



# THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael's School and Parish • Hart Lane • Burghclere • RG20 9JW

No. 3

December 2017

## Test of Faith

Dear Parishoners,

Advent is the time when we commemorate the centuries of trial and longing imposed upon our first parents and their descendants as they waited for the coming of the Messiah. On the very day Adam and Eve committed their great folly, they were stripped of the preternatural gifts of infused knowledge, integrity and bodily immortality, deprived of their title as children of God and expelled from the Garden of Paradise. What had been a life of joy and contentment became one of toil and sorrow, with nothing to look forward to but suffering, death, and God's mercy.

God spoke of a woman and her seed, who would crush the serpent's head with her heel. On the first day of the first sin, a Saviour was promised.

Cain murdered his brother Abel and the world rapidly slid into moral chaos. Adam, Eve and their better children looked forward to and offered prayer for the promised Redeemer who would restore purpose to life and make the world right again. Yet the memory of the first fall, and indeed of the promised Saviour, dwindled and all but disappeared, save in the mind and heart of one man, Abram, who became Abraham and the future father of a great and chosen people from whence the Liberator would come. We know his story.

Isaac was born after many years of waiting. Abraham was then called upon to offer him in sacrifice, and although this seemed to nullify God's former promises, He submitted in a spirit of faith. It was the test that confirmed forever the importance and might of an unswerving belief and confidence in the wisdom and mystery of God's loving Providence. Just as Christ's sacrifice would win true remission for sin, Abraham's sacrifice secured the time and place of Christ's coming: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen.22:18)

Abraham, "who against hope believed in hope," (Rom. 4:18), alone in an ignorant and idolatrous world, passed on his faith to Isaac, and through Isaac to Jacob, and through Jacob, to the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. His merit

was such that faith in future and final Redemption was never lost, despite the vicissitudes of God's chosen people and their constant infidelity to their divine mission. The Jewish nation had but one purpose: to receive and safeguard God's communications with mankind, and to bear witness to the world when Christ finally came, that He was indeed the Saviour promised of old. What sadness our Lord must have felt, when Caiaphas, as high priest and appointed keeper of Abraham's faith, officially rejected the promised Messiah and cast Him out to be crucified. Even after the resurrection, which proved Christ's provenance and claim, the Jews remained obdurate. Thus, salvation passed to the Gentiles, and we became the new Chosen People with the mission of proclaiming Christ to the world.

Today, 2000 years hence, we are bid to practice a faith similar to that of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Against all odds and all appearances, in a world that has return to ignorance and idolatry; at a time when the Catholic Church resembles Israel decimated and borne into captivity, we must "against hope believe in hope." Our Lord has come, and will come again. Meanwhile He bids us keep alive and to live by the truths of Divine Revelation, which point to Christ and to His Church as the only means of saving our souls. Like the Patriarchs of old, and Tobias, who despite his trials remained immovable in the fear of God, we must always remember that despite our pagan surroundings: "We are the children of the saints, and look for that life which God will give to those that never change their faith from him." (Tob.2:18)

Like Abraham, our cheerful perseverance and willing sacrifice will bring many graces to the world, and cause God to deal mercifully with those He has redeemed, but who persist in rejecting Him and sentencing Him to oblivion. We are bid to practise a lively faith, to believe against all odds that Christ came and will come again. Advent is a time of penance, when we reassess our commitment to the baby of Bethlehem, and ensure that our lives bear testimony to our faith.

**Fr. John Brucciani**

# Terribilis est locus iste

At St. Michael's, we are blessed with the healthy problem of many souls and little space. Sunday mass attendance has steadily increased over the years, and numbers will continue to rise as more families move to the area in order to send their children to school.

Families are faced with a particular challenge. Sufficient bench space for all the children is often the object of hope and the subject of prayer. It also a wonderful incentive to arrive in timely fashion in order to secure just the right place for fidgety children and wriggling infants.

Attending mass in spacious churches makes bench discipline an easy task for parents. There is plenty of air to breathe, sights to distract and room to move. The quiet majesty of ancient stone has a soothing effect to the psyche. Despite centuries of change and vicissitude, the church stands erect as a silent witness to truths that never fail. They echo the sound of eternity, and inspire a sense of awe and attentiveness in the minds of all who assist at the celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

Oftentimes too, the chill of the place has an anaesthetising effect!

