sunday amounted to £584.07. Thank you. The second collection for the Catholic Youth Service amounted to £328.35.

**CASH NOT NEEDED** To contribute to the main Offertory collection only, you can use our contactless payment machines. You touch the button for the amount you wish to give, tap your credit/debit card on the keypad and, if you wish St Columba’s to benefit from Gift Aid (an extra 25p at no cost to you for every £1 you give as a taxpayer), then touch that button too. Thank you for your offering, however given.

**CHANGES IN MASS TIMES** The Diocese has raised the question of the number of Masses that are being celebrated in most of the smaller parishes, as under Canon [Church] Law priests are supposed to celebrate two Masses only on a Sunday, although three are permitted where necessary.

At present St. Columba`s enjoys four Sunday Masses for a congregation of about 250. As the church can hold 150 (excluding the side-chapels and organ gallery) this represents a capacity for 600, more than double than what is required. At a recent meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council it was accepted that one Mass could be dropped but that the parish should be consulted. It is likely – but by no means certain – that this could be the Sunday evening Mass, given the fact that illness/absence of the Parish Priest entails far more difficulty in obtaining a supply priest for a Sunday evening than for other Masses. The priests in this Diocese are in short supply and are ageing, so finding a priest to cover three Masses (two of which are close together in the morning) is easier than trying to cover four, the last Mass being over six hours later than the previous ones.

Given that the Parish Council request that the Parish should be consulted it is proposed that a questionnaire will be issued shortly, with suggestions for timings for three Masses rather than the present four. There are other factors that apply. There is an urgent need for an organist, the availability of which may have an impact on future Mass times. The questionnaire will be presented once the final details are known.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023** Application forms are available for next year`s programme. Please collect a form from Fr Julian after any Sunday Mass *today.* This is the last weekend at which they may be collected.All forms must be returned, in person, by *next* Sunday, 4 December.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?** Any adult who is thinking of taking this step is invited to approach Fr Julian and Deacon Philip. By today (the First Sunday of Advent) please ensure that you have spoken to one, or both, of them and that you`ve provided your name and contact details.

**CONFIRMATION** A number of parents have enquired about Confirmation for their children. Fr Julian is in contact with Canon Gerard Bradley (Episcopal Vicar for SW London) and, once a date for next year has been determined, there will be a meeting for all those who wish to be confirmed and their parents and guardians. Watch for an announcement in this newsletter, either late this year or early in the next.

**SOME DEFINITE SERVICE** This is a diocesan-wide approach to three areas: Evangelisation, Catechesis & Formation. Archbishop Wilson has invited three people from each parish to an online meeting at 7.45pm on Thursday, 8 December. If anyone is interested in undertaking this role please contact Fr. Julian or Deacon Philip as soon as possible. Thank you.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** Anne Brownsell,Ian Messenger, Veronica Moor, Maithili, Chris Waring, Anesta McNichols, Pat Taylor, Anna Coppola, Martin Ford, Chris Jones, Albert Khayyat, Michael Edwards, Michael & Linda Watson, Leslie Jeyadeva, Judy Freegard, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Jean-Claude Anthony, Maureen Coffey, Patrick Acholonu, Christopher Onyeachom, Antelene Manley, Alice Barclay and sick residents at local care homes.

**THE VINE FOOD BANK** We are spending a week sorting and packaging the 200 family parcels we are expecting to be asked for. They will be going out in the wb 12th December. The toys are also being sorted in the same way. Items needed for both hampers and weekly: Jam, Tinned Veg, Tinned Ham, Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Juice, Milk, Pasta Sauce. Christmas specific items: Pringles (or alternative make in tube), Box of chocolates, Box/Tin of Biscuits, Carton of Juice, Bag of sweets (sealed with date on). Please place any items in the Vine Food Bank collection boxes at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued support.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** Available, with other Christmas goods, in the repository (shop) at the back of the church.

**OUR PARISH WEBSITE** A copy of this newsletter along with lots of other items can be found on our parish website: [www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk](http://www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk) Find out about parish organisations; events, past and future; rotas for readers, Bidding Prayers writers, altar servers, church cleaners and other teams; and much more.

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS** Any concerns about possible abuse of children or vulnerable adults? Contact, in complete confidence: Gill Tomei T:07787 824 592 E: selsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk; or Richard Mills T:07956 531 540 E: selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk. Both are parish safeguarding coordinators and can give guidance and advice.