



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th December 2025 · Year A · Weekday II · Psalter III

Cathedral House, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA

www.sjbcathedral.org.uk
parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Office: 01603 624615

Cathy Casey [weekdays 9am-1pm]

TIMES OF CEREMONIES

Sunday 14th Dec	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>
Monday 15th	<i>Advent Feria</i>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Lolita Eltanal Candaza +</i>
Tuesday 16th	<i>Advent Feria</i>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Petornila Martyres +</i>
	5pm	Vespers (choir)	
	5.30pm	Mass (choir)	<i>Lysiane & Andre Gordon, thanksgiving</i>
Wednesday 17th	<i>Advent Feria – O Sapientia</i>		
	7.30am	Mass	<i>Peter Cutler +</i>
	10am	Mass	<i>Kobie & Gianna Bryant +</i>
Thursday 18th	<i>Advent Feria – O Adonai</i>		
	10am	Mass	<i>Patrick D’Arcy +</i>
Friday 19th	<i>Advent Feria – O Radix Iesse</i>		
	7.30am	Mass	<i>Elaine Estrella (recovery)</i>
	10am	Mass	<i>Brigid Kelly +</i>
Saturday 20th	<i>Advent Feria – O Clavis David</i>		
	10am	Mass & Adoration	<i>P J Kelly</i>
	6pm	Mass [Anticipatory]	<i>Jack Richardson +</i>
Sunday 21st	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O Oriens		
	9am	Mass (music group)	<i>Kate Chapman +</i>
	11am	Solemn Mass (choir)	<i>Holy Souls in Purgatory</i>
	3pm	Cathedral Carol Service	
	5.30pm	Mass (cantor)	<i>Pro Populo</i>

Very Revd Alan Hodgson KHS

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Cathedral Collection

£5,399.34

Loose Plate = £1,542.34

Dona = £1,793.00

Envelopes = £159.00

Standing Orders = c £1,500.00 *

Window Appeal = £285.00 + £120.00

**Averaged out and remains the same each week*



Scan to donate

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

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

A message from Fr Alan...

This Sunday, Bishop Peter celebrates his third anniversary of ordination as our bishop. So much has happened over the last three years in our cathedral and throughout the diocese. Geographically our diocese, whilst not the largest in the UK, is still challenging and difficult to be able to visit all parishes on a regular basis. We are blessed to have the cathedral as our home parish and to be visited regularly by Bishop Peter. As a whole parish community, let us wish Bishop Peter a joyful celebration for his anniversary with many more to come. *Ad multos annos.*

Crib appeal: This year, as a diocese, our crib appeal will once again be for the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. His Beatitude, the Patriarch, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has tirelessly worked with the whole peoples of the Middle East, petitioning for peace, compromise and goodwill amongst the region. He is a recognised figure in the negotiations and brings about a serenity and neutrality to the proceedings.

He has visited Gaza frequently, especially Fr Gabriel's parish of the Holy Family in Gaza and offered his prayers, encouragement and support. In sending money directly to his care, he will ensure that the charity is distributed to places where it is most needed - whether that be in Gaza or the West Bank. There is a collection box near the crib and an icon on the Dona machines - thank you.

The window appeal: Thank you, once again for your generosity in support of the repair of our beautiful windows. We have received a further £285.00 via Dona. We now have a running total of **£28,333.10**. A very generous donation came through the letterbox from a Norwich resident who, whilst he does not attend this parish, had heard about our appeal from one of their friends and sent us a cheque for £120. It is these generous acts of kindness and thoughtfulness that really make me sit up and see the goodness in people. Thank you to this person for their kindness to our community.

School Masses: As Christmas draws nearer, I have the joy of attending our various schools for Advent services, Confession and Masses, as well as listening to them sing as they visit the cathedral for their Christmas concerts. Please keep these young people in your prayers that they may be truly touched by the incarnation mystery and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS AT MASS

Sunday 14th December 2025

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

‘God himself will come and save you.’

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Second reading

James 5:7-10

‘Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.’

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia.

‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

HYMN NUMBERS FOR 9AM MASS:

92, 84, 78, 108

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

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

Crib appeal: This year, as a diocese, our crib appeal will once again be for the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. His Beatitude, the Patriarch, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has tirelessly worked with the whole peoples of the Middle East, petitioning for peace, compromise and goodwill amongst the region. He is a recognised figure in the negotiations and brings about a serenity and neutrality to the proceedings. Donations can be made via the Dona machine in and around the cathedral.

Christmas Flowers - there will be a collection towards Christmas flowers after all Masses on 20th/21st December. This will also help to fund Cathedral flowers throughout the year.

Christmas Parish Lunch Sunday 21st December – after the 11am Mass there will be a 3-course parish lunch and a raffle. Come join us for some lovely food and fellowship. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Cathedral to book a place (suggested donation £7 per person). A lovely way to pass the afternoon before joining in the Carols by Candlelight at 3pm. 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**.

The Duckett Library is now closed for the Christmas break and will reopen on Sunday 4 January after the 9am 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.

The Garden Café will be closed for Christmas from Monday 22nd December until Friday 2nd January 2026. The cleaning of the whole Narthex floor will take place on Monday 29th December.

Car parking at the Cathedral is very limited and we are aware that more and more parishioners and visitors have to drive to attend Mass or visit our facilities. Unfortunately, we have recently had incidents of cars being blocked in for lengthy periods, and staff being verbally abused when asking individuals to move cars. Please park within marked parking bays only and do not block any other vehicles, gates or doors **at any time**. Please consider parking elsewhere and walking to site if you are able to. This is to not only ensure safety and welfare of our parishioners, visitors and staff, but also to allow access for emergency vehicles should it be needed. Thank you.

NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

Mass Intentions - please be aware that there is still a long wait for Mass intentions, with no available dates left 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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983



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.