

St Paul's Knightsbridge
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SERVICES THIS WEEK:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

24 December 2017

Low Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

Crib Service at 17:00

Midnight Mass at 23:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

25 December: CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

Tue 26 December: Stephen

Mass at 12:00

Wed 27 December: John

Mass at 12:00

Thu 28 December: Holy Innocents

Mass at 12:00

Fri 29 December: Thomas Beckett

Mass at 12:00

Sat 30 December: Feria of

Christmas

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

31 December 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

The times, they are a-changing

(Bob Dylan, 1964)

Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent in the morning, with its traditional theme of Mary's confusion and yet obedience to God's call. We are still wearing Advent Sarum blue and in solemn tone. But then there is a transformation of the church, the vestments, the lights and by the Eve we will be resplendent to celebrate the Midnight Mass of the Nativity. It is a dramatic changeover Sunday.

For many of us it is Christmas that begins the rolling round of the year and the time of reflection on all the changes of the past year: the new children born to our extended families; those now absent from our Christmas Board; a year older and more worn out than we were last Christmas; a political landscape that continues to amaze us; and the 133rd Bishop of London since the second century, Our Bishop, to be Sarah. (If you had seen that coming you could have started the year with a lot of money – the odds were 100 to one!)

Change is often overwhelming and exciting in unequal measure, depending on where we are ourselves in the process of change. But the Scriptures always encourage us to remember that all change is in God's hands. Not in a fatalistic sort of way, like the Calvinist who fell down stairs and said "well that's got that over with!" Rather as Archbishop Temple put it: "Change is the angel of a changeless God." It constantly throws us upon the faith and hope that are the marks of Christian discipleship. In



the first century the writer to the Hebrews in the New Testament talks of the shaking of the world, the great Roman Empire, and asserts our belief that whatever happens, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!" (Hebrews 13.8)

So let's welcome our new Bishop with all the new possibilities she will bring to the mission and ministry of the church in London. And let's embrace the changes 2018 will bring to St Paul's, to ourselves, to our nation... secure in the love of Christ. John Donne has it: "Change is the nursery / Of music, joy, life, and eternity." (Elegy lii)

Fr Nick

Sunday 7th January Epiphany Sunday

Family mass at 09:00am
Solemn Eucharist at 11:00am
followed by Epiphany cake

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday Evening Service on 10th January

Please join us at the beginning of a new year for a reflective Mass accompanied by beautiful music with thoughtful and challenging preaching. The pattern of monthly Wednesday Evening Services is proving to be very popular and is growing. One of the clergy celebrates the Mass whilst another offers three short reflections on a topical theme. Following mass we gather for a convivial home-cooked supper in the nave as the wine and conversation flows. Please put this date in your diaries!

Who's who this Sunday At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Louis Darrant

At 11:00

Celebrant: Fr Nick Mercer

Reader: Caroline Docker

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

Intercessor: James Folkes



Explorations visit to the Tower of London

The revised date of the next Explorations visit is **Saturday 13th January**. Canon Roger Hall, Chaplain of St Peter Ad Vincula, will introduce us to the life and history of the chapel and lead prayers at the Shrine of St Thomas More. Places are limited to 15, so please speak to Fr Louis if you would like to join us.

THE LIGHT SHINES



The *final* installment of our daily prayer in Advent is available today. To receive them a copy by email please contact Fr Louis at louis@spkb.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Patronal Festival 2018

Join us for a feast of worship, music and fellowship in celebration of our Patronal Festival.

Thursday 25th January, 7pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Festal Choral Evensong for the Conversion of St Paul with the choir and musicians of St Paul's Knightsbridge. Followed by a reception.

Friday 26th January, 1pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL

A 'drop-in' lunchtime recital with the Royal College of Music's Mayler Quartet. A free event with soup lunch.

Saturday 27th January, 2pm "COME AND SING!"

Ever wondered what it would be like to sing with the church choir? This is your chance. Michael Papadopoulos, Michael Solomon Williams and Adam Mathias will lead an afternoon of working on favourite choral classics by Parry, Rutter and Vivaldi before putting on a short, informal concert at 4.15pm at which family and friends are most warmly welcome! Tickets- £10 for participants at www.spkb.org. No charge for audience members. Followed by drinks.

Daily Reflections from Fr Richard Rohr



Fr Richard is the Director of the Centre for Action and Contemplation. You can sign up for a free Daily Meditation exploring the contemplative dimension of Christian living by going to www.cac.org/category/daily-meditations/ These daily bite-sized reflections are an excellent aid to deepening your practice of faith in everyday life and are highly recommended.

Sunday 28th January, 11am FESTAL ORCHESTRAL MASS

The Choir of St Paul's Knightsbridge with the Royal College of Music ensemble.
Spatzenmesse – Mozart
How lovely are the messengers – Felix Mendelssohn
O salutaris hostia - Rossini

Tackling Homelessness Together



We are all aware of that tricky moment when someone, begging on the street, asks us for money. To give or not? What should a Christian do? Will it help – or just compound the problem? As part of the London Diocese campaign Tackling Homelessness Together, we have identified two charities working in the local area (Westminster and Chelsea) who are working to make a real difference this winter. Next time you are accosted by a beggar, why not text **SPKB17 £10 to 70070**. We will pass the donation to our local partners who will ensure that every penny is wisely and usefully spent.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop-Designate of London, all who will we welcome in church over the Christmas season; the peace of the Holy Land; prisoners, refugees and all roughsleepers; our political leaders and all who offer counsel; for expectant mothers and new parents; all for whom this season is painful; for a renewal in our lives of faith and hope.

Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Judy Davis; Ingrid Gray; Val Hiscock; Gregoriy Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya; Adam Curtis and Alan Bennegworth; Peter Wasowich; Ben Borthwick; Paul Denham; Valentine Beresford; Federico Fernandez.

And we pray for the recently departed: Walter Timmis; Jeremy

Stampa Orwin; Natalie Lewis-Hoyle; Barbara Lockhart-Smith.

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Patricia Engel – 24th
Joan Easton – 25th
Stanley Llewellyn – 26th
Robert Magee – 28th
Elspeth Loasby – 28th
James Oliver – 29th
Huw Griffith – 30th