



# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 · Year C · Weekday I · Psalter I

Cathedral House, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA

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Cathedral Office: 01603 624615

Cathy Casey [weekdays 9am-1pm]

## TIMES OF CEREMONIES

<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>		
	9am	Mass	<i>Denis &amp; Peggy Hardy (F) +</i>
	11am	Solemn Pontifical Mass, Opening of the Jubilee <i>Pro Populo</i>	
	4.30pm	Vespers & Benediction	
	5.30pm	Mass	<i>Lucy Buck</i>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity</i>		
	10am	Requiem Mass	<i>Patrick (Paddy) Joyce +</i>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity</i>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Albert Cooper +</i>
	11pm	Vigil Mass, Mary Holy Mother of God <i>Pro Populo</i>	
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Paul Iyaji (50<sup>th</sup> Birthday)</i>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</b>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Cadogan Family</i>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>		
	10am	Mass & Adoration	<i>Patrick (Paddy) Joyce +</i>
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Christmas Feria</i>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Thomas &amp; Maisie O'Brien +</i>
	6pm	Mass (Anticipatory)	<i>Eileen &amp; Bernie Fitzsimons +</i>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>		
	9am	Mass	<i>Thomas &amp; Caterina Marcantonio (F) +</i>
	11am	Solemn Pontifical Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>	
	3pm	Mass [1962 Rite Latin]	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	4.30pm	Vespers & Benediction	
	5.30pm	Mass	<i>Cecilia Bromley-Martin's Grandchildren</i>

From 25<sup>th</sup> December to 6<sup>th</sup> January the Church will be open from 9am – 5pm (except weekends)

**Very Revd Alan Hodgson KHS***Dean of the Cathedral Church*[alan.hodgson@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:alan.hodgson@rcdea.org.uk)

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**Isabella Fox, Linda Harper***Safeguarding Coordinator*[safeguarding.sjb@gmail.com](mailto:safeguarding.sjb@gmail.com)**Becci Roberts***Catering Manager*[cateringmanager@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:cateringmanager@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

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**Cathedral Collection****£3,979.85**

Loose Plate = £1,331.35

Dona = £913.50

Envelopes = £235.00

Standing Orders = c £1,500.00 \*

\*Averaged out and remains the same each week

Flower Group Collection = £894.20

**Scan to donate**

Thank you for your generous support and ongoing generosity.

**Confessions**

Tuesday: 6pm

Saturday: 10.30am

Saturday: 5.15pm

Sunday: 4.45pm

**Rosary**The Rosary is prayed in the  
Lady Chapel.Monday to Friday after the  
10am Mass.**Divine Office**Lauds is prayed in the  
Precious Blood Chapel.Monday to Friday at  
9:40am.**HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH***Scarnell Road, Norwich NR5 8HT*[parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk)*Saturday*

5pm

Holy Qurbana (Anticipatory)

*Sunday*

8am

Holy Qurbana

10am

Mass &amp; Confessions

4pm

Holy Qurbana

*Wednesday*

6pm

Mass (UEA Chaplaincy, term time only)

## **A message from Fr Alan...**

### **A very heartfelt and warm thank you**

On behalf of Fr Mark, Fr Jinu, Fr Denys and me, I extend a very heartfelt and genuine 'thank you' to everybody from the Cathedral parish and the parish of The Holy Apostles for your generosity in kind and in prayer. So many people were generous with cards, gifts and prayers as well as generous in attending the Christmas Masses and making them a truly joyful and prayer-filled experience - thank you.

I write also, a very special thank you to the many, many people who contributed to the dignity of the celebrations at both churches - the Cathedral office has been incredibly busy during the buildup yet has maintained a joyful place to visit, The Narthex office, restaurant and shop was always a fun place to visit (especially with the launch of Christmas lunches this year). The flower arrangers performed their usual magic on a very tight budget so that the Cathedral looks inviting and beautiful. Our choirs really shone this year with some world class singing - we have had many new members join the choir this year and they have all fitted in smoothly and add to our singing. The joyful and happy singing at Holy Apostles always makes me smile and I am looking forward to celebrating Mass there very soon.

The Cathedral looked spick and span thanks to our cleaners and polishers who cheerfully work their magic in the background. Our readers did us proud (even with the introduction of the new lectionaries which did NOT seem to fluster them in the least).

We had visitors from different parts of the world who joined us for the Christmas Masses, and all were given an extremely warm and genuine welcome by our stewards and greeters. This is such an important ministry within the Church as it sets the tone of being a place of welcome and warmth.

And, finally, our sacristans who seemed to spend every waking moment at the Cathedral getting every detail correct and presented in the best light possible. How poor our liturgies would be without their careful preparation and professional manner. They, of course, work hand-in-hand with the MC and the servers who have made our liturgies simply flow with dignity and grace. Never flustered, always enthusiastic and ready to serve the needs of the altar.

I also hope that many people have seen how beautiful the gardens are looking, thanks to our newly appointed gardener, Rachel.

All in all, a joyful and delightful Christmas celebration with many gatherings of people and wishes of goodwill.

A merry Christmas to each and every one - God bless.

## READINGS AT MASS

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

First reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

**'Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.'**

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Rcf. 5a**

*Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you, whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; look on the face of your anointed.