Sadly, majestic churches or quaint little chapels are elsewhere. St. Michael's only has a box-like room, with low ceilings, poor ventilation and very uncomfortable benches, in which to celebrate the Divine Mysteries. On a full day, it takes great faith to believe that we are truly in company with the heavenly hosts, participating in the eternal praise they offer to the Almighty: Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.

Young children therefore find it difficult to comprehend why such a busy, stuffy, stifling setting requires silence and order. If they have had a cosy night's sleep, they are refreshed and ready for another day of exploration and discovery. And yet, they find themselves bundled into a car and deposited into a bench where they think they must act in order to bring their crowded but silent surroundings to life. Thus, they fidget and jostle and chatter, to the dismay of their loving parents and their disapproving neighbour!

Bringing young children to church requires much patience on the part of parents and parishioners alike. This is a good thing, because holiness is made up in large part of patience and longsuffering. However, it may be useful to look at ways to alleviate the sudden surge in holiness required by all when children have difficulties in distinguishing between church and play.

Young children must first be educated in regard to where they are being taken. The church is the house of God, the place where our Lord resides in the tabernacle. However humble or mundane the surrounding, our little

chapel is the inner chamber of a great and invisible edifice wherein the King holds court with the angels and saints, some of whom are represented in the various statues and pictures that adorn the walls. Thanks to children's natural interest in fairy tales, we can rely on the still untainted baptismal grace that adorns their souls to help them truly believe that they are in the presence of God invisible. Routine preparation and instruction, in words and gestures adapted to their age, go far in conditioning a child's psyche so that they are able to at least ponder, however superficially, on where they are and in Whose presence, they stand.

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, at times when the chapel is empty, and sporadic attendance at less frequented services during the week, offer children the opportunity of better perceiving the silent mystery of mute statues, flickering candles, the sanctuary lamp and the clothed square box at the altar's centre.

Keeping silent and still is a skill that does not come naturally to children. Whereas we feel old and worn, and are only too happy to stay still a while to gather our thoughts and order our prayers, children are full of life and movement. Training is therefore necessary if we are to hope that our child can hold still until the end of Mass.

Many households have daily quiet time. For no particular reason, children are bid to rest from their restlessness, to take up a book or to play quietly for an allotted time. Screen time does not qualify as quiet time. The body maybe inactive, but the mind and imagination



BERNARD

"MY MOTHER SAID HE WAS SENT FROM HEAVEN.  
THEY MUST HAVE WANTED SOME PEACE AND QUIET."

are abuzz with a thousand sights and sounds that leave a child agitated, restless and fatigued. On the contrary, quiet time has a calming effect, on all the members of the household. As with all early attempts at different forms of self-discipline, children will push back and make merry, but parental perseverance and discipline will eventually allow the child to acquire the good habit of sitting still, quiet and watchful.

Family prayer time offers another opportunity of teaching young children the importance of good behaviour when in God's presence. Although they are yet unable to actively participate in the family rosary, they should nevertheless be included in the group. While their parents and siblings pray, they play, but in such a manner as not to disturb the solemnity of the moment. Their occupation should be with a picture bible, or holy cards, a rosary or some other object of devotion. In short, it is the tangible example of their little world at prayer that impresses itself on the child, and teaches them that these are moments when they should not disturb. Young parents should pray together with their toddler present. Communal prayer should be short and sweet, but regular, both in place and time of day.

Finally, children should be commended for their good behaviour, and reprimanded when they are not so good. It is sometimes necessary, in the cramped setting of our small chapel, to remove a noisy child. When this occurs and if the child is able to comprehend, do not let it think it has won a victory and may continue to play to its heart's content. True, there are times when children are simply having a bad day. However, although they seem impervious to remonstrance, remonstrate we must so that they understand that they have overstepped a boundary.

It is good to think of education as the setting of parameters. Children love parameters. We should view moments of opposition as attempts to ascertain that they are indeed in a safe environment. Rules help us acquire good habits, but they also create in children a sense of security. Let us teach them that church in particular is a very special place, one the devils fear to enter, because it is full of the majesty of God and the glory of the angels. ♣

**PERMANENT MASS INTENTIONS**

- 1st. Fridays: for school benefactors
- 1st. Saturdays: For chapel and school cleaners and flower makers.
- All Sundays 7:30: "Pro Populo" (for the parish)



**Wanted**

- Bed linen for single beds
- Duvets
- 1 x Bedroom Cupboard and Drawers
- 2 x Desktop Computers (tower only)
- Four-drawer filing cabinet for science lab.

