

Sunday 31st December 2023

No. 1053 / 584

**S MARY THE VIRGIN, SUNDON**

**&**

**S SAVIOUR, LUTON**



# The Society

under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda

Both Churches are under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Richborough;

And are served by a Priest of the Society of the Holy Cross. ✙

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**



**9:15 Solemn Mass**

Ordinary Form/Extraordinary Responses (Missa Simplicior (no Gloria) /Credo vi)

S Mary's

ProPopulo

**11:15 Solemn Mass**

Ordinary Form (K:xi; (no Gloria Gl:x;)) S&B:Pro Defunctis; A:xiv / Credo iii)

S Saviour's

Pro Populo

Fri	Of Christmas	10:30	Low Mass	S Mary's	Local Schools new term.
Sat	Of Christmas	10:30am	Low Mass	S Saviour's	The joy of Christmas

**Confessions may be heard after any Low Mass, or by Appointment.**

Masses for both churches are live-streamed on the facebook page: facebook st mary the virgin sundon.

**Welcome to S Mary's and S Saviour's:** Welcome to S Mary's and S Saviour's. There will as always be tea and coffee after both Solemn Masses and we hope you will be able to stay.

**Today we welcome:** Fr Diego Galanzino to sing the Parish Mass at S Mary's, and we welcome Fr Digby Anderson to sing the Parish Mass at S Saviour's. Many thanks to both of them for doing duty for Fr Yenda this morning. Fr Galanzino will have to hot-foot across to All Saints', Houghton Regis this morning after the 9:15 Mass, therefore this Parish Mass may need to be Low rather than Sung.

**Many thanks:** to everyone who has helped with the Christmass services this year. Especially for decorating the churches and to Laurence for organising the choir and the wonderful music for Christmass Eve. Many thanks indeed to everyone who has helped in any way!

**Next Sunday:** is the Solemnity of The Epiphany. Masses at the usual times with Epiphany Ceremonies.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Yenda Smejkal, SSC. St Mary's Vicarage, 1 Selina Close, Sundon Park, Luton, LU33AW. Tel: 01582 583076; [yenda.smejkal@virgin.net](mailto:yenda.smejkal@virgin.net) **Assistant Priest:** Fr Digby Anderson, Ph.D. [www.stmarys-sundon.info](http://www.stmarys-sundon.info) [facebook: st mary the virgin, sundon](https://www.facebook.com/stmarythevirgin/sundon) Please take this newsheet away with you!



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, "Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great."

"My Lord," Abram replied "what do you intend to give me? I go childless..." Then Abram said, "See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir". And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, "He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood". Then taking him outside he said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants" he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 104

**RESPONSE:** *He, the Lord, is our God.*

*He remembers his covenant for ever.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. **R.**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord < – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

"Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel."

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare."

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

> When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him. <

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that,

through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph,

you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father,

to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world,

we may share their company for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**