**Second reading**

**1 John 3:1-2, 21-24**

**'We are called children of God; and so, we are.'**

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be, has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**16:14b**

**Cf. Acts**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:41-52**

**Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**Friday Abstinence** – is dispensed during the Christmas Octave.

**Jubilee Year of 2025 Opening Mass** - Pope Francis has asked that all Bishops celebrate the Opening of the Jubilee Year at their Cathedrals on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December.

Bishop Peter therefore warmly invites you to join him at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist for our Diocesan Opening Rites and Mass at 11am, in solidarity with celebrations around the world.

**Adoration for the First Fridays** - will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January for the shorter times of from after the 10am Mass until midday. All are welcome to spend quiet time with the Lord to pray for Bishop Peter and all our diocesan priests.

**St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School Seeks a Volunteer Pianist** - Following the retirement of our school pianist, we are seeking a volunteer to help at weekly Choir practice (Thursdays 8:30am - 9am), Friday Sung Worship assemblies (2.45pm - 3.10pm) and termly masses. If you are a good pianist and would enjoy contributing to our outstanding music provision in our busy and vibrant school in NR2, please contact the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher on 01603 441484 or [head@st-francisofassisi.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-francisofassisi.norfolk.sch.uk). We would love to hear from you!

**Hospital Mass** - Mass is celebrated at 12 noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Chapel (Centre Block, Level 1). Our next Mass will be on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** and then on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**.

This newsletter is sponsored by:

Love to Care  
154 Dereham Road  
Norwich  
NR2 3AB



## NEWS AND EVENTS

**The Duckett Library** – will close for the Christmas break at 12.30pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, reopening on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January. During closure please email with any queries.

**The Cathedral Shop and Garden Café** – will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open again at 10.30am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Are you or someone you know hurting from past abortion(s)? Rachel's Vineyard** is a healing ministry for those who are suffering from the trauma of abortion. The healing weekends offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can deal with painful post-abortive emotions and receive healing. **The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend in our diocese will take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025. With booking now open and a limit of 8 people per retreat, it is advisable to book early.** For more information about this retreat or to arrange a time to chat please contact Charlotte on 07958 235 270; or email to [suffolk@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:suffolk@rachelsvineyard.org.uk). Further information about Rachel's Vineyard or to find out about other retreat dates and locations please visit: <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk>



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGULAR SACRAMENTS

With all sacraments, we do try to accommodate the needs of the individual or couple seeking to celebrate in our Cathedral. However, we are bound by the Rite of the Catholic Church in terms of liturgy and music. The priest or deacon assigned to work with you will guide you as much as possible. In general, eulogies are NOT part of the Catholic rite of Funerals and, as such should be deferred to the crematorium or a suitable gathering of loved ones after the funeral.

Our Director of Music will assist you with appropriate music that matches the dignity of the service and is appropriate to the Cathedral - this will be from a choice of sacred music generally played on the cathedral organ (no pre-recorded music).

All readings in the Cathedral must come from Sacred Scripture - poems and prose that do not comply with this should be used at the reception after the service.

### BAPTISMS

**Infant Baptisms** - baptism is the joy-filled initiation into the Christian life and is celebrated as a public event within the community. The Sacrament of Baptism takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 11:30am. This is a joint celebration with up to three other families. Baptism preparation classes are held on the last Saturday of every month from 4.30pm - 5.15pm. This needs to be booked, in advance, through the parish office.

**Adult Baptisms** - generally take place at the Easter Vigil and conferred by the Bishop in his Cathedral. Candidates will need to undergo adult instruction classes for at least five months (usually starting in late September). Classes take place every Friday evening from 7pm - commencing in September.

Baptisms do not take place during the seasons of Advent and Lent. For all Baptism enquiries, please contact the parish office.

### WEDDINGS

A minimum of 6 months' notice is required of any marriage taking place in the cathedral. Wedding couples should be resident within the parish boundaries or have some strong link to the cathedral. Please **do not** make any arrangements nor book any venue or make any concrete plans until you have secured a wedding date.

There is a three-fold requirement for marriage preparation; Catechetical and Liturgical preparation (a marriage instruction course at the cathedral toward the middle of January as well as a one-day course in Newmarket), Civil paperwork (through the townhall) as well as documentation required by the Catholic Church for the chancery and parish registers. This applies whether you are planning to be married in the Cathedral or if you plan to marry in a different location.

### FUNERALS

At St John's Cathedral, funerals take place during the weekday 10am Mass. The Cathedral is generally booked through your funeral director - so please speak to them first about your needs and they will contact the Cathedral on your behalf.

### Prayers for the Sick

Cathy Adams, Dr Michael Anibueze, Philippa Barnes, Ian Beyts, Jennifer Boland, Eleanor Bray, Amanda Caistor, Brenda Devany, Jonathon Fitzimmons, Sophia Gough-Solar, Mary Hatcher, Joe Heaney, Gill Horan, Paul Horan, Nancy Horner, David Jamieson, Joel McDonough, Anne O'Leary, Maria Osorio, Mary Newby, Gary Newton, Isobel O'Connor, Christopher Parish, Canon David Paul, Anthony Preston, Nicholle Sales, Reece Sales, Linda Sheppard, Christine Taylor, Peter Thorn, Mary Ward, Fr John Warrington, Peter Willets, Adrian Woods, the Wood Family, Patricia Woolley, Isobel Woolner, the Watson Family and Shane Wissner. [GDPR compliant]

*Going into hospital? Please inform the hospital ward itself that the Catholic Chaplain is needed.*