### 21st December 2014 The Fourth Sunday of Advent, (B) Psalter week IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Sung Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Quiet Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Parish Carol Service &amp; 6.30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**WEDNESDAY 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 4.00pm Children Mass - Dennis Pearce & Angela Howson RIP
- 6.00pm Mass with Carols – The People of the Parish
- 11.30pm Carols followed Solemn Midnight Mass – Rosa & Henry McGarry RIP

**THURSDAY 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 9.30am Mass with Carols – The Curtin Family
- 11.30am Mass with Carols – Alexander Raphael RIP

### 28th December 2014 The Holy Family (B) Psalter week I

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**2ND December 2014 The Holy Family (B) Psalter week I**

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**1ST JANUARY – MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

- 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12.00noon Mass – Edward, Jason, Odette & Family

### 4th January 2015 The Epiphany of the Lord (B) Psalter week II

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**11TH January 2015 The Baptism of the Lord (B) Psalter week III**

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**Parish Groups and activities**

- **The Parish Priest’s Surgery**
  - Resumes 6th January
- **RCIA**
  - Resumes 7th January
- **Confirmation**
  - Resumes 14th January
- **Sunday Benediction**
  - Resumes 1st February
- **Thursday Benediction**
  - Resumes 5th February
- **1st Holy Communion Classes**
  - Resumes 10th January
- **Children’s Liturgy**
  - Resumes 11th January

**The Open Door Prayer Group**

- Meets next on the 6th January

**Baptism Course**

- 10th January 10.00am – 12.00noon

**Confessions**

- Sundays –
  - 9.00am – 9.20am
  - 11.00am – 12.20am
  - 4.00pm – 5.00pm

- Saturdays – 10.30am – 11.00am

**The Rosary is recited**

- Monday – Saturday before Mass
- Hospital

If you, or a member of your family, are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform ward staff that you are Roman Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain Fr. Eze. If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Kevin.

**WE WELCOME INTO GOD’S FAMILY**

Zara Elizabeth who was baptised here recently. May the Lord continue the good work he has started.
I take this opportunity, to wish you and your families, a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

God bless you all,

Fr. Kevin

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS
The Church cleaners will be cleaning the Church for Christmas after the 10.00am Mass on Tuesday 23rd December. We need more volunteers to come along on this day to ensure the Church is looking pristine for Christmas.

PARKING ON CHRISTMAS EVE
There will be limited parking available on Christmas Eve from 3.30pm at the T.A. Centre, on a first come first serve basis. We are grateful to the staff at the T.A. Centre for generously allowing us use of their facilities on this occasion.

MONEY COUNTERS
We are preparing the next rota for the volunteers who count the Sunday Collection on Monday mornings. We need a couple more people to join the rota. If you could spare an hour and half on Monday mornings at 9.00am, once every four – six weeks, please contact Michael in the Parish Office.

REPAIRS TO THE CAR PARK
Essential repairs need to be made to the Church Car Park. These should begin on Monday 12th January and conclude, weather permitting, on Tuesday 20th January, please note there will be no access to the Car Park during this time (Including Sunday 18th).

‘The shepherds were the first to receive the news of Jesus’ birth. They were the first because they were among the last, the outcast. And they were the first because they were awake, keeping watch in the night, guarding their flocks. The pilgrim is bound by duty to keep watch and the shepherds did just that. Together with them, let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence. Together with them, let us thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us and with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts the praises of his fidelity. We bless you, Lord God most high, who lowered yourself for our sake. You are immense and you made yourself small. You are rich and you made yourself poor. You are all-powerful and you made yourself vulnerable. This Christmas let us share the joy of the Gospel - God loves us, he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother and to be light in our darkness. To us the Lord repeats: “Do not be afraid!”

As the angels said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid!”. And I also repeat to all of you, do not be afraid! Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is mercy - our Father always forgives us. He is our peace. Amen.’ (Pope Francis)

‘No Crib for a bed’ - Our Crib offerings

Christ was born in a stable - a temporary place of refuge. This Christmas, hundreds of thousands of Christians in Syria and Iraq – the cradle of Christianity – who have been made destitute by war and targeted violence, desperately need our goodwill. Thousands of children, along with their families, have been uprooted from their homes and now live a precarious existence in temporary accommodation. Their whole community have been traumatised by their experiences. This year our Parish Crib Offerings are being sent to “Aid to the Church in Need” to provide personalised Christmas parcels containing warm clothing, a Child’s Bible, a devotional item, colouring books, pencils and sweets.

Please be as generous as you can.

St. Raphael’s Parish
Carol Service
This evening at 6.30pm followed by mulled wine & mince pies

All are welcome

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
The collection taken at all Masses on Christmas Day is your personal offering to Fr. Kevin our Parish Priest. This collection forms part of his income to support his personal needs and expenses during the year ahead. Christmas Offering envelopes are available for your use at the back of the Church. (If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please use the special envelope in your packet.)

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

FRIDAY ABSTINENCE OVER CHRISTMAS
As all the days during the Christmas Octave are treated as Solemnities, we are not asked to abstain from eating meat on Boxing Day.

4.00PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
I invite all children who are attending the 4.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve to come dressed as angels, shepherds, or your favourite Saint. The children can come in procession with Fr. Kevin as we place baby Jesus in the crib.

MASS ON NEW YEAR’S DAY
New Year’s Day is the solemnity of Mary Mother of God. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.00am followed by Mass at 12.noon that day.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION
£527.02 loose & £297.50 Gift Aid = £824.52

Of your charity,
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ruth Real who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be here on Monday 5th January at 11.00am
May She rest in Peace

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