ST MATTHEW'S
PARROQUIA
CHURCH
SAN MATEO

ADVENT SEASON

BEGINS ON NOV 29, 2026



Priest's Tidings

Advent is a season of remembrance, hope, and conversion. During this time, we call to mind the Lord's first coming in the humility of our human flesh; yet, throughout the first half of Advent, we also look forward to and pray for the Lord's final, definitive, and glorious coming at the end of time—when, as we profess in the Creed, He will return to judge the living and the dead. Christians await this final coming with joy, for we know that the Lord comes to save.

Finally, the liturgy of this season calls us to conversion, echoing the voices of the prophets—and, above all, that of John the Baptist: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." On this first Sunday of Advent, Saint Paul reminds us that we "await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." However, since we do not know the day or the hour of His final arrival—as the Gospel will tell us—we must remain ever vigilant and prepared.

Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn: 99 – Hail to the Lord's anointed,

Collect:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Isaiah 63

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!
– at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard,
no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 79

R./ God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.**R/**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.**R/**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. **R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

- Lord, as you come to your Church, help us to reveal your glory. Grant that we may show your grace and your goodness in our lives. We thank you for the grace and goodness revealed in Jesus Christ and that we are enriched in him. We remember churches that are struggling against the darkness of evil, of opposition, of apathy. We remember especially Christians who are being persecuted for their faith. **R/**

- As we pray for your world, we remember those who are seeking to bring peace and goodwill among all. We pray for those involved in

war or the threat of war. We think of those caught up in earthquakes, famine or flood.**R/**

- Lord. let your presence be known in our homes and our actions. May people be thankful for us and our care of all that is around us.
We pray that you will show yourself to us through our loved ones and friends.**R/**

- We remember all whose lives are darkened by pain and distress; all who are struggling with doubt and despair; all whose faith is shaken by what is happening around them. We pray for members of our community and friends who are ill at this time.**R/**

- Heavenly Father, we lift St Matthew's Elephant and Castle to You. By Your Spirit, grow Your church in number, faith, and love. Draw those who are searching to Christ, equip us to share the Gospel with boldness, and make us a welcoming community where lives are transformed. May all who come encounter Your presence. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.**R**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory: You deserve it . By JJ Hairston,

My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
My hallelujah
My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You
My hallelujah belongs to You

[Chorus]
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
All of the glory belongs to You
All of the glory belongs to You
All of the glory belongs to You
All of the glory belongs to You
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it
You deserve it

Communion Hymn: 45 – O come, O come Emmanuel,

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen**

Recessional: 769 – Rejoice! The Lord is King,

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

Be vigilant and remain steadfast in prayer, for you do not know when the appointed hour shall come. It is like a man who sets out on a journey, leaving his household in the care of his servants, entrusting each one with a particular duty, and commanding the gatekeeper to keep watch.
Therefore, remain watchful, for you do not know when the Lord of the house will return: whether in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or at daybreak. Lest He come unexpectedly and find you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: "Remain vigilant! Keep watch!

Personal Questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be vigilant and remain spiritually awake?
2. Why do you think Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem?

3. What are the concrete expressions of our covenant with God today? Do you think they, too, can disappear?
4. What things, habits, or structures do you believe the Lord is asking you to renounce in order to draw closer to Him?
5. Are you spiritually asleep? In what way?
6. Do you live each day awaiting the coming of the Lord?
7. Is Advent, for you, a time to remember that waiting is an essential part of the Christian life?
8. What do you need to change or leave behind in order to draw closer to Jesus? 🙏

Concluding Prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, our Heavenly Father, for Your Son, Jesus, who came to lift us up and guide us along the right path.
As You awaken in our hearts a thirst for prayer and loving service, You prepare us for the dawn of that new day when our glory will be revealed together with all the saints, in the presence of the Son of Man.**Amen**.



What's happening in our Parish!
Sunday

Mission WhatsApp Groups
We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist
Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota



Regular Giving
Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's

Youth Club
Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

CONTACT US

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