**Wednesday 6th December**

Day of Adoration, which is part of the SSPX Perpetual Adoration across the world, for victory against the inside and outside enemies of the Church  
 For the conversion of Rome and bishops  
 For the sanctification of priests and seminarians  
 For vocations

**Exposition after 11: 20 am Mass.  
 Rosary, benediction 6:00 p.m..**

*Please watch one hour with Our Lord. Sign up in church vestibule*

**Eucharistic Crusade Treasure Report**

**October Treasure Sheets: 8!**



- Offerings - 240*
- Masses - 53*
- Communions - 51*
- Spiritual communions - 3*
- Decades - 1220*
- Sacrifices - 213*
- Meditation - 13*
- Good examples - 203*
- Visits to Blessed Sacrament - 116*

*Crusaders,*

*please be generous in your efforts and diligent in filling out your sheets each evening. Your prayers and sacrifices are a GREAT TREASURE for the parish. You are the BEST helpers a priest could ever wish for. Handmaids too! Thank you for all your prayers and sacrifices. They do much, much, much good.*



St. Michael's  
 Winter  
 School Fayre  
 Saturday, 9th Dec.  
 1 - 4 pm  
 Portal Hall, Burghclere

**SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X ANNUAL RAFFLE IN AID OF SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL**

Reg Charity No: 274695

**FIRST PRIZE: £300**

**Second Prize: £200 - Third Prize: £100**



**Consolation prizes: 1 Bottle of Scotch,  
 1 Bottle of Sherry, 1 Bottle of Port,  
 1 Bottle of Brandy, 1 Bottle of Liqueur**



**Tickets £1 Each - May God Bless You for Your Support**



# The Backdrop of the Incarnation

Fr. R. Hennick

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Our knee touches the ground, but our heart stands aloof. While we openly profess the Incarnation, why does our spirit spurn the genuflection? Because the dogma sits on only the surface of our soul. It consoles us without exciting us. And such is to be expected: a superficial awareness of something cannot breed love of the same. Concerning this article of faith, we must confess—as yet, we have only made its acquaintance.

Our basic familiarity, however, is a start. To some, that God would become man—let alone interact with men—is scornful superstition. Aristotle himself, who so cogently reasoned to the existence of God (i.e., the “unmoved mover”), supposed this deity too transcendent to busy himself with the mundane. God’s interaction with men would only debase him. The theists of the Enlightenment held a variation of the above. They conceived God as a watchmaker of sorts, one who both created and set the universe in motion. According to them, the order of the universe suffices to regulate itself; therefore, God’s intervention is superfluous. And we can pass over the atheists, who dismiss the mental exercise entirely.

But Revelation insists: as far as possible, God did debase himself. Our Lord Jesus Christ “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:6–7). God did intervene, for he “so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son” (John 3:16). God was not bound to this course of action. He freely took it. So what moved the Unmoved Mover? What interrupted him who “ordereth all things sweetly” (Wis. 8:1)?

We must understand that God is goodness itself, whereas creatures can only possess it. God’s goodness is not an attribute he can disengage willy-nilly. Goodness is God’s very essence, his very nature. God’s action is characteristically good. And goodness, so the axiom goes, spreads itself, it shares itself with others.

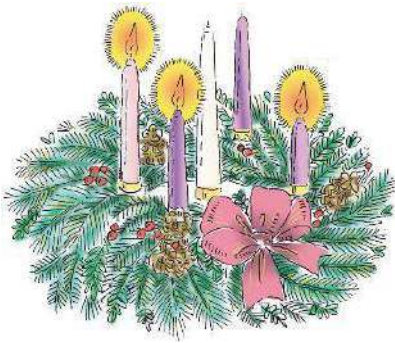
Nowhere is the dictum displayed more perfectly than within God himself, wherein the three divine Persons eternally exchange their infinite love. Yet God has chosen to communicate himself further. He has chosen to communicate himself to his creatures, and this in the most excellent way possible: the supreme good communicates itself to others in the supreme manner—the Incarnation. “Other ways were not wanting to God”, observes St. Augustine, “but a more fitting way to heal our misery did not exist.”

God eternally decrees his Incarnation, in all its particulars. “God’s decree”, writes Fr. L. B. Cunningham, “embraces from the beginning and at one and the same time the Incarnation of the Word, and the suffering and death his human body will undergo, and the fallen state of mankind which necessitates this sacrifice and satisfaction.” Foreseeing the Fall, God nevertheless “permits this evil as an occasion to manifest his tremendous love.” Accordingly, Holy Mother Church, awestruck by this spectacle of God’s mercy, can boldly and piously sing on Holy Saturday, “O happy fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer!” Far be it from the liturgy to celebrate Adam’s sin as such; even so, enraptured by the mystery, the Church employs hyperbole to voice her gratitude. For the Incarnation is indissolubly linked with our redemption: the Word was made flesh in order to be crucified.

Reared in Calvary’s vestibule, Christ is conceived, born and suckled for this purpose. This message of Advent and Christmas deserves deeper savouring. Let us now lay our eyes on the motive of Him in the manger: here is a newfound optic that can surely breed our belated love. In every genuflection henceforth, our heart should hurry to its homage. It should vie with our knee as to which will go lower. Accompanying the Shepherds, it should adore in peaceful prostration. 🐏



# Preparing Christmas

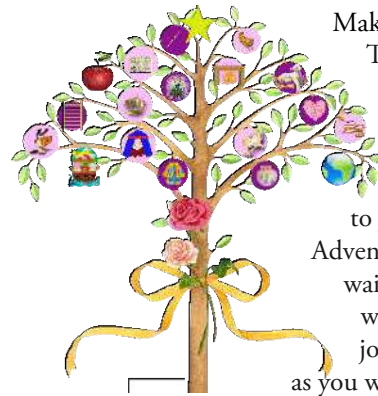


Prepare the **advent wreath**. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. The decorated Christmas candle stands in the center.

- ❖ No candy
- ❖ No films
  - ❖ No snacking
  - ❖ No ice cream
  - ❖ No YouTube



Sing a Christmas carol for night prayers, or at the end of the rosary. This is a good way to teach younger children traditional carols.



Make a **Jesse Tree**. This is a decorative tree used during Advent to retell the stories of the Bible that lead to Jesus' birth. Since Advent is a season of waiting, a Jesse Tree will help to build joy and anticipation as you wait for Christmas. More info here: [www.myjessetree.com](http://www.myjessetree.com)



Stuff shoes or stockings for **St. Nicholas' Day** (Dec. 6). Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas' Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. A few goodies will do, but be sure to tell the children the story of St. Nicholas.

Burn a blue **Mary Candle** during Advent, in honor of our Lady. Without her, Jesus would never have found a Mother worthy of Him.



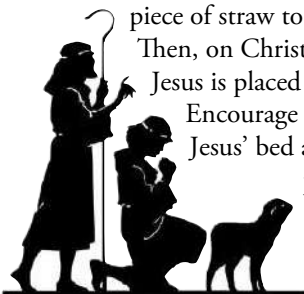
**In preparation for the great day, go to confession as a family with the father leading the way.**

- ❖ Daily rosary
- ❖ Weekday Mass
- ❖ Vespers or Benediction
- ❖ Christmas tree (see article)
- ❖ Advent calendar

Prepare the crib with an empty manger that needs to be filled with straw to make a soft bed for the baby Jesus. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger.



Then, on Christmas morning, baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus' bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds.



Pray the **St. Andrew's Christmas Novena** every day of Advent. It is called St. Andrew's novena because it starts on his feast day, Nov 30.



*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.*

## Advent Antiphons, by Sr. M. Charlita, I.H.M. - Learn by heart

*From Mary's sweet silence,  
Come, Word mutely spoken!*

*Seed of the Golden Wheat,  
In us be sown.*

*Secret held tenderly,  
Guarded with Love,*

*Pledge of our real life,  
Come, Bread yet unbroken!*

*Fullness of true Light,  
Through us be known.*

*Cradled in purity,  
Child of the Dove, COME!*

# Bric a Brac

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## How to be patient

Our Lord said: "Learn of me because I am meek and humble of heart." See how patient people are happy. We prefer shops where the proprietor is kind and patient, but we try to avoid places where the owner is irascible. Amongst our acquaintances, we appreciate most especially those who are gentle and kind. Have you not noticed that the sick who are patient with their sufferings are also the most happy. Impatience increases pain. Doctors tell us that happy people usually live longer than those of an angry, impatient character.

