

## SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

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## Message by Parish Priest



Dear Friends,

When John the Baptist began his ministry, a deputation came to interview him. The deputation was composed of two kinds of people - priests and the Levites. Their interest was natural. The priests wanted to know that John was the son of a priest, therefore, why he was behaving in such an unusual manner.

Second, there were emissaries of the Sanhedrin. John was a preacher to whom the people were flocking in hordes. The Sanhedrin may well have felt it their duty to check up on this man in case he was a false prophet.

They asked him three questions: Firstly, they asked him if he was the Messiah. Then they asked him if he was Elijah. Then they asked him if he was the expected and promised prophet. When they found that John's answer was "no", they asked him the most difficult question: "Who are you?"

Throughout human history, only a handful of people were able to find an answer to that question. We call them "the super achievers". Only they knew what to reach for. They knew where to place themselves. John the Baptist was one among them. He was very clear about his role.

We seldom know what gifts we are endowed with. We will have to learn where we belong, what we have to learn to get the full benefit from our strengths, where our weaknesses lie, what our values are. So, it is fundamental to know oneself. Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is the objective of existence? Why do we live? What do we live for?

The replies that John gave to the deputation that came to interview him shows that he was a man who knew himself. Therefore, he was profoundly humble. He pointed to Jesus and declared: "I am not fit to undo his sandal strap." Undoing the straps of someone's sandal was the work of slaves towards their masters. At the sight of Jesus John realized not just his littleness, but his nothingness.

John was different from us all who try at all times to appear more than what we are. So, the season of Advent invites us to reflect on the following three questions:

- What do I think of myself...?
- What do people think that I am...?
- What does God think about me.....?

May the celebration of the third Sunday of Advent help us to realize that we need to humble ourselves in order to discover Jesus as our Savior and the Lamb of God who takes the sin of the World.

Parish Priest

Fr. Lawrence PR

Asst. Parish Priests

Fr. John Britto

Fr. Shinil Jacob

Fr. Arokiya Raj

## Mass Timings

**Saturdays**

6.00 pm (Eng)

Anticipated Mass

**Sundays**

9.00 am - English

10:30 am - Hindi

11.45 am - English

4.00 pm - Hindi

6.00 pm - English

**Live streaming  
of Holy Mass**

Sunday:

9:00 am - English

10:30 am - Hindi

YouTube

Sacred Heart Cathedral  
New Delhi

Facebook

Sacred Heart Cathedral  
New DelhiSunday Holy Mass  
CelebrantEnglish 9:00 am  
Fr. SebastianHindi 10:30 am  
Fr. Alphonse ShahEnglish 11:45 am  
Fr. John BrittoHindi 4:00 pm  
Fr. Lawrence PREnglish 6:00 pm  
Msgr. Susai Sebastian

# SUNDAY READINGS & REFLECTION

## 1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11

The reading from Isaiah contains two songs. The first song is about the Lord's Anointed; the second depicts the nuptial joy of Zion.

## Response Ps: Lk 1

My soul shall exult in my God.

## 2nd Reading: Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul gives a series of brief commands which form the basis for Christian living.

## Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

John the Baptist comes to bear testimony to Jesus who is the light of the world.

## Prayers of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer.

## पहला पाठ: नबी इसायस 61:1-2,10-11

नबी इसायस हमें यह बताते हैं कि ईश्वर ने उन्हें क्या-क्या करने भेजा है। येशु ने नाज़रेत के लोगों को यह अंश पढ़कर सुनाया और कहा कि यह भविष्यवाणी उनके द्वारा पूरी हो गयी है। वे सबों को पाप से मुक्ति दिलाने आये हैं।

## अनुवाक्य: लुकस 1

मेरा मन अपने ईश्वर में आनन्द मनाता है।

## दूसरा पाठ: थेसलनीकियों 5:16-24

हमारा विश्वास हमें यह भरोसा देता है कि हम ईश्वर की कृपा की सहायता से येशु के आगमन की तैयारी में स्वयं को पाप की गुलामी से बचा सकते हैं।

## सुसमाचार: सन्त योहन 1:6-8,19-28

योहन बपतिस्ता मसीह के अग्रदूत हैं। वय स्पष्ट शब्दों में यहूदियों से कहते हैं कि मैं मसीह नहीं हूँ, उनका अयोग्य सेवक हूँ, मैं उनके जुते का फीता खोलने योग्य भी नहीं हूँ।

## विश्वासियों के निवेदन

हे पिता, दया पूर्वक हमारी प्रार्थना सुन।

## REFLECTION

My dear friends in Christ Jesus!

Today is called "Gaudete Sunday" because today's Mass (in its Latin form), began with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper" – "Rejoice in the Lord always." The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptizