



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2025 · Year A · Weekday II · Psalter II

Cathedral House, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA

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parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Office: 01603 624615

Cathy Casey [weekdays 9am-1pm]

TIMES OF CEREMONIES

Sunday 7th Dec

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9am	Mass (cantor) <i>Thanksgiving, Ric & Olvira Caasi & family</i>	
11am	Solemn Mass (choir)	<i>Varghese Mathew +</i>
3pm	Mass [1962 Rite Latin]	<i>Holy Souls</i>
4.30pm	Vespers & Benediction (choir)	
5.30pm	Mass (cantor)	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Monday 8th

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7.30am	Mass	<i>Jean Gosling +</i>
10am	Mass	<i>David Medlecott-Taylor +</i>
5.30pm	Solemn Pontifical Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Tuesday 9th

Advent Feria

10am	Mass	<i>Padraig Murphy +</i>
5pm	Vespers (choir)	
5.30pm	Mass (choir)	<i>Daniel & Andreane Gordon, thanksgiving</i>

Wednesday 10th

Bls Henry Heath, John Robinson & Comps

7.30am	Mass	<i>Myrtle Rowland +</i>
10am	Mass	<i>George Middleton (F) +</i>

Thursday 11th

Advent Feria

10am	Mass	<i>Rosia & Reine Gordon, thanksgiving</i>
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Friday 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7.30am	Mass	<i>Beryl Mary Johnson +</i>
10am	Mass	<i>Kevin Breslin +</i>

Saturday 13th

S Lucy

10am	Mass & Adoration	<i>Julie M (recovery)</i>
6pm	Mass [Anticipatory]	<i>Mr P J Matthew +</i>

Sunday 14th

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – (Gaudete Sunday)

9am	Mass (music group)	<i>Ruth & Ian Loyko (F) +</i>
11am	Solemn Pontifical Mass (choir)	<i>Pro Populo</i>
4.30pm	Evening Prayer & Benediction (cantor)	
5.30pm	Mass (cantor)	<i>Private Intention (AF)</i>

Very Revd Alan Hodgson KHS

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Cathedral Collection

£14,294.24

Loose Plate = £1,407.74

Dona = £1,132.50

Envelopes = £141.00

Standing Orders = c £1,500.00 *

Window Appeal £63.00 + £50.00 + £10,000

**Averaged out and remains the same each week*



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Thank you for your regular support and ongoing generosity.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish. If you would like to set up a standing order with your bank you will need these details: Account name: St John's Cathedral Parish Offertory Account, Sort Code 60-15-31, Account Number 04911881

For any guidance on Gift Aid please contact giving.sjbcathedral@rcdea.org.uk

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

Saturday

5pm

Holy Qurbana

Sunday

8am

Holy Qurbana

10am

Mass & Confessions

4pm

Holy Qurbana

Monday 8th

6pm

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

The Cathedral Church is open daily from 7.30am until 6pm

A message from Fr Alan...

Clergy Moves: Bishop Peter announced a couple of weeks ago that I would be moving from the Cathedral and taking up a new post within the diocese. He was unable, at the time, to announce the place to which I would be moving. I am now able to do so, along with other, initial moves around the diocese (there will be more to come in the weeks ahead). The moves are as follows:

Fr Martin Hardy has been appointed Dean of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich.

Fr Alan Hodgson has been appointed Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, North Walsham.

Fr Peter Raj has been appointed Parish Priest of Saint Michael the Archangel, Huntingdon.

Fr Andrew Eburne has been appointed Parish Priest of St Mary's, Thetford.

The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette – from Peterborough, will be transferring to St George's, Norwich, and will also assume pastoral responsibility for Our Lady of the Annunciation.

Fr Erico Falcao will be returning to Brazil in the spring of 2026.

Fr Simon Leworthy has been appointed Parish Priest of St Dominic's, Downham Market.

Fr Michael Brookes has been appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Stowmarket.

Fr Shinto Varghese CRM has now taken up residence with his brother priests of the Adorno Fathers at St Laurence's, Cambridge. His pastoral ministry will be exercised as Assistant Priest to Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge.

This is the initial stage of the Bishop's plan for our diocese - I am sure that he will unveil the full plan when he is able to do so - please keep him and the consultors in your prayers as they make their decisions and deliberations. I met with Fr Martin on Friday to familiarise him with the cathedral and I do ask that you keep him in your prayers as well as he prepares for this new chapter in his life.

The Holy Land: Last weekend, I was in London for an investiture of our new knights and dames into the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Fr Gabriel Romanelli (Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish, Gaza) sent a personal YouTube video to the knights and dames of England and Wales to thank us for our support and to explain to us the reality of life in Gaza. Fr Gabriel is an inspirational man with a great sense of joy and gratitude for all that he is given. He explained how, when they manage to get aid, the large community at the Holy Family Catholic Church share their good fortune with those around them and help the wider community. They have managed to set up a small school for a large portion of the children so that they do not miss out on too much of their education - they still have many children who are not able to be accommodated at this time. Fr Gabriel gave us a very amusing account of the joy of tasting chicken for the first time in many months - this man is such a joyful inspiration to me.

