



# FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 · Year B · Weekday II · Psalter IV

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**Cathedral Collection**

**£2,664.36**

Dependent Priests Fund £573.31

**Thank you!**

[Donate online here](#)



The Rosary is prayed in the  
Lady Chapel, Monday to  
Friday after the 10am Mass

**Confessions**

Tuesday: 6pm

Saturday: 10.30am

Saturday: 5.15pm

Sunday: 4.45pm

## TIMES OF CEREMONIES

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>		
9am	Mass		<i>Verity Rudd &amp; Family</i>
11am	Solemn Mass		<i>Linda Hunter +</i>
3pm	Mass [1962 Rite Latin]		<i>Holy Souls</i>
4.30pm	First Vespers of Christmas		
6pm	Family Mass		<i>Petornila Martyres +</i>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
12am	Midnight Mass		<i>Pro Populo</i>
9am	Sung Mass		<i>Kathleen Dickerson +</i>
11am	Solemn Mass		<i>Ella &amp; Paul Winterlich +</i>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S Stephen</b>		
10am	Mass		<i>Kingsley Abrefa Damoah</i>
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S John, the Evangelist</b>		
10am	Mass		<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b>		
10am	Mass		<i>Richard &amp; Vicky Lloyd</i>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>S Thomas Becket</b>		
10am	Mass		<i>Rev Stephen O' Connor</i>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity</i>		
10am	Mass		<i>Pat Gazzard +</i>
6pm	Mass – Anticipatory		<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b>		
9am	Mass		<i>Rimuel de Jesus</i>
11am	Solemn Mass		<i>Regina Dybowska</i>
5.30pm	Mass		<i>+</i>
<b>For 01 January</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>		<i>June Gunn +</i>
11.15pm	Mass		<i>Pro Populo,</i>

**Prayers for the sick:** Cathy Adams, Justina Adamska, Dr Michael Anibueze, Philippa Barnes, Ian Beyts, Jennifer Boland, Eleanor Bray, Stella Brundell, Amanda Caistor, Brenda Devany, Jonathan Fitzimmons, Sophia Gough-Solar, Mary Hatcher, Joe Heaney, Niamh Hodgson, Gill Horan, Paul Horan, Nancy Horner, Joan Marshall, Joel McDonough, Anne O'Leary, Maria Osorio, Mary Newby, Gary Newton, Isobel O'Connor, Christopher Parish, Canon David Paul, Anthony Preston, Jack Richardson, Nicholle Sales, Reece Sales, Linda Sheppard, Peter Thorn, Adrian Tremayne, Mary Ward, Fr John Warrington, Peter Willets, Adrian Woods, the Wood Family, Patricia Wooley, Isobel Woolner, the Watson Family, Shane Wissner. [GDPR compliant] **Going into hospital?** Please inform the hospital ward itself that the Catholic Chaplain is needed.

**The Cathedral Church is open daily this week from 9am until 5pm**

## HYMN NUMBERS FOR THE 9AM MASS

112, 83, 113, 108

Dear Parishioners

By the time you read this message, I hope that all of the hustle and bustle of your Christmas preparations have passed, and you are able to begin to entertain the miracle of the Nativity and to gather friends and loved ones around you. Advent always seems to fly by so quickly; this is particularly the case this year whereby we have just experienced the shortest Advent season possible. If you are like me and leave everything to the last minute, you may well have been 'caught short' in your planning. The city centre of Norwich has been so busy and bustling and I have admired how many of the smaller shops really adopted the Christmas spirit and decorated their windows and displays. Of course, I would have liked to have seen more nativity scenes and signs of our faith, but I do realise that those days are, sadly, long gone. At least, though, the shopkeepers made an effort and each one was a small reminder of this holy season in its own way.

How do we counteract this secularisation of our society without it draining away all the meaning of Christmas? For me, the best way is to look for small signs of the Lord at work, for people who are kind and generous to each other and who reach out to the stranger. I am fortunate to be able to visit people who are housebound and unable to come to Mass. Some are cared for lovingly by their families, others in care homes with remarkable staff and assistants to help them and others remain independent and able to look after themselves.

I also tend to delve into the internal during the great seasons of Advent and Lent and meditate on the mysteries that are about to unfold. Two very different seasons; Advent full of hope and joy as we await the birth of the infant in Bethlehem and Lent where we begin to prepare ourselves for the Passion and death of Our Lord and eventually the joy of Resurrection. During both seasons the sacramental life of the Church seems to bloom and take on a life of its own, led by the Holy Spirit moving in each of our hearts. The flowers may be removed from the churches during Advent, but the sacramental blossoming of people's lives really fills that void. The Masses seem to be well attended and the queues to the Confessionals are all slightly longer. A true celebration of the sacramental gifts instituted by The Lord himself.

We must remember our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, Ukraine and other areas that are scarred by war, dictatorships, or even natural disasters.

## HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH

*Scarnell Road, Norwich NR5 8HT*

[parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:parish@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

<i>Every Sunday</i>	10am	Mass
	11am	Confessions
	4pm	Holy Qurbana
<i>Christmas Day</i>	Midnight	Mass
	8am	Holy Qurbana
	10am	Mass

As we pray for them and ask the Lord to bring comfort and peace, we must look at how safe and secure our own lives are and, hopefully, face 2024 with renewed vigour and hope - removing the small insignificant things in our lives that seem to become mountains when we brood on them.... why carry around all that baggage? Peace is very fragile, the infant Jesus came to change that and to make it permanent and part of our Catholic inheritance; my prayer is that we will all be more open to Christ, more kind, more generous and more joy-filled in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Christmas is the season of giving and, also, having the grace and humility to receive with openness and love. On behalf of all the cathedral clergy I would like to thank you for your kindness over this season; the many cards, prayers, gifts and smiles we have all received. Thank you. Every year there is so much generosity shown to us through the Christmas offering for the priests - this offering goes a very long way to supplement the monthly stipend we receive - again, thank you for being so generous. The Mass collections that go directly to the priests are as follows - this can be either through the collection plate or on the Dona Machines in the Narthex.

Saturday evening [18:00] - 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Parish collection  
Sunday morning [09:00] - 24<sup>th</sup> December - Parish collection  
Sunday morning [11:00] - 24<sup>th</sup> December - Parish collection  
Sunday evening [18:00] - 24<sup>th</sup> December - Clergy offering  
Midnight Mass [00:00] - 25<sup>th</sup> December - Clergy offering  
Monday morning 09:00 - 25<sup>th</sup> December - Clergy offering  
Monday morning 11:00 - 25<sup>th</sup> December - Clergy offering  
All Masses at Holy Apostles on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of December

Finally, on behalf of all the clergy, the cathedral staff and the many volunteers that help keep our doors open, may you have a truly blessed and holy feast over the next few days. Merry Christmas to each and everyone.



**Please note** there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day and from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec **10am** Mass only. The Cathedral will be open daily from 9am-5pm.

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

**Diocesan Crib Appeal** - The crib appeal for 2023 has been launched across the diocese to help people in the Middle East and, in particular, the Holy Land. All proceeds will go to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and Friends of the Holy Land. THANK YOU for your generosity - donations can be given through the DONA machines in the Narthex (Crib Appeal 2023).

**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 & Norwich University Hospital Chapel (Centre Block, Level 1). Our next Mass will be on **Mon 1 January 2024** and then **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Christmas closure for the café** is from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January (inclusive). The Cathedral shop is closed from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January (inclusive).

**The Narthex and the Parish Office** will also be closed during Christmas week.

**The Duckett Library** is closed for the Christmas break and will re-open on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. During closure, please email with any queries or to renew books [duckettlibrary@sjbcathedral.org.uk](mailto:duckettlibrary@sjbcathedral.org.uk)

**Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage?**  
Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment, and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Rachel's Vineyard** offers Catholic retreat weekends for men and women who are suffering after an abortion/s. The next retreat to be held in this Diocese will be from 8-10 March 2024 in Suffolk. Contact Sona on [sona@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sona@rachelsvineyard.org.uk) For further information, you can also visit: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk>



**Father Alan,  
Father Michael, Fr Denys &  
Fr Jinu  
and  
all Cathedral staff and  
volunteers  
wish you  
and your families  
a very happy  
and blessed Christmas  
and New Year**

# CHRISTMAS MASS & CEREMONY TIMES

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christmas Eve**

9am	Mass
10am	Mass at Holy Apostles, Scarnell Rd, NR5 8HT
11am	Solemn Mass
3pm	Mass [1962 Rite Latin]
4pm	Holy Qurbana at Holy Apostles
4.30pm	Solemn Pontifical First Vespers of Christmas
6pm	Family Mass
11.30pm	Carol Service

## **Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christmas Day**

Midnight	Solemn Pontifical Midnight Mass
Midnight	Midnight Mass at Holy Apostles
8am	Holy Qurbana at Holy Apostles
9am	Sung Mass of the Dawn
10am	Mass of the Day at Holy Apostles
11am	Solemn Mass of the Day

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December** 10am Mass only

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **New Year's Eve**

9am	Mass
10am	Mass at Holy Apostles
11am	Solemn Mass
5.30pm	Anticipatory Mass
11.15pm	Mass of Mary, Mother of God, to welcome the New Year

## **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – New Year's Day**

11am	Mass
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## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany** (*moved from Saturday*)

9am	Mass
10am	Mass at Holy Apostles
11am	Solemn Mass
3pm	Mass [1962 Rite Latin]
4.30pm	Vespers & Benediction
5.30pm	Solemn Pontifical Mass