



**ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH**  
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**Fr Albert Ofere**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**4th December 2022**

**Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December:** For volunteer not-for-profit organisations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

<b>Sun 4th</b>	(Sat) 6 p.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6 p.m.	R Jones R.I.P. A De Silva Int; M Murphy Int Fabian & Asia R.I.P. B McNicholas R.I.P.; People of the Parish	
<b>Mon 5th</b>	Advent Feria	B Moran R.I.P.	
<b>Tues 6th</b>	St Nicholas	P O'Hara R.I.P.	
<b>Wed 7th</b>	St Ambrose	7 p.m. D'Souza Family R.I.P.	
<b>Thurs 8th</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	M & M McNicholas R.I.P.; Fr Albert & Mary Int	<b>Exposition until 11 a.m. First Communion Children 6 p.m.</b>
<b>Fri 9th</b>	Advent Feria	F E Boyle R.I.P.; C Hennigan R.I.P.	
<b>Sat 10th</b>	Our Lady's Saturday	Nety & Pascoal Int. <i>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>	<b>Reconciliation 10.40 a.m. &amp; 5.15 p.m.</b>
• <b>Mass Books: Order of the Mass: Page 7 – 1st Sunday of Advent: Prayers and Readings of the day: Page 85</b>			

**The straight way**

Before the motorways a journey took ages, with twists and turns, corners and hills. Now much has been made straight.

John's message was that we would live along a path where words and actions match, and where kindness matches convictions.

John the Baptist was a man on one mission - to be the messenger of the one he did not know. His life had a vision and a purpose, like when we are really committed to people or to causes or to the poor or to peace in the world. John was the man of desert food and desert dress; he took time out to find what the biggest thing in life was and then kept following it, often not knowing where it would go.

The human heart is complicated and we know that. We need that one who will touch our hearts with love and forgiveness and guide us himself in ways that are straight, and whose hand will guide us along straight paths when we need it.

God's guiding is gentle. John found that Jesus was a gentler guide: no name-calling, no bringing the axe to the tree, but calling each of us his friend, and nourishing the tree rather than cutting it down.

Jesus would melt the snow to make a path, not hack at it and destroy in the process. Our hearts can be melted by the love of God and love of others.

Think of, or remember a time when you made a decision to follow the way of Jesus. Offer this to him again.

*Lord God, make our hearts like yours.*



**Advent 2022:**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Candle: The Old Testament prophets – The Candle of Peace;** Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.
- **Let us pray** O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.

- **Fr Albert** will be available on Mondays from **6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** to see parishioners regarding non urgent matters, including the signing of passports and other forms. **(Not school forms.)**

- **Advent Penitential Service:** Monday, 19th December at 7 p.m. we will have our Advent Penitential Service. We will have visiting priests for confessions.

- **St Margaret Clitherow School:** Foodbank is open Monday – Friday 12.00 – 1 p.m. (Parishioners welcome) Donations for the foodbank can be dropped at the school or the parish.
- Items urgently NEEDED please, Tuna, Long-life milk (Full, semi & skimmed), Chickpeas, Coffee, Shampoos, Conditioners, Body wash, Liquid Hand Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Baby food, Baby milk, Baby powdered milk, Soft drinks to dilute – orange, blackcurrant etc., Tin fruit – apple, pears, oranges, mixed fruit., Tin hams, tuna, salmon, Baked beans with sausages and Noodles. THANK YOU!
- If you require help from the foodbank, please contact the school on 8450 3631 or speak to Fr Albert or Mary.

#### **Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.  
 Body of Christ, save us.  
 Blood of Christ, inebriate us.  
 Water from the side of Christ, wash us.  
 Passion of Christ, strengthen us.  
 O Good Jesus, hear us.  
 Within Thy wounds hide us.  
 Suffer us not to be separated from thee.  
 From the malicious enemy defend us.  
 In the hour of our death call us.  
 And bid us come unto Thee,  
 That with all Thy saints,  
 we may praise thee  
 Forever and ever.  
 Amen

- **SVP Annual Christmas Appeal:** Next weekend we will have our **SVP Annual Appeal**. Please respond generously to this appeal through your donations our St Vincent de Paul conference hope to provide food parcels and small gifts for Christmas for the people they visit throughout the year.
- *The SVP would like to express their sincere gratitude for your generosity over the past year. Your support enabled them to offer much needed help to families in these difficult times.*

#### **The Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
**R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**  
 Hail Mary, etc...  
 V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
**R. Be it done unto us according to Your Word.**  
 Hail Mary, etc...  
 V. And the Word was made flesh,  
**R. And dwelt among us.**  
 Hail Mary, etc...  
 V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
**R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**  
 Let us pray:  
**Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,  
 Your Grace into our hearts;  
 that as we have known the incarnation of  
 Christ,  
 your Son by the message of an angel,  
 so by His passion and cross  
 we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.  
 Through the same Christ, our Lord.  
 Amen.**

- **Parish Finances:** Offertory Envelopes £781 Loose Plate £758 **Contactless:** £188. **THANK YOU!**

- **Senior Parishioners Christmas Lunch** will be on Saturday, 10th December at 1.30 p.m. Please pick up your invitation today.
- **Drivers for Saturday 10th:** *If you can help provide transport for the Christmas Lunch please contact Mary on 07484680296*
- **Helpers required** on Saturday morning at 11 a.m. to prepare hall. To help serve the lunch please come at 1 p.m. Thank you