ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PF
1 December 2019 ADVENT SUNDAY YrA 19/47

Welcomer: Grace Joseph
Reader: Sam Lewis
Interceder: Lucy Haire
Euch Mins: Kingsley Lewis and Isabel Nisbet
Coffee: Nick and Isabelle *(8th Weini/Ethan)*

Reading for Advent 2 8 December 2019 at 10am:
Isaiah 11: 1-10 Kerry Allen; Rom 15: 4-13 Hilary Roden

Collect: **Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ADVENT SUNDAY At the beginning of a new Church year I wonder if you know this prayer:

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, the evil we have done and the good we have not done; and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the certainty of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

It is a prayer that is often used at funerals but it also one that we might mull over at this time of the year too. It chimes well with the theme of today's Gospel which reminds us that we haven't any idea when Jesus will return to the earth as he has promised: but if he did come - today - would we be in any fit state to welcome him, or would we be too ashamed to even say hello?

Notes on today's set readings:

Isaiah 2: 1-5 An invitation to reach out and receive God's wisdom, 'the light of the Lord'

Romans 13: 11-14 Truly the night is nearly over so let's behave accordingly

St Matthew 24: 36-44 We have to live ready for Christ's unexpected return

TODAY'S HYMNS at 10am

Entry	AM28 Come and see
Gradual	AM409 There is a longing
Offertory	AM45 O come, O come
P-Comm	AM84 Silent Night
Final	AM477 Go forth and tell

WELCOME to everyone in Church today, especially those visiting for the first time.

- Please ask the nearest person to you in the pews if there is anything you need. There is a carpeted area in the south aisle for our smallest children. A full service booklet is available and the T-loop system works well.
- A collection of money is taken during Mass. We are very grateful for your kind support.
- At the time of communion, please feel free to come forward to the front of Church - either to receive communion or a blessing. Jesus invites everyone, you too!
- Finally, do stay for a drink after Mass if you can and say hello before you leave. If you would like to keep in touch, please fill in a white Contact Card and we'll respond asap.

St James' Islington: discovering how to live like Jesus in the 21st century

CHRISTINGLE We are delighted to welcome everyone to the All Age Mass today when we follow the Moravian custom of dressing an orange to remind us of the way God works: having given us the world and all its wonderful gifts, he then sent his Son to show us the better way - through loving to the point of dying for us, and by sharing his wisdom, symbolised by candlelight.. While the themes are very familiar, I hope you will also find our story of 'Christ-likeness' in the life story of Fr Damien of Molokai as inspiring as I do.

ADVENT STALL As from today Norah and Ros will be running a gifts stall on behalf of the AIDS orphans of St David's Home in Bonda, Zimbabwe. The economic situation there gets worse by the day and your generosity will be much appreciated by the children there. Donations of seasonal gifts very welcome. There are also some St James' Christmas cards available at £1 for 4.

TOILETRIES APPEAL The Pack-Up Christmas Lunch will be on Monday 16th December. We like to give presents of toiletries on that occasion. Anything you leave in the wicker basket will be passed onto the Pack-Up team.

CHRISTMAS TREE With so many visitors to St James' this month, the pressure to have a Christmas tree decorated early means that we are starting this week as London Cares have their Christmas Pop Up Cinema event here on Wednesday. The tree will arrive tomorrow and on Tuesday a team are in place to decorate the upper part at 6.30pm. We then need a group of 'heavies' to get the tree onto the platform by the pulpit at 7.30pm so that the decorating can continue. I would be really grateful for offers of help. Raising an 11' tree takes some doing!

ORGAN PROJECT Please pray for a way through the current log jam with the Diocese.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 1 *ADVENT SUNDAY*	Barry, Hayley, Theo and Freddie Jenkins
Mon 2 *DEL Advent 1*	Grace and Elrose Joseph; Miranda Jules
Tues 3 *St Francis Xavier*	Roy, Eva, Jerome and Zuri Kasella
Wed 4 *Nicholas Ferrar*	Charlotte, Josh and Olivia Kennedy
Thurs 5 *Feria*	Philip Kingston; Kingsley Lewis; Beryl Lloyd
Fri 6 *St Nicholas*	Kurt, Julia and Florence Maile; McBrien families
Sat 7 *St Ambrose*	Paula, Gianni and Giandre Morrison; Bill Murphy
Sun 8 *ADVENT 2*	Jade Nicholson, Charlie and Henry Green

WHAT'S ON AT ST JAMES' THIS WEEK

Sun	*ADVENT SUNDAY* 8am Mass. 10am All Age PARISH MASS and CHRISTINGLE.
Mon	12.15pm Pack Up.
Tues	8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass. 6.30pm Christmas Tree decorating. 7.30pm Tree up!
Wed	10am Mass. 10-3pm Bishop's Quiet Day, St David's, Westbourne Rd with Jane Williams. 7pm London Cares film evening (sold out!).
Thurs	10.10am St Mary's School Assembly: Santa or St Nicholas?? 5.45pm COLA-I Awards Evening. *No Office Hour.*
Fri	2pm Funeral of Gillian Comings, St Marylebone Crematorium.
Sun 8	*ADVENT 2* 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL.

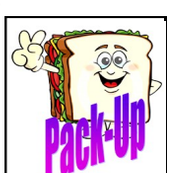
PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

SICK Robert Addington, Annie Bryan, Chou Seng Joo, Hilary Davies-Cole, Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Klenan, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Rene, Vera Taggart, Angela Vinnicombe and Caroline Yeats.

MEMORIALS Today: John Russell; 2nd: Hortense Nazare; 3rd: Nicholas Wood.

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS In the US: Fr Travis Smith, Holy Comforter Church, Angleton, Texas; together with his wife Suzanne, priest at Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. In Japan: Fr Sebastian Naniwa, working in three parishes near Hiroshima.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE We continue to pray for an end to the imprisonment in Tehran of **Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe** who recently had to let her daughter Gabriella start school in London. We pray for Richard, Nazanin's husband, as he continues to work with the Foreign Office. Our prayers too for **Aras Amiri**, absurdly convicted for staging cultural events in the UK for the British Council. Nazanin and Aras share the same cell.



MONDAYS
12.15-1.15pm

Parish Priest: Fr John Burniston 1a Arlington Square, N1 7DS 020 7226 4108 | 07989 281123
email: vicar@stjamesislington.org | www.stjamesislington.org | Administrator: admin@stjamesislington.org
Churchwardens: Hilary Roden and Isabel Nisbet | Hall Bookings: hallatstjames@gmail.com