Windows Appeal: This week we had a bumper week for our window appeal with one parishioner donating £10,000 to the restoration of the windows as well as £63.00 from our Dona machines and £50.00 given via cheques and cash. Our total now stands at **£27,928.10**. We will soon be in a position to repair the most critical **windows** rather than just one window. I am very humbled at the terrific support I have received for the care of these beautiful windows. Thank you.

‘With righteousness he shall judge the poor.’

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R cf. 7

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second reading

Romans 15:4-9

Christ saves humanity.

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel**Matthew 3:1-12****‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father”, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Hymns for the 9am Mass are on the printed order of service.

Prayers for the Sick

Cathy Adams, Dr Michael Anibueze, Philippa Barnes, Ian Beyts, Jennifer Boland, Eleanor Bray, Amanda Caistor, Brenda Devany, Jonathon Fitzimmons, Mary Gledhill, Sophia Gough-Solar, Mary Hatcher, Joe Heaney, Gill Horan, Paul Horan, 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, Lord Adrian Tremayne, Mary Ward, Fr John Warrington, Peter Willets, Adrian Woods, the Wood Family, Patricia Woolley, Isobel Woolner, the Watson Family, Charmanee Wissner, Shane Wissner and Karen Yallop [GDPR compliant]

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Monday 8th December - is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. There will be a Mass at Holy Apostles at 6pm as well as the extra Masses in the Cathedral on that day.

Next weekend - there will be a second collection taken at all Masses for the Dependent Priests' Fund.

The Teresian Prayer Group meets on Tuesday 9 December in the Narthex Bar at 4.30pm to reflect on St Therese's 'Christmas Grace'. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 10 December 2025 - at 11am Dr Oliver Logan, retired history lecturer from the University of East Anglia will be presenting a talk on 'Mother Rome: Pilgrim Ages, Ceremonies and Christian Archaeology'. Dr Logan will discuss the 4 Major Basilicas, the pilgrimage system after the Council of Trent, and the challenges faced by the papacy in the nineteenth century, especially in the period of Pope Leo XIII. The talk is free and will be held in the Narthex, all are welcome.

Hospital Mass - Mass is celebrated at 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Chapel (Centre Block, Level 1). Our next Mass will be on **Monday 15th December** and then on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Bach's Christmas Oratorio - Friday 12 December, 7pm. Enjoy Bach's uplifting seasonal masterpiece in the company of two world-class ensembles. Britten Sinfonia joins forces with Polyphony choir and its founder-director, Stephen Layton. A cast of outstanding young baroque specialists will form the chorus, stepping out for Bach's glorious solos and duets. The performance features parts one, two, three and six, which explore the Birth of Jesus, the annunciation to the shepherds, and the adoration of the Christ child by both the shepherds and wise men. Tickets: £18 - £44 (Under 35s half price) Booking: <https://www.brittensinfonia.com/events/christmas-oratorio>

The Duckett Library will close for the Christmas break on Thursday 11 December at 12.30 and will reopen on Sunday 4 January after the 9 am Mass. If you have any queries or need to borrow books during closure, email duckettlibrary@sjbcathedral.org.uk – books can be returned via the box outside the library.

Mass Intentions - please be aware that there is still a long wait for Mass intentions, with no available dates this year. Please request Mass intentions in good time if a particular date and/or time is required. We thank you for your understanding if your particular choice has not been available.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Thank you from Mary's Meals - A huge *thank you* to all those who donated so generously to the recent collection of foreign currency. The currency (from over 40 different countries!) has now been exchanged and the total donations overall came to an amazing £947.90. This will support the work of Mary's Meals, which feeds over 3 million of the world's poorest children every school day.

Volunteers Sought to Support School Admission Appeals - The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service is seeking volunteers to serve as school admission appeals panel members, helping ensure parents' rights are upheld when a child is not offered a place at their preferred Catholic school.

Panel members play a vital role in considering cases where parents wish to challenge a refusal of admission. Each hearing typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, although some may take longer depending on their complexity. During the busy summer term, multiple appeals may be scheduled on the same day, and volunteers may occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days. Importantly, panel members are always able to decide their own availability, making this a flexible opportunity suited to those available during school hours.

Appeals may be heard in person or via video conferencing, and volunteers can express a preference for the type of hearings they are comfortable with. All panel members will receive training from the Diocese.

To ensure a balanced and fair process, each panel is made up of both lay members, people without professional involvement in education, and education members, people with experience working in or understanding schools. Individuals cannot sit on panels for schools with which they have a personal connection, for example being a parent, governor or staff member. Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is invited to contact Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service), at the Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH, by email at ssc@rcdea.org.uk or by telephone on 01508 495509.



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 2nd and 4th 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.