

ALL SAINTS NEWS

14th December 2025
3rd Sunday in Advent
Gaudete Sunday

Living Advent whilst Celebrating Christmas

This weekend we move from one part of the Season of Advent to the other, and the Church gives us the treat of Gaudete Sunday. Named such from the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon for the Mass of the day, '*Gaudete in Domino semper*' (*Rejoice in the Lord always*) which originates in St. Paul's exhortation to the Philippians 4:4-5.



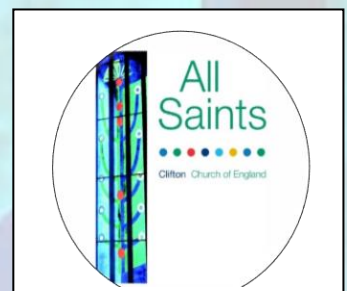
The intention is for the 'Church' to give her 'children' a bit of a respite from the traditional drabness of Advent by allowing us to feast our eyes on altar flowers and rose vestments and by giving our ears the pleasure of organ music.

Gaudete Sunday also emphasises the tension, experience by Christians, between living Advent whilst celebrating Christmas.

When we are asked about the meaning of Advent, we recognise that it is partly concerned with the coming of Jesus as the Babe of Bethlehem. Yet we know that Advent directs our attention to three comings of Christ:

Contact us

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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

- ★ The first half of the season looks toward His glorious Second Advent as Judge of the Universe, ushering in the Kingdom of His Father in all its fullness,
- ★ The second half is focused on His historical coming in the mystery of the Incarnation.
- ★ There is another coming, however, – one which links the other two – and that is His coming among us continually, especially through the sacraments.

In other words, as we look back on His coming as Man and look forward to His coming as Judge, we experience His presence in veiled and sacramental ways. The sacraments prolong or continue His Incarnation, making available to us the benefits of that saving event and giving us the strength we need to look forward to His final appearance with joy and confidence, rather than fear and trembling

For most the significance of Advent is lost under the spreading season of Christmas. This has happened for all sorts of understandable reasons: retail outlets have opportunity for increased sales; schools would not be happy with Nativity plays after Christmas Day; and then on to office parties, Christmas carols and all the media coverage telling exactly what we must do in the Christmas countdown to truly enjoy Christmas.



So, what might we do to remind us that it is the Advent Season, even under the spreading Christmas festivities?

Here are five suggestions – and it's no too late:

- ★ **Use Advent wisely** – If Advent is about preparation select something to read or take on a different prayer cycle.
- ★ **Make an Advent Wreath for the home** – light the candles on the wreath and reflect on the meaning whilst also burning the 'count-down' Advent Candle.
- ★ Attend the All Saints Advent Carol Service and the Fourth Sunday **Service of Lessons and Carols**.
- ★ **Advocate in the Public Space** – as we will be judged at the Second Coming, ensure that we speak out about and support charities and organizations concerned with justice, equality, righteousness and care of creation.
- ★ **Keep the Liturgical Seasons** – Advent as best we can! But especially Christmas until the end of the Christmas Season (Baptism of Christ on the 11 January).

Occupy our Calendars

Prayer - Walter Brueggemann (1 June 2000)

Our times are in your hands:

But we count our times for us;

we count our days and fill them with us;

we count our weeks and fill them with our busyness;

we count our years and we fill them with our fears.

And then caught up short with your claim,

Our times are in your hands!

Take our times, times of love and times of weariness,

Take them all, bless them, break them,

give them to us again,

slow paced and eager,

fixed in our readiness for neighbour.

Occupy our calendars,

Flood us with itsy-bitsy, daily *kairoi*,

In the name of your fleshed *kairos*. Amen.

Kairoi is (plural) 'time'

Kairos is the 'right time'



The Christmas Wreath workshops on Saturday the 6th and Monday 8th were well attended and great fun.

Following a teach in by Jenny York and with support from the All Saints Flower Team each group member was able to go home with a stunning Christmas Wreath to welcome visitors to their home during the Christmas season.



Join *Cantanti*
for an afternoon of
joyful words and
music to celebrate the
Christmas season

Saturday 20th December,
4pm

All Saints Church
Pembroke Road

Admission free
Retiring collection

BS8 3ED

Warm coats for Winter

Take a coat if
you need one.

Leave a coat if you
can.



The coat rack has
been very popular
and is now looking a
little empty.

Please donate a coat
this weekend if you
can.

Thank you



Winter Art Exhibition in the Atrium

'A Sense of Place' By the All Saints Artists

Please support the All Saints Artists
showing their work in the Atrium.

Some works are for sale

The magnificent work on the All Saints robes, lead by Janet and Anne from Bristol Cathedral Embroidery Group, has achieved a huge amount in a very short time.