We must try every day to become more and more patient. In order to achieve this, four rules must be observed: **never speak when in an angry mood - never shout - never raise one's voice - never say unkind things.**

In the home an irascible person is a demon. They are unhappy, they make others unhappy, and they commit frequent sins.

*Fr. Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.*

## Humor

In a distant missionary land, a former cannibal is studying his Bible. A sophisticated Westerner makes fun of him: "My poor man, this is not the way to Progress. You're completely behind the times. Back in Europe, we gave up these old wives tales long ago. Your country stands no chance with a book like that."

"Well, sir, if this book had not made its way here, I would have had you for breakfast long ago!"

## For laughs

Three ladies enter a train carriage where a man is occupying the only available seat. He gets up, bows, and says: "Ladies, I readily give up my place to the oldest one of you."

Then he sat down again, since none of the ladies stepped forward.

## The Carmelite Nun and the Mother

One day a kind old lady, mother of eight children, three of whom were priests, listened to a glowing sermon on the wonderful merits of Carmelite nuns. After mass she remarked: "For the past 30 years I too have been getting up every night, not to sing Matins, but to tend to my children. For 30 years, I too have practiced great mortifications, not with any instruments of penance, but by happily accepting the privations and sacrifices that come with a large family. And, like the Carmelite nuns, I have done all for the love of God and of my neighbor."

The mother was right. If holiness is more easily attained in the religious life, parenthood can also sanctify the souls to an eminent degree by the daily fulfillment of our duties of state.

## Advent Resolutions

Christians do not deprive themselves of things they like, rather, they prefer something greater than the things they like. Advent should expand the desires of the heart. The purpose of penance is to remove that which barricades the door of the heart and prevents God from entering and taking full possession. A small dam is enough to hold up a river. Often little things of insignificance hold us back from greater holiness: home comforts, hobbies, sleeping in. Penance is like an explosive placed at the foot of the barrage. Once it is breached, the waters of divine grace can flow freely and soften our hardened souls. This Advent, try to locate something that holds us back from a greater love and service of God. Remove it, and God will be born again in us, as He was in Bethlehem.

## Novena to the Immaculate Conception

*30th November to 8th December.* The world is in a sorry state: economic collapse, international crisis, crisis in the Church, war, persecution of Christians in the Middle East, rise of Islam worldwide, abortion, gay marriage ... there is much to pray for. Catholics should therefore redouble their prayers, for we are dealing with the reign of Satan in the world today. Let us try to obtain much needed graces by praying a novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception: "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel" (Genesis, 3:15).

The novena can be made up of an extra decade of the rosary followed by the triple invocation: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." We should also confess our sins during this time and receive communion on the 8th December.

When once assisting at a rather violent exorcism, I experienced first hand the power of an invocation to "O Mary, conceived without sin." The devil literally howled in desperation!

## HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS?

- SECRETARY@SANCTUSMICHAEL.COM
- OR TELEPHONE: 01635 278137
- OR DROP BY THE OFFICE.



# St, Michael's School



We will soon be launching a major fundraising drive in order to ensure better financial stability for St. Michael's School. Presently, our expenses are almost double our income. The district picks up the shortfall, but it too is now experiencing serious cash flow problems due to diminished giving and escalating property maintenance costs.



Letters, brochures and flyers will soon be available. They will be sent out to the district mailing list, which is very small. It will be up to everyone to widen the appeal by passing on printed literature so that the school can find the benefactors it desperately needs.

The campaign will be placed under the patronage of St. Philomena, who, in my experience, has already saved two struggling schools. Now, God willing, for the 3rd! But we must pray and do good works, and most especially sacrifice our time and the contents of our wallets. The novena prayers to St. Philomena will be the most important part of the campaign. Cards will be available, to be sent in your Christmas cards to friends and family!

## From the Bursar

*Average Collection Amount  
Jan-Oct 2017*

£680 per Sunday (both masses)

250 average attendance

**£2.75 average donation,  
children included.**

More detailed finances will be forthcoming, to help parishoners calculate how they can best help.



St. Michael's Cadets doing their bit for the Red Poppy Appeal in Newbury town centre.

**MUCH  
BETTER THAN  
TESCO'S, AND ALL  
FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

A group of boys spent an afternoon collecting apples from neighbouring gardens and orchards. The fruit has been pressed and we have 200 bottles of delicious, 100% organic, straight-from-the-press, no-additives, super-healthy, scrumptuous

**APPLE JUICE** for sale!

1 75cl bottle = £5

2 for £10

3 for £15

**5 for £20**



Remembrance Sunday: the wreath to the War Dead.

