

# ***SU JOHN FISHER CHURCH***

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

## **Newsletter**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Second Sunday of Advent (A)**

Readings: Isaiah 11: 1 - 10; Romans: 15:4 - 9

Responsorial Psalm: *In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1– 12

**The new rotas will soon be prepared** again, for Readers, Eucharistic Minister and Counters for January to June, 2017.

If you have any changes, please notify John Endicott by E-mail or phone 408105.

Many thanks for your continued support in these valuable tasks.

**A reminder that the CAFOD “World Gifts”** catalogue is available in the church porch. Take a copy away with you; you may find that special present for that special person.

**Father Gary Dyer and Father Etienne Caruana** will be celebrating Sunday Masses with us on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016. There will be a second collection at each Mass on this day for them and envelopes will be available if you wish to contribute. It will be lovely to see them both again.

**Thanks to Marian Bedwell** who helps us to develop this website.  
<http://stiohnfisher.me.uk>

### **Bible verse to remember:**

“A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” [Isaiah 11:1-3a]

### **History of St John Fisher of Rochester** – 7

In 1497 he was appointed confessor to Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry V11, and became closely associated in her endowments to Cambridge; he created scholarships, introduced Greek and Hebrew into the curriculum, and brought in the famous Erasmus as professor of Divinity and Greek.

In 1504, he became Bishop of Rochester and Chancellor of Cambridge, in which capacity he also tutored Prince Henry who was to become Henry V111. John was dedicated to the welfare of his Diocese and his University.

**Advent** is a fruitful time for us to examine the depth and strength of our faith in God and in his providence and to ask for God’s grace and help to remain faithful disciples. In the person of Jesus Christ, whose birth we will celebrate at Christmas, we see made visible the God we cannot see; the God who asks to be invited into our innermost lives in order to share his love with us. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice, I will come in to him...” But the door to our hearts can only be opened from the inside, and Christ will not force his way in – he waits with great longing and patience for us to invite him to come in. He longs to take away our fears and anxieties and convince us of his unconditional love for each one of us – a love which is steadfast and enduring and which will never fail whatever the storms of life bring - Archbishop Peter Smith.

The Christmas Art & Craft Fayre last Sunday was a great success. Many thanks to all those who contributed their talents to the Fayre, and to all those who came in support, buying items for Christmas. The total for the day, towards the Building Fund, came to £558.32. A magnificent total. Thanks also to Bernard & Catherine Hyde for their hard work. Special thanks to Béné O’Connell for organising the whole thing.

## HOLY MASSES THIS WEEK.

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9am 11am 6pm	Benjamin Oupeve – R.I.P. People of the Parish. Paul & Matilda Perera – R.I.P.	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday	10am	Joyce and Keen Families - R.I.P.	
Tuesday		No Mass – Deanery meeting in Sheppey	
Wednesday	10am	Antoinette Perera - R.I.P.	St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday	10am	Malcolm and Christine Turner wellbeing.	The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary.
Friday	10am	Roy Wilson R.I.P.	
Saturday	10am	Repose of the Souls of those names written on the Remembrance Tree	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9am 11am 6pm	Thanksgiving for Stephen, Eiveann & family Deceased Members of the Legion Mary. People of the Parish.	3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Collections: Loose - £233.01; Envelopes - £261.55 = £494.56. Building Fund: £132.77

Attendance: 9am 86; 11am - 86; 6pm - 50 = 222

100 Club: £30 – S. Gallagher N<sup>o</sup> 143; £20 – M. Bennett N<sup>o</sup> 89; £10 – John Fisher N<sup>o</sup> 80

**There are raffle tickets** available at £1 per strip for the Christmas Hamper and 2 other boxed raffle prizes, courtesy of Sheila Gallagher and Josephine, Bénédicté O’Connell’s daughter. There is also a Repository Nativity Scene raffle, again for £1 a strip. Both raffles are on sale in the Porch. The proceeds are for the Building Fund.

Action by Christians against Torture has again prepared a list of prisoners throughout the world who could benefit from receiving greetings this Christmas. Three of them are featured on the sheet available after this Mass, which also includes a website with details of more such prisoners. Please write to as many as you can.

Our grateful thanks to Stephanie Painter and Rita McGuinness, for organising such a wonderful ‘**Parish Retreat Day,**’ last Saturday. It was a very spiritual and prayerful day for many parishioners who attended and experienced the peace to ‘Be still and know that I am God.’

**The 100 Club:** giving you the opportunity to win a prize each week of either £20 or £10, with a £30 prize on the last Sunday of the month and there is a £250 prize at Christmas. Shares in the 100 Club are just £1 each per week. Please see Gill Hanson or Fr Antony if you wish to join 100 club.



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Every Friday after 10am Mass we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Each Saturday Mass is followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation.

**Christmas Mass times as follows:**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Carols at 5,30pm followed by Mass at 6pm

Midnight Mass at 11pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

9am and 11am. No 6pm Mass.