



Parish of Effingham and Fetcham  
Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit



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*A Warm Welcome to all Parishioners and Visitors*

**Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent**  
**Special Collection this week: Altar and Church Flowers (Gift Aid)**

Sundays: Cycle C    Weekdays: Year I    16th December



*I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

I wonder what John the Baptist imagined Jesus' power would be like? It probably didn't turn out the way he expected. (So nothing new there—I think Jesus is always surprising us by how He chooses to act.) Most of all, Jesus showed His power by dying, by His Cross, seemingly the ultimate act of weakness. John the Baptist preached to the people to leave behind their sins by conversion of life; Jesus actually takes away our sins by His redeeming death. John used a mere symbol of this conversion, symbolic washing in water; Jesus gave us the Sacraments of Baptism and Confession, which really have the power—Jesus' power—to take away sin. And that offer of forgiveness is a totally free gift. All we need to do is ask for it with authenticity and honesty.

That offer is available at any time we want. And that means we can so easily put it off to another day! But there is a special opportunity this Sunday afternoon at our Reconciliation Service. Jesus is longing to work a wonderful transformation in our hearts by His unimaginably gentle power. Have we really got anything better to do than come and say "Yes, please"?

May God bless you all

*Fr Stephen*

## THIS WEEK

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kit Oliver RIP who died recently.

There is a Requiem Mass for Shirley Morris RIP on **Monday 17 December** at 2.45pm at Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham. **It will be the ONLY Mass of that day.**

**Advent Reconciliation Service:** this **Sunday 16 December** at 3pm there is a Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham. There will be a number of visiting priests helping to hear confessions.

**Volunteers Needed for Christmas Masses:** If you can help in one of the roles, please add your name to the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

**Kit Oliver's Funeral:** is on **Saturday 22 December at 11.30am** at the Church of the Holy Spirit Fetcham followed by interment at Our Lady of Sorrows Church Effingham and then a reception in St Alphege Hall. All are very welcome – If you are able to join the family at the reception it would be very helpful to have an idea of numbers for catering purposes. Please let Michael Bray know as soon as possible if you can come on 01372 454946 or [michaelpbray@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelpbray@btinternet.com) Please note the caterer's deadline for confirmation is **Monday 17 December** by 10am please. Instead of flowers, the family are asking for donations to a cause close to Kit's heart [www.surreywildlifetrust.org](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org) - click on 'make a donation' and then In Memoriam and Kit Oliver. Or, cheques made payable to Surrey Wildlife Trust with Kit Oliver on back and name and address if gift aiding to: Hawkins & Sons Ltd, Highlands Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ND.

**Christmas Decorations:** Here is your chance to buy these wonderful decorations made by the Do and Raise Group. **This weekend** 'Table Decorations' will be on sale after each Mass. All the donations made will be sent to The Passage in Westminster that provides support and help for the homeless.



**Tickets for the CAFOD Christmas Hamper Raffle:** will be on sale after the 9:00am and

11:00am Masses on **Sunday 16 and Sunday 23 December**. The winning tickets will be drawn at the end of the 11:00am Mass on Sunday 23 of December. Thank you all for your support in previous years.

**Advance Warning:** The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 24 December** until **Wednesday 2 January**. *If you have any items for the Newsletters of 23 December or 30 December, please ensure they are with the Parish Office by **Wednesday 19 December** as both Newsletters will be produced the week before Christmas.* Thank you.

### Reconciliation Services around the Deanery this Advent

- Our Lady of Sorrows **Effingham** Sunday 16th December 3:00pm.
- St Michael's **Ashted** Monday 17th December 7:30pm.
- St Joseph's **Epsom** Thursday 20th December 7:30pm.
- St Joseph's **Dorking** Sunday 23rd December 3:00pm

**Parish Advent Talks:** Fr Stephen will be concluding his talks about The Kingdom of God and New Evangelisation on **Monday 17 December**, St Alphege Hall, Effingham, 7.30-9.00pm with a mid-way break for refreshments. (Offers of snacks, mince pies, cheese scones, etc will be most welcome).

**Church of the Holy Spirit Cleaning:** some help would be appreciated with dusting the pews and sweeping the floors at 9.45am after the Mass on **Wednesday 19 December**. Even if you can only stay for a short while, 'every little helps' to quote a well-known advertisement.

**Poinsettias for Crib at Holy Spirit:** If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one to decorate the crib please leave it in the church by **Saturday 22 December**. Thank you.

**Christmas Charity Post (CCP):** Please note that **next Tuesday, 18 December is the last posting day**. The final collections will be made at 4.00pm. 30p stamps are still available at all

the locations listed on the notice in the church porches.

**Adoration over the Holiday Period:** Please note, the last day this will be happening before Christmas is **Thursday 20 December** and will restart on Thursday 3 January 2019.

**Confessions on Saturday 22 December:** please note, morning confessions will start at 10.15am (rather than 10.30am) and finish at 11.00am (rather than 11.15am).

