



## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bert and Frances Mendis, RIP
Monday Advent Fera – O Root of Jesse	9.30am	Mass – Int. Brian Farrelly's intention
Tuesday Advent Fera – O Key of David	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Advent Fera – O Rising Sun	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Advent Fera – O Dawn	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Jacob Stevens' intention
Friday Advent Fera – O Ruler	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Advent Fera – O Emmanuel	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass
	10.00pm	Readings and Carols
	10.30pm	The Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the Night
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass of Christmas Day



When Joseph awoke  
he did as  
the angel directed

**The Big Picture** is an inspirational Bible Course and DVD produced by CAFE to help people find their place in the big picture of salvation history. **St Joseph's in Gerrards Cross** will be running this course over 12 weeks in the New Year in which we will study the Bible from the time of Creation through to the End of Time. We will explore the teaching presented by biblical experts, follow a daily personal reading plan and reflect on this in subsequent group sessions. This is an opportunity to deepen our love and understanding of the Bible. There are two opportunities to join the course which will run on **Thursdays from 12 January to 6 April 2017** in the morning at 9:30am or in the evening at 7:45pm for 8pm. Participants will need their personal copy of "The Big Picture" book, which includes a DVD, priced at £10 available from St Joseph's Parish Office ([office@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.org.uk) or 01753 886581). The book is inviting and full of inspirational quotes with plenty of room to record your personal journey through the bible.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in  
The Guild Room after both of  
our Sunday Masses.  
All are welcome!



**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

**THE TABLET** Many of you will be familiar with The Tablet, Britain's oldest continually published Catholic journal. They are inviting parishioners, whether readers or not, to take part in a readership survey. The purpose of the survey is to enable them to better understand the interests of parishioners. There are no right or wrong answers and The Tablet team would be grateful if all parishioners expressed their views on this short survey. Questionnaires are available in the porch or can be accessed online by typing [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parishioner](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parishioner) in your browser.

## About Liturgy

**Advent expecting:** The universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar simply describes Advent as "a period of devout and expectant delight" (no. 39). Naturally, with this Fourth Sunday of Advent our expectation is heightened. Christmas is almost here! Yet we can so easily fool ourselves, once Christmas Day arrives we might think our expectation is ended. Actually, it's only begun! Christian living is characterised by expectation: Christ continually comes in the most unexpected ways. Jesus' birth so long ago unleashed a new and startling Presence of god in our midst. Since that time our expectation never ceases: we live for Christ's comings. The surprise of the Good News of salvation is that God comes to dwell among us. Our wildest dreams, our most heartfelt expectations are fulfilled in the birth of this Saviour, Emmanuel, "God with us."

## NEW MASS TIMES OF CHURCHES IN OUR PASTORAL AREA

**We NO LONGER celebrate the VIGIL MASS AT 6PM ON SATURDAYS** at Our Lady's Church, Chesham Bois. There is a 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Aidan's Church, Little Chalfont and St Teresa's Church, Beaconsfield, Sunday Mass times are changing at St Columba, Chesham and St Aidan, Little Chalfont: The new Mass Times will be: 9.00am – St Columba, 11.00am – St Aidan, 6.00pm – St Columba.



## 'The Wizard of OZ' – 19-22 January 2017, The Elgiva Theatre

Join The Chesham Bois Catholic Players in following the Yellow Brick Road this coming January. It will include a large talented cast gathered from the surrounding area, great costumes, music and dancing. There will be five performances including two matinees and it could be the perfect post-Christmas show for parishioners and their families.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

Preparations are now being made for our local inter-denominational event which will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at St John's Methodist Church in Amersham.

The service has been prepared by Christian women of the Philippines. It usually lasts for one hour starting at 11am and is followed by a shared lunch which is optional. If you would like to take part as a reader, singer, or advisor, please let Elizabeth Beckwith know. Tel. 01494 433363.

**The Art of Dying Well** is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based on the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life it will launch in November – the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead. [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org)

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** Other nations are at war with Judah, and Ahaz fears for the safety of his tribe. God assures Ahaz that the welfare of Judah will be taken care of. This prophecy of the birth of Emmanuel and his virginal conception follows the same formula of the appearance of the Angel to Sarah in the Book of Genesis as well as the story of Sampson in the Book of Judges. We can be a bit like Ahaz. We may not want to "ask" or "tempt" the Lord but we don't always want to trust him either. This is the reason for the seemingly exasperated response of Isaiah to "Believe already!" May we be open to see signs in our lives and respond to God.

**Responsorial Psalm 23:** This psalm was part of a ceremony when the Ark of the Covenant (signifying God) entered the Temple. Now we make way for Jesus the Lord to enter the World. Verses 3 and 4 ask, "Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? / The man with clean hands and pure heart who desires not worthless things." Have you made the proper preparations for Christ? Is your heart and hearth clean? Can you earnestly welcome him in good faith?

**Second Reading:** We hear the beginning of Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul stresses his call to be an Apostle of Jesus, who is the fulfilment of all that was prophesied in the Scriptures (Old Testament). His reference to Jesus as the promised Davidic Messiah or Anointed One. As the prophets off old foretold, salvation is offered not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

**The Gospel:** This infancy narrative takes place right after the genealogy account in Matthew. It is one of five stories which tell of Jesus as a young boy. Though the natural genealogy line is broken, it is fulfilled through Joseph, for Mary, his betrothed, accepts the child from the angel. This was an awkward position of faith and trust for Joseph. He must follow the law and tradition while trusting in the Lord, and accepting possible humiliation.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Applications are requested for preparations for **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** at Our Lady's Church. Please complete the signup sheet in the porch. **Applications will close on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

## PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

We all had enjoyable time last Saturday evening at the Metro Lounge. Thanks to Agostino Di Falco for organising the venue. Thank you also to Charles and Lucy Bennett for arranging the Quiz. Congratulations to the winners!

*Wishing you all  
A Holy and Joyful Christmas and  
Peace for the New Year!  
Fr Andy*