Liturgical Calendar December 2017		Masses
1	Feria - 1st Fri - Holy Hour 19:30	7:15 / 19:00
2	St. Vivian, Virgin & Martyr - 1st Sat.	7:30 / 12:00
3	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		17:30 Vespers/Benediction
4	St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor	7:15
5	Feria of Advent	7:15
6	St. Nicholas, Bp. Conf. - Exposition Bl.S. - see insert	7:15/ 11:20 (school)
7	St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor	7:15
8	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	7:15 / 19:00 (sung + procession)
9	Feria of Advent	7:30 / 12:00
10	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Sung
		18:30 Vespers/Benediction
11	St. Damasus I, Pope & Confessor	7:15
12	Feria of Advent (Our Lady of Guadalupe)	7:15
13	St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
14	Feria of Advent	7:15
15	Feria of Advent Christmas Holidays begin 15:30	7:15
16	St. Eusebius, Bishop & Martyr	7:30 / 12:00
17	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		17:30 Vespers/Benediction
18	Greater Feria of Advent	8:00
19	Greater Feria of Advent	8:00
20	Ember Wednesday (fasting, abstinence for 3rd order)	8:00
21	St. Thomas, Apostle	8:00
22	Ember Friday (fasting, abstinence for 3rd order)	8:00
23	Ember Saturday (fasting, abstinence for 3rd order)	7:30 / 12:00
24	<b>Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Sung
		17:30 1st. Vespers/Confessions. No Benediction.
25	<b>NATIVITY of OUR LORD</b> (Confessions from 23:00)	00:00 (Sung) / 9:00
26	St. Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr	8:00 / 12:00
27	St. John the Evangelist, Apostle	8:00
28	Holy Innocents, Martyrs	8:00
29	St. Thomas of Canturbury, bp. mart.	8:00
30	Saturday in the Octave of Christmas	7:30 / 12:00
31	<b>Sunday in the Octave of Christmas</b>	7:30 Low
		9:00 Sung
		17:30 1st. Vespers/Benediction
1	<b>Circumcision of Our Lord - Octave Day of Christmas</b>	8:00 / 12:00
	<i>Holy Hour 11:00 to welcome New Year</i>	

### Note for Midnight Mass

Children who are too young to stay awake during midnight mass should not come with bed clothes and sleep on the benches. *Terribilis est locus iste.*

As any wise, old Grandma will say: don't rob little ones of their sleep.

But perhaps they insist, plead and cry. If so, then it is a great opportunity for them to learn who is in charge. NEVER plead or parley.

### Weekly Confessions

- Saturday: 11:00 p.m.
- 1st Friday Holy Hour
- Sunday before Masses

### Chapel Cleaning

18th Dec. - deep clean

### Holy Hour

1st Friday after evening Mass

### Benediction, Rosary

Sunday 6:00 pm

### Eucharistic Crusade

Dec intention:

For peace in the world

### Calling all Generous souls

Our recent Ofsted inspection report highlighted the need for better cleaning procedures in order to ensure clean and tidy accomodation for boarders in particular. Although the boys fulfil daily cleaning duties, we are in need of help, as they are often blind to dirt and disarray. Particular areas of concern are the dormitories and bathrooms (dorm and refectory), which lack a female touch to make them more hospitable.

Please consider helping us by signing up for cleaning duties. The priests and religious already have many duties, in addition to those of their vocation. It is difficult keeping up with maintenance generated by 113 students, staff and a parish of 250-300 souls.

Government regulations require even cleaners to undergo police checks, etc. (Current helpers will soon be contacted).

Thank you to all who are already part of the cleaning teams! I hope we find more players!

### Sung Mass and Candlelight Procession

8th December, 19:00

*A group of Dominican schooled girls will be singing!*



### Memorial Poinsettias

### Christmastide

If you wish to place around the altar poinsettias in memory of a loved one, please fill out and hand in the forms (see vestibule) before December 15. The January newsletter will list the names of those remembered. Holy Mass will be offered for them and for their benefactors on January 1st, Feast of the Circumcision and Octave Day of Christmas.

**Poinsettias (for the sanctuary and church): £10 a pot.**