Janet and Anne, supported by Janice Callow, Janice Hopkins and Annette Young have created padded hangers for all the copes so that they hang without damaging the fabric and are now starting work on mending trimmings and repairing the copes.

Some of the oldest copes are now beyond repair but these will be safely stored and available for future historical reference.

The group meets every Thursday morning and the first session in 2026 will be on Thursday 8th of January 2026 at 10 am. If you are free, please do just come along.



Christmas ²⁵ @ All Saints

SUNDAY 21ST DEC 5:00^{PM}

Christmas Carol Service

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WEDNESDAY 24TH DEC 4:00 FOR 4:30^{PM}

Christmas Story

.....
WEDNESDAY 24TH DEC 10:00^{PM}

Midnight Mass

.....
THURSDAY 25TH DEC 10:00^{AM}

Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols

.....



CHRISTMAS EVE THE CHRISTMAS STORY



4 PM
HOT
CHOCOLATE
& MINCE PIES

4.30-5 PM
CAROLS ROUND
THE CRIB



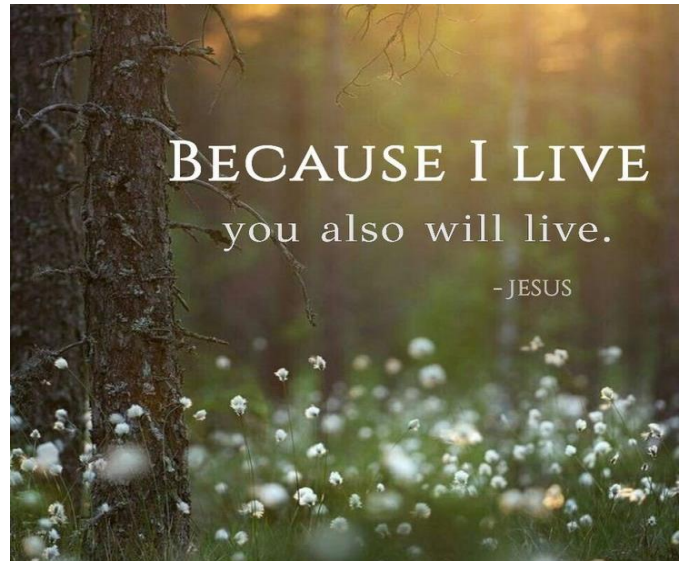
ALL AGES
WELCOME

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



Those of the parish and our hearts whom we remember in our Prayers:

Sunday

Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Nicky Epinay Sarah Jean Bradford Andrew French Swarna Simpson Jenny Oates Sister Rosie Martin Rogers John Pedlar Gillian Clark Pepe Messel William and Lincoln

Monday

Sathia Aruliah Susie King Arthur Cleaver

Tuesday.

Pam Parker Oussama and Claire Sader

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford Vy and Angel Wray

Thursday

Remie Clarke

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nadine Benn The O'Sullivan family

Saturday

The Departed

Hugh Farry Lucille Osafa Mary Whittington Diana Verity

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Eric Lloyd Davis Dulcie Mason John Dowden Joan Flynn Michael Houghton (Bp) Christine Malet Chellathurai Arulanantham James Ostler Alec Benton

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

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| Mon 15 | Pray for those whose lives are enriched by their 'Companion Animals'. Human lives are often transformed through befriending dogs and cats (and horses) – the lonely, disabled, housebound, poor mental health, prisoners, those in recovery. (Today is Feline Day) |
| Tue 16 | Pray for our Emergency Services – the 'Blue Lights'. Christmas normally is a time for joy. Decorations are set up, parties ensue, presents are given and laughter commences. Not many people remember those in law enforcement, fire fighting, ambulance workers and so many others who work tirelessly during the holiday season to keep people safe. Blue Christmas is a holiday dedicated to those who work in that field, giving them an opportunity to be thanked for their services and celebrate Christmas their own way. |
| Wed 17 | Mass 10.00am O Sapientia (O Wisdom). O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence |
| Thurs 18 | O Adonai (O Lord) Heavenly Father, you prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge |
| Fri 19 | Mass 10.00am O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) O Root of Jesse, that stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: come, to deliver us, and tarry not. |
| Sat 20 | O Clavis David (O Key of David) O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: come, and lead forth the captive who sits in the shadows from his prison. |
| Sunday 21 | 4th Sunday of Advent O Oriens (O Dayspring) O dawn of the east, brightness of light eternal, and sun of justice: come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am Christmas Carol Service 5.00pm |

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office
office@allsaintsclifton.org

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :
The Parish Safeguarding Officers - Caroline Davenport & Janice Callow at safeguarding@allsaintsclifton.org