

St Peter and the Guardian Angels

Roman Catholic Church
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C – 12TH DECEMBER

Gaudete in Domino semper! Rejoice in the Lord, always!

Advent candles: Lighting Advent candles each week symbolizes the proximity of Jesus' coming, hence each candle has its own special symbol and meaning. The pink candle that we lit today represents JOY, the joy of the fulfilment of the promises of God to send a saviour by the birth of Jesus. *"Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! ... The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear."* (Zeph 3:14ff)

Saint of the Week – St John of the Cross (1541-1591): John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross". The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me"* (Mark 8:34) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery – through death to life – strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet and theologian priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest at twenty five (1567), John met Teresa of Jesus (Avila) and like her vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely – to experience the dying of Jesus – as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God!

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon John's spirit came into the light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

John in his life and writing has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, and comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message – like the gospel – is loud and clear. Don't – if you really want to live! Thomas Merton said of John: *"Just as we can never separate asceticism from mysticism, so in St John of the Cross we find darkness and light, suffering and joy, sacrifice and love united together so closely that they seem at times to be identified."* In John's words: *"Never was found so clear, undimmed and bright; from it alone, I know proceeds all light, although 'tis night"*. (Saints of the Day-5th Edition)

Prayer and Adoration in Advent – Fridays 7-8pm: In Advent we come and gather with a renewed hope in the Lord, waiting for him; we gather to celebrate the coming of God in Jesus and wait for the return of Jesus at the end of time. We confess our own incompleteness and sins, and acknowledge that there is always more to God than what we can know or believe or sense. In that recognition there is a proclamation of hope in the goodness of God: in waiting we declare our hope and trust in God. **COME & JOIN US TO PRAY, REFLECT & ADORE the LORD – every Friday of Advent at 7pm in the Church.**

Mass Times and News

SUNDAY: 12th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am: For the people 11pm: Well-being of Scott Davidson	THURSDAY: 16th December 9:15am: Mass: private intention
MONDAY: 13th December – St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, No Mass	FRIDAY: 17th December 9:15am: Mass 7pm: Prayer & Adoration
TUESDAY: 14th December – St John of the Cross 7:30pm: Mass	SATURDAY: 18th December Vigil Mass: 6:00pm - For the people
WEDNESDAY: 15th December 9:15am: Mass	SUNDAY: 19th December - 4th Sunday of Advent 9: 00am: Jeannie Phatty & Gerald Mason RIP 11:00am: Wellbeing of Jim & Kathleen Walsh

The Missio Calendars for 2022 are available at the back of the Church.

Please do pick one up. They are free. If you have a **Missio Red Box** at home that needs to be emptied please can you either (a) **return it to Church by Sunday 12th December** or even better (b) count up the total yourself and put the money and details of the total into an envelope or bag marked Missio and give into the shop at the back of the Church.

If you are a taxpayer and wish Missio to reclaim the tax on your donation please also include your name, address and contact details (mobile/email).

Please contact Diane Rampling

(dmrampling@aol.com) if you would like to have a Missio Red Box to take home and/or donate to this worthy cause.

Contacts: Synod process: Murielle

ass_murielle@hotmail.com

<https://stpeterandtheguardianangels.com/synod-2021-2023/>

Climate Sunday and fundraising: Ania:

gacs5150@gmail.com

Pope's prayer Intentions for December: 'Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday

5.15pm or on request.

COLLECTIONS: 28th November- £609.38; 5th

December - £1517.98. Standing order for the month of October £302 **THANK YOU**

Do you know any elderly, Housebound or Sick Parishioners that would benefit from a home visit from Fr Tesfamichael if so, please visit the Presbytery or call 020 237 2969 or can speak directly to Fr after each Mass.

Share your talent with our Congregation

If you would like to volunteer your talents to the Church, no matter how big or small everyone can make a difference to our community. Please fill out a form with your ideas or anything that you can offer to do or if you are interested in forming a group, maybe a choir, read at mass or help with the offertory, fundraising to maintain our Church is really important and any help would be greatly appreciated, so please write down any thoughts with you name and contact number and place in the box, The forms can be found at the back of the church.

Prayer for the Synod: *'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.'* **Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**