



Parish Newsletter

21ST DECEMBER 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PSALTER WEEK IV

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY

The Lord appeared to him in a dream saying 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' (Matthew 1:18-24) In the Old Testament Samuel anointed David to be a king. He was an ordinary boy looking after the sheep in the fields. He was chosen by God. Years later, of the line of David, another boy was chosen, born in a manger. He would grow up the foster son of a carpenter. He was the awaited Messiah – King & Saviour of the world. During Advent we have again been waiting to celebrate Christmas. There is still time to prepare something for Jesus as a sign of the fruit of our Advent efforts. Wrap it and present it! **POPE LEO XIV PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER – For Christians in areas of conflict** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

THE SACRED HEART PARISH, TEDDINGTON AND HAMPTON WICK and THE SONS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE NEWS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TEDDINGTON – PRAYER ROTA 21st December All Churches in Teddington and Hampton Wick, The clergy and all leaders of worship this Christmas; 28th December St Mary with St Alban Church, Rev David Cloake ; 4th January St Francis de Sales Church, Fr. Shaun Church; 11th January Teddington Methodist Church and 18th January Sacred Heart Church.

CHRISTMAS STALL HERE AT CHURCH: Thank you very much for the lovely donation's that are coming in for our fundraising table. Let's keep going, so we can have a full spread of Christmas treats for people. The table has been created, and you will be able to give suggested donations through the Dona, or cash in the small tub. We are looking to hold the table for a number of weeks, so please add any homemade edibles for the weekends. A reminder: money raised will go 50% towards our school and 50% Church building fund.

BRAND NEW BIKE FOR SALE: You will see that there is a brand-new bike that has been donated for the Building Fund – it was £600 in the shops – please make an offer. Our thanks to the generous donor.

HIRE THE HALL: If it's for children's birthday parties, Baptism receptions, or a group that you run that you need a larger space for – then please contact Pippa in the office to check availability and pricing.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL RECEPTION TOURS FOR 2026 ENTRY: We would love to welcome you to our Reception class! Tours will be held every Friday for September 2026 entry, starting at 9.40 am and lasts around an hour. Let the school office know if you would like to join us — we look forward to meeting you! Call 0208 977 6591 or email info@sacredheart.richmond.sch.uk to book your place.

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR MUSIC AND SINGING? Why not join our vibrant M.A.S.H. group and choir that are so uplifting at our Sunday Masses. Full support and welcoming will be given, so please fill our Church with your voices and instrumental talents.

ALPHA Please see posters and handouts advertising January 21st next start date. Please listen for announcements and pass on invitation cards – especially people of no faith / struggling in the daily journey who seek peace/solace in their lives. Contact the office or ask Fr. Stephen or Kym. We are now advertising on our website, and there will be a form available to complete – watch this space – see website

CRIB OFFERING 2025: The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) provides vital support for children and families in our diocese, helping children who are struggling with poverty and deprivation. There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support the important work. Donate at the Crib or Via the CCS website: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

PARISH FINANCES – Thank you for supporting The Sacred Heart. November S.O. £2,464; Contactless: £172.00; Building Fund Standing Order £793.00; Last Sunday's plate collection £305.47 Pls consider making a standing order for your weekly contribution?

GIFT AID claim for the 2024/25 tax year raised £12,491.25. Thank you to all of our gift aiders. If you are a taxpayer and do not already gift aid your donations, please consider it. Gift aid earns an extra 25% for parish. Standing order and gift aid forms are available at the back of the church. Tell your friends! Monthly standing orders are the easiest and most efficient way to support your parish financially. Thanks to all of you who Gift Aid to the parish or building fund – Gift Aid makes a difference. Ask Traci: teddingtonbk@rcdow.org.uk

PLEDGES We need more pledges for our building fund to help reduce the loan when repayments begin. Pledge and updated gift aid forms are available in the church or contact the parish office. Use BF + Surname & Initials as the reference - all building fund payments.

REMEMBER THE SACRED HEART CHURCH TEDDINGTON BUILDING FUND AS A LEGACY IN YOUR WILL Please remember the church's Building Fund and on-going parish maintenance as a legacy in your will. Legacy gifts: legacies@rcdow.org.uk, Info: Laura Dudhee **020 7798 9159**

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES suggestions: accommodating Richmond Refugees; Prison Visiting, Street Pastors, The Passage, Assisting Modern Slavery Victims; accommodating individuals and families who are **homeless** due to loosing rental accommodation; **Café** set up for local older and needy persons. **Growing in Faith** – spirituality leading to a deeper insight to the Catholic Church and social outreach via Alpha and Youth Alpha. A suggestion to hold a **Quiz Night** in the church hall for the Building Fund. Questions are already prepared. Let's see if we can get this off the ground. We are planning an Appeal during Lent '26 to find ways to better manage our finances and forms of fundraising. We will be helped to appeal to parishioners for more help through talks during weekend Masses.

SACRED HEART CHURCH IS OPEN 8am-6pm with ramp access. Pray in the narthex area which has had a welcome lighting upgrade.

NEW RED CARPET costs £1,980.00 – a great addition. £835 donated so far! Would anyone like to donate? Please see Dona Machine to contribute – many thanks.

18 – 25 JANUARY CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK – diary date - Sacred Heart Teddington will be hosting this year, on Sunday 18th at 4pm. Let's make an especial effort to be present as the Sacred Heart Church and School family to welcome the other members of Churches Together in Teddington. Please join our singers and help to prepare and serve tea/coffee cake/biscuits refreshments.

