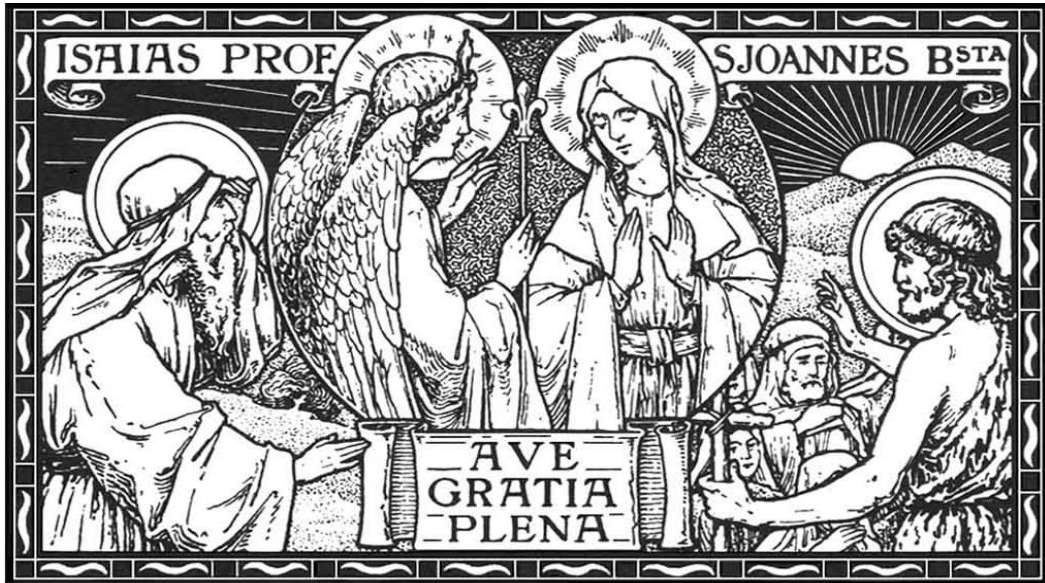


*Advent,
Christmas
& Epiphany
at St Pancras, Ipswich
2023-24*



1 Orwell Place, Ipswich, IP4 1BD, UK
+44(0)1473 252596 parishpriest@stpancraschurch.org.uk
www.stpancraschurch.org.uk

Advent



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

*Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm
following the 6pm Mass*

Readings, hymns, and meditations on the opening of the three Synoptic Gospels beginning with Mark (on the first Wednesday of Advent), Matthew (second Wednesday), and Luke (on the third Wednesday), concluding each Wednesday with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, 8th December

Masses at 8am (TLM) & 10am (with hymns)

Today we launch our parish rosary crusade praying for the conversion of souls in Ipswich and beyond. We shall present a spiritual bouquet of all the rosaries said for this intention to the Blessed Virgin on Wednesday, 15th May 2024, the feast of Our Lady of Ipswich & of Our Lady of Grace.

BD CARLO ACUTIS GROUP

(14-17 year olds)

Thursday, 7th December at 7pm.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

(18 – 35 year olds)

Friday 8th December at 7pm.

BOOK CLUB

Monday, 11th December

at 7pm in the parish hall to discuss 'The Screwtape Letters'

by C.S. Lewis.

THURSDAY LUNCH

14th December at 1pm in the parish hall.

Free, but donations, please, to Mary's Meals

* * *



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

&

BLESSING OF CRIBS

Sunday, 17th December at 4pm

followed by tea & mince pies in the parish hall. Bring your cribs (or principal figures if the whole thing is too large)

Christmas



This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and Christmas Day on Monday, so Catholics are obliged to go to Mass twice, once on Sunday, 24th (or Saturday evening) and again on Monday, 25th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Usual Sunday Masses at 9:30am & 11am

No Evening Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight Mass (carols from 11:30pm)

Masses at: 8am (TLM) 9:30am 11am

DURING THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

Masses & Confessions will be at their usual weekday & Saturday times

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, 31st December

Masses at their usual Sunday times

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, 1st January

Masses at: 8am (TLM) 10am (with hymns)

Epiphany



SATURDAY, 6TH JANUARY

- * 8am (TLM) for the feast of the Epiphany in the old rite
- * 10am Mass & devotions as usual
- * 6pm Vigil Mass of the transferred feast of the Epiphany

ALSO ON SATURDAY, 6TH JANUARY AT 2PM FAMILY EPIPHANY DEVOTIONS

*Devotions, the Blessing of Chalk, Procession to the Crib
& Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
followed by a Bring & Share party in the parish hall
Donations of the traditional Epiphany cake, the **Galette des Rois**, welcome!
(No First Communion Class today & No Adoration at 5pm)*

SUNDAY, 7TH JANUARY

*transferred feast of the Epiphany
Masses at the usual Sunday Mass times: 9:30am & 11am*

Confessions throughout the Season

Weekdays

Monday – Friday: 30 minutes before each weekday Mass

Saturday: 9:30am – 10am & 5pm – 5:45pm

First Fridays

5th January: 6pm – 7pm

The Week Before Christmas Day

Monday, 18th 9am – 10am & 6pm – 7pm

Tuesday, 19th 7:30am – 8am

Wednesday, 20th 5pm – 6pm

Thursday, 21st 11:15am – 12:15pm

Friday, 22nd 9am – 10am & 6pm – 7pm

Saturday, 23rd 9am – 10am & 5pm – 5:45pm

Christmas Eve

Sunday, 24th December – No Confessions

During the Christmas Octave (Tuesday 26th – Saturday 30th)

Tuesday – Friday: 30 minutes before each weekday Mass

Saturday: 9:30 – 10am & 5pm – 5:45pm

* * *

Advent always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, so sometimes, like this year when Christmas Day falls on a Monday, Advent is only three weeks and one day long!

* * *

Christmas Day has an Octave, which means that each of the eight days from Christmas Day to New Year's Day (inclusive) are all part of one long, extended Christmas Day! During this Octave we also celebrate the feasts of:

St Stephen, the first Martyr, on 26th December

St John, the Evangelist, on 27th December

The Holy Innocents, slaughtered by King Herod, on 28th December

St Thomas à Becket, martyred by King Henry II, on 29th December

The Holy Family on the Sunday within the Octave

(this year, on Sunday 31st December)

The Holy Mother of God on the Octave Day, 1st January

But the season of Christmastide is much longer, and comes in two phases. The first phase begins on Christmas Day and lasts up till the evening before the feast of the Epiphany. Then, the second phase of Christmastide – called Epiphanytide – lasts all the way up to the Feast of Candlemas on 2nd February when Our Lord is presented in the Temple in Jerusalem by Our Lady and St Joseph.

The Feast of Candlemas – when we all carry candles in a solemn procession around the church at Mass – is, then, the end of the Church's season of light which began when Christ, who is Light Itself, was born! Whilst Christmas trees and other decorations come down after the feast of the Epiphany, many families keep their Crib up until Candlemas.

* * *

Hodie Christus natus est.

Today, Christ is born!



The Nativity by El Greco (1541-1614)

* * *

*Fr Joseph would like to wish you all the
peace, joy, and blessings of these holy seasons*

* * *

*Our Crib collection this year is, once again,
for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)
Please give as generously as you can.*