



# EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

SUNDAY	3 <sup>RD</sup> OF ADVENT	' <i>Gaudete</i> ' Sunday
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.15am 'Children's Liturgy'	(parish rooms)
	9.30am Parish Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's)
	6pm Holy Mass	
	7pm Advent Carols	
<b>Monday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Adonai</i></b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<i>No public Mass</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Radix Jesse</i></b>	
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9am Holy Mass	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Clavis David</i></b>	
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9am Holy Mass	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Oriens</i></b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	9am Holy Mass	
<b>Friday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Rex Gentium</i></b>	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec.	8.30am Holy Mass	
	3pm-4pm Adoration (Hendred House Chapel)	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b><i>Advent Feria – O Emmanuel</i></b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.	9am Holy Mass	
	10am-11am Adoration & Confessions	
	5pm-6pm Adoration & Confessions	

*Priest:*

Fr. Matthew Topham, 01235 835038 or 07901634731  
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## THE 'O' ANTIPHONS

The end of Advent brings increased urgency of prayer to the Son of God, that He might 'Come and save us'. The final seven days are marked by special antiphons at the Magnificat at Vespers, each beginning 'O' and each invoking the Saviour by a different prophetic title. Reversed, the initials form the acrostic "ERO CRAS", 'tomorrow, I will be.' The day after the final antiphon is: Christmas Day.

### O SAPIENTIA | O WISDOM

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."* Isaiah 11:2

### O ADONAI | O LORD

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

*"I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment."* Exodus 6:6

### O RADIX JESSE | O ROOT OF JESSE

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to deliver us.

*"In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious."* Isaiah 11:10

### O CLAVIS DAVID | O KEY OF DAVID

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

*"And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."*

Isaiah 22:22

### O ORIENS | O DAYSPRING

O Dayspring, splendour of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

*"through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring will visit us from on high"* Luke 1:78 (*The 'Benedictus'*)

### O REX GENTIUM | O KING OF THE NATIONS

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save us all whom You formed out of clay.

*"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* Ps. 118:22

## O EMMANUEL | O GOD-WITH-US

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.”*  
our God. *Isaiah 7:14*

## THE FOUR LAST THINGS

Traditionally, in Advent, Catholics meditate on the Four Last Things: DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, and HELL. Today: Heaven

### HEAVEN

*“Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”* Rev. 21:1-4

Heaven is not so much a ‘place’ (let alone one where we float around on clouds with golden harps...) as it is a ‘state’, the state of being Blessed. Beatitude for human beings means closeness to the God Who made us, and desires us – amazingly – to be close to Him, to know Him, and to belong to Him completely. The Blessed in Heaven enjoy the greatest possible unity with God, and contemplate Him ‘face-to-face’: such that for some theologians, ‘heaven’ is nothing less than the ‘Vision of God’.

Talking about Heaven is difficult, because we have such poor imaginations: all our earthly comparisons fall short. A feast, a wedding, a city, a mountain, the House of the Lord, the heavenly tent: all inadequate (but necessary) attempts to describe that union with God which is meant by Beatitude. Impossible as it is to grasp completely the joys of Heaven, we should nevertheless think about it often: what better incentive for living as God intends us to than to keep before our eyes the promised reward? As Christians, we *hope* for Heaven, but whilst we live this mortal life, we cannot be assured of it. Thus we must stay awake, and keep vigilant!

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”* Ps. 22[23]:6

# NOTICES

## STANDING

✠ **WELCOME** to Mass, especially to those who are new or visiting. Do join us for refreshments are served in the Parish Rooms after the 9.30 Mass (left at the church gate, first right after the bridge).

✠ **ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in the parish rooms during Term time. Years 7-13 (11-18 year-olds).

✠ **COFFEE** after Mass is an **important** part of our common life: more volunteers are needed. Speak to Francia if you can help.

✠ **VOLUNTEERS** are needed for Children's Liturgy. Speak to Veronica or Libby, or email [safeguarding@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk).

✠ **CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays, 10-11am and 5-6pm, in the Sacristy of the Church.

✠ **CONFIRMATION** class continues at 4:30pm.

✠ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** classes resume on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

✠ **GIVING TO THE PARISH** by standing order or online:

**CDP East Hendred, St Mary**

**Acc. No. 00877183**

**Sort Code: 30-93-04**

## NEWS

✠ **CHRISTMAS** begins next week. See posters (porch & noticeboard) for Christmas Mass times.

✠ **DURING ADVENT**, œcumenical Morning Prayer, Wednesdays at 8.30 in S. Mary's, and Evening prayer, Fridays at 4.30 in S. Augustine's.

✠ **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** is on vacation from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, restarting on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

✠ **'LATIN IN THE LITURGY'** an Advent study group looking at the Latin Ordinary of the Mass, Thursdays, 7pm, Parish Rooms.

✠ **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Annie Furlong, Gwenda, Martha, Helen Lewis, John Castle, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Mary McNichol, Des McNichol, Meg Clark, Madeline Brand, Mary Dorothy Ruple, Graham Titchener, Anne-Marie Kershaw.

✠ **YEAR'S MINDS:** Lawrence Roberts, Patricia Mary Tonge, Isabelle Langley, Mary Thorne, Beatrice Cohill, Kathleen Wood, Antonia Ann Mary Breakspear, Sadie Regan, Kathleen Mary Doyle, Bernard Egan, Maureen Morris, Helen Rea, Mary Agnes Hunt. **R·I·P·**