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## SERVICES THIS WEEK:

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**3 December 2017**

**Family Mass** at 09:00

**Solemn Eucharist** at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

### 4 December: Advent FERIA

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### Tue 5 December: Advent FERIA

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### Wed 6 December: Nicholas

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### Thu 7 December: Ambrose

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### Fri 8 December: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### Sat 9 December: Votive of Our Lady

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**10 December 2017**

**Family Mass** at 09:00

**Solemn Eucharist** at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

## 'This is the season of right doubt ...'

Words from Elizabeth's Jennings' poem  
*November Sonnet*:

'A life of realism, watching out  
For a red sunset, grateful for a dawn  
Of rich light now. Tall shadows step and strut.

Facing the big wind daily coming on  
Faster. This is the season of right doubt  
While that elected child waits to be born.'



I love the the season of Advent and only regret that it often seems to go too quickly in the run-up to Christmas running simultaneously with the festivity of carols and parties as fun as they are. Nevertheless the early closing-in of the night is an invitation to slow down whenever possible, to pray and to question and to wait upon fresh revelations of grace.

Many people of faith express unease or guilt at having doubts in their belief as if our pilgrimage to God was about cast-iron certainty. Jennings' poem suggests a different approach; one of embracing a time of 'right doubt' and that's why the image of waiting for the first light at dawn is such a powerful one. Much of our praying can feel like making our way in the dark, unsure of the way ahead. As in our prayer, so in our lives. At the heart of our faith is not the simple recitation of a creed, but a relationship with a person who we believe who was put to put to death by the authorities and now lives no longer bound by time and space, but offers

his life to all to turn to him. We know that relationships are not static affairs, but go through different phases and need to be kept in good repair. So 'right doubt' is a necessary part of our relationship with Christ. It keeps us open to the new thing which will be shown to us.

In speaking to others about our experience of faith in Christ – with honesty and authenticity – we demonstrate that faith isn't illogical or unreasonable, but a response to something wonderful and mysterious in our lives. We will never fully understand the mystery in this life, but how awesome is it to know that the mystery understands us and loves us with an indescribable love. These days of Advent are a time to be filled with penitence and gratitude as we wait for the 'elected child' to be born again in us.

Fr Louis

## TODAY: Parish Lunch following

Join us for today's Parish Lunch - Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December – in the hall after the Solemn Eucharist, at 13:00. We're delighted that the chefs-du-jour will be the children from our Family Mass assisted by their parents, acting as sous-chefs. We invite a donation of £10 for a two course home-cooked lunch. Please come at least for a drink – and stay for lunch if space and time allow.

## TODAY: Advent Carol Service

Please plan to join us this evening at 6:00pm for a beautiful service of sacred music and readings as we enter into the season of waiting. It's the perfect way to start the preparations for Christmas on a reflective note. Please consider who you might like to invite. Afterwards, our good neighbours Harrods are generously providing mulled wine and spiced tea with mince pies.



**Who's who this Sunday**  
At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Louis Darrant

**At 11:00**

Celebrant: Fr Louis Darrant  
Deacon: Fr Alan Gyle  
Subdeacon: Phil Davies  
Reader: Dianne Bruce  
Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle  
Intercessor: Iago Griffith



**Advent Pilgrimage**

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December there will be a day pilgrimage to the ancient chapel of St Peter at Bradwell on Sea in Essex. We will visit Chelmsford Cathedral en route. Please see Fr Louis for more details.



**Foundation Carol Service : Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 6:30pm.**

Thanks to all those who have supported this year's event. The event is now officially **SOLD OUT** – a waiting list is in operation.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

**Tackling Homelessness Appeal**

I am delighted that we are launching the Diocese of London Homelessness Appeal in advance of our annual Lent Appeal for 2018. We're doing this earlier than usual because the issue of homelessness is so obvious and apparent at this time of the year. Please help by considering this as part of your Advent and Christmas giving.

The level of homelessness across London is a scandal, and the contribution of churches and partner organisations is vital as statutory authorities struggle to cope. It's wonderful to see the way in which this issue has been championed by local churches, and the many practical responses across the city and diocese.

In order to provide a focus for the Appeal and to highlight an area of work that multiple parishes are already involved with, we are focusing on the provision of winter night shelters. 15 organisations have been identified as partner charities. Of these charities, three provide shelter for those experiencing homelessness throughout the year; the other 12 assist our parishes to provide shelter for hundreds of homeless people throughout the coldest months of the year in every part of our diocese. At a recent visit to one of these shelters, I was privileged to share a meal and learn more of the individual stories from those



experiencing homelessness. I was also touched by the care and respect shown by the amazing team of volunteers as they served the guests with dignity and genuine humanity. It was a very practical sharing of the love of Jesus Christ, who knew what it was to have nowhere to lay his head (Matthew 8:20).

This year we hope to raise the profile of a Christian response to homelessness, and encourage churches to reflect on the human cost of being without a home. For many in our great city this is an immediate reality and the love of Christ calls us to respond to it.

As we seek to tackle homelessness together, my prayer is that our parishes, congregations and partner schools will be able to respond to this immense challenge by prayer, generous giving and, for those already supporting winter night shelters, by continued hands-on engagement for those in need.

*Bishop Pete Broadbent*  
Acting Bishop of London

**THIS WEEK: To Live Again – an Advent Journey using the Christmas Classic 'It's a Wonderful Life'**

Every Thursday in the preparation for Christmas. Mass at noon followed by a film clip with a simple lunch and thoughtful discussion. Copies of the book are now available on the bookstand.

Themes to be explored:

- Hopes and Dreams
- When Life Doesn't Go Our Way
- In the Dark Times
- The Right Perspective



**Please pray for...**

**We pray this week for:** Bishop Pete, Acting Bishop of London; for the work of Streetlink and all homeless charities and nightshelters at this time of the year; for the Royal Family and all who serve in public life; for the Church where she is persecuted and for all who work to secure human rights.

**Among the sick and those in need:**

John King; Gerald Bridgeman Elizabeth Gordon; Judy Davis; Ingrid Gray; Val Hiscock; Gregori Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya; Adam Curtis and Alan Bennegworth; Peter Wasowich; Ben Borthwick; Paul Denham; Valentine Beresford.

**And we pray for the recently departed:** Pauline Round; Hamish Nicholson; Graeme McKinnon; Walter Timmis.

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

Colin Tytherleigh – 10th