'VISIO DIVINA: PRAYING WITH ART': Fr Patrick van der Vorst Thursday 15th January, 7.30pm-9pm Part of the 'Continuing the Journey' series for new Catholics to feed and deepen their relationship with Christ. Fr Patrick will guide us in using the medium of art to pray. Booking in advance is essential. Please email cataadmin@rcdow.org.uk

SUPPORT THE SONS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE COMMUNITIES: Helping SDP UKRAINE projects. Payments to: EGIDIO MONTANARI, IBAN NO. IT59 C030 6901 6021 0000 0061 578; SWIFT CODE: BCITITMMXXX; BANK: SANPAOLO, Filiale 00352, Via Antonio da Messina, 24 – 20146 MILANO (MI)

CHURCH LIFE: The week has been very busy once again – three rehearsals and then the final big night for the Christmas Concert for the KS2 children – it was a wonderful evening supported by the staff at the Sacred Heart School, and it was lovely to see all the families watching from the pews. Advent is drawing to a close very rapidly, remember the true meaning of Christmas – it is easy to get caught up in the hype from the shops – it's not about spending a fortune on presents and food, it is about sharing your time with family or friends, sending out your love and prayers; seeing a smile or hearing laughter, that is the greatest gift. The year has been full of conflict, heartache and destruction – take a moment to say prayers to heal our world and put an end to the suffering. Our little Christmas table is selling well, please add items if you wish. I am hoping that the heating will now be two thirds working. As I have said before, please bring something warm along with you.

We are planning a lunch that will incorporate all three Masses so we can come together as a whole community. The date is still work in progress – but it may be in February as January is already full to the brim. While Pippa is on annual leave now (not a holiday but working hard during the busy period for her other job!) if there is anything urgent, please contact me directly, 02089772986 ext.3. Otherwise emails will be responded to a little bit ad hoc – if the office computer signal is working!

LET'S START THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR! The Parish Needs YOU!! We URGENTLY need more volunteers to come forward and help with the groups that we are hosting, and also new ventures that we are looking at. Could you help next year with opening and closing the side hall for bookings if you live close by? Wouldn't be week in week out, if we have a small team we can have a rota. Please come forward to join the volunteers who help keep our Church clean and tidy – teas and coffees please come forward and help set up, serve, and to put the items back in the correct place so it is all organised – the list could go on, and it certainly does! My goal next year is to have more time for the Pastoral side of our wider community. I need to be "freed" to a certain extent in order to visit the sick in their homes etc., etc.

Lastly, but most importantly, if you know of any families or individuals who are struggling with the cost of living, then please contact me as I can offer support with tins from our donated food and/or a food voucher – please don't feel embarrassed. If we can help, we will do so – either have a chat with me after Mass or send an email through to the office or drop a note through the front door – it is confidential. Do ask.

PADRE PIO spiritual family Servants of Suffering have brought a new dimension to the parish. Every first Monday evening of the month there is a reading group – listening to writings of Padre Pio, followed by catechesis. A recording is shared with Sacred Heart Tuesday coffee morning group. There is a monthly Saturday evening gathering after the 6pm Mass led by Servants of Suffering priests ...

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 24th December 6.00pm Christmas Eve Mass especially for families; 9.30pm Christmas Carols followed by 10.00pm Mass; 25th December Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. only

HELP NEEDED DURING CHRISTMAS SERVICES Readers, Eucharistic ministers, stewards – extra vigilant eyes and ears; checking toilets.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

28th December

(The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year A)

Eccl 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:11-21

Matt 2:13-15, 19-23

PARISH INFORMATION

Fr Stephen Beale FDP, Parochial Administrator

Parish administrator: Phillipa Chaney, in the office Mon and Fri, 9am-3pm

Parish website (including newsletter: <https://sacredheartteddington.org/>

Email: teddington@rcdow.org.uk, Telephone: 020 8977 2986

Bookkeeper: Traci: teddingtononbk@rcdow.org.uk In office: Weds 10.30am-2.30pm

Safeguarding: Estella Weston (teddingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Mass times: Sunday: 9.30am and 11.15am; Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.30am at Sacred Heart or at Sons of Divine Providence Monday to Friday rosary 6pm, Mass 6.30pm; **Divine Mercy devotions:** Every first SUNDAY SDP Chapel, 2.30pm-3.30pm (23 Lower Teddington Rd, Hampton Wick, KT1 4EU)

Next week's Mass Intentions

Saturday	20 th December	Weekday of Advent	9.30-11am 6pm	Adoration and confession Walter Chiono RIP 10th anniv
Sunday	21 st December	4 th Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.15am	Donald Houston RIP bd anniv Parishioners and benefactors
Monday	22 nd December	Weekday of Advent	9.30 am	Marie Landy birthday intention
Tuesday	23 rd December	St John of Kanty, Priest	9.30am	Special intention
Wednesday	24 th December	Christmas Eve Family Mass Carols 9.30pm; Christmas Night Mass	6pm 10pm	Fr. Stephen's intention Tony Casey & George Murphy RIP
Thursday	25 th December	The Nativity of the Lord	10am only	Margaret (Peggy) Thompson RIP
Friday	26 th December	St Stephen, the first Martyr	10am	Miller & Campbell families Int
Saturday	27 th December	St John, Apostle, Evangelist	9.30- 11am 6pm	Adoration and confession Int Ann Brown
Sunday	28 th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9.30am 11.15am	Parishioners and benefactors Intentions Ellison family & friends