### THIS MONTH

**Used Royal Mail Postage Stamps:** Christmas is an excellent time to start collecting stamps with all the cards that are arriving but, of course, they can be collected throughout the year. Just to remind you that there are collection boxes in aid of the RNIB to be found in both church porches. Please keep a small border of paper around each stamp when removing them. All stamps can be deposited in the boxes except the local charity Christmas stamps. Thank you for supporting the RNIB in this way.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Advent is an ideal time to make a commitment to attend Eucharistic Adoration. If you think the Lord might be calling you to commit to coming to Adoration for just one hour each week and join the rotas on either Tuesday morning or Thursday morning or afternoon, please have a word with Michael or Mary Agius, email [maryagius@gmail.com](mailto:maryagius@gmail.com), telephone 01372 456545. Of course, you can drop in any time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed without joining the rotas - but it would be wonderful if you could make that powerful commitment. It is also a service to other parishioners, enabling us to maintain our periods of Adoration, as we need to know that there will always be enough people present.



### FORTHCOMING

**Justice & Peace Assembly 2019:** 'Slavery on our Doorstep', **Saturday 26 January**, from 10am (coffee from 9.30am). Learn about the slave trade hidden under your nose and how you can help those affected. Speakers from the Santa Marta Group and Sussex Police. To book contact Rosie Read, Formation Secretary at [rosie.read@dabnet.org](mailto:rosie.read@dabnet.org) 01293 651161.

**Flame 2019 - Join 10,000 Catholic Young People at Wembley Arena next March:** Around five hundred people from Arundel & Brighton Diocese went to Wembley Arena last March for Flame 2017. The arena was filled, and it was great to be a part of it. Flame 2019 will happen on **Saturday 2 March**, once again at Wembley Arena. Tickets are already on sale and unlike last time they can be booked online. Head to [cymfed.org.uk/flame2019](http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2019) for details. Flame 2019 boasts an impressive line-up of speakers. More names will follow nearer the time, but Cardinal Nichols, Robert Madu, Guvna B, and Emma B from 'Girl Got Faith' are already on board. Hurry though - there are only ten thousand seats and over 5,000 tickets have already gone!

*Please pray for those in our Parish who are sick:*

Marie Bliss	Janet Morgan
Christopher Brown	Jim Morgan
Alan Bryant	Jack Oliver
Amy Chapman	Maureen Power
Maggi Cooke	Maureen Rennison
Marian Cross	Patrick Rennison
Anne Cuffe	Piers Ripley-Duggan
Maureen Donoghue	Allison Roberts
John Donovan	Jean Rowlandson
Joan Doran	Yolande Sharpe
Mary Doran	Mary Skilton
Philippa Gibbons	Andrew Smith
Ros Kennedy	Eileen Tennant
Derek Knott	Michael Tomkins
Tessa Knott	Andrea Vaughan
Filomena Lionetti	Rose Wedlake
Joanna Mills	Alf Wiggins



MASS TIMES

Saturday	15 Dec	06.00pm	(OLOS)	Agnes Dixon - RIP
Sunday	16 Dec	09.00am	(OLOS)	People of the Parish
		11.00am	(HS)	Ozzie Peck - RIP
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17 Dec</b>	<b>02.45pm*</b>	<b>(HS)</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Shirley Morris RIP</b>
Tuesday	18 Dec	09.15am	(OLOS)	Michael Baker - RIP
Wednesday	19 Dec	09.15am	(HS)	Fr Jack Lusted – (Ordained today)
Thursday	20 Dec	09.15pm	(OLOS)	Fr Bernard McGrath - RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>21 Dec</b>	<b>06.00pm</b>	<b>(HS)</b>	Elisha & Ken Harmer - RIP
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22 Dec</b>	<b>11.30am*</b>	<b>(HS)</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Kit Oliver RIP</b>
Saturday	22 Dec	06.00pm	(OLOS)	Jean Tailby - RIP
Sunday	23 Dec	09.00am	(OLOS)	Elizabeth Kelly - RIP
		11.00am	(HS)	People of the Parish

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

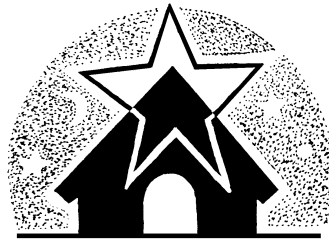
Tuesday	18 Dec	09.45am to Noon	(OLOS)
Thursday	20 Dec	09.45am to Noon	(OLOS)
		02.00pm to 05.00pm	(OLOS)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	22 Dec	<b>10.15am to 11.00am*</b>	(OLOS)	Face to Face
		05.00pm to 05.30pm	(OLOS)	In the Confessional
<b>Sunday</b>	16 Dec	After 11.00am Mass	(HS)	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month
		<b>03.00pm</b>	<b>(OLOS)</b>	<b>Reconciliation Service</b>

MONTHLY ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

Monday	09.45am	(HS)	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of every month
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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Monday <b>Christmas Eve</b>	24 Dec	06.00pm	Vigil Mass	(OLOS)
		08.30pm	<i>Carols before Mass</i>	(HS)
		09.00pm	Midnight Mass	(HS)
Tuesday <b>Christmas Day</b>	25 Dec	09.00am	Dawn Mass	(OLOS)
		10.30am	Family Mass	(HS)

HS = Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham

OLOS = Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham

**Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:1-4 Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.R.v4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-44

**Newsletter items to the Parish Office by 10am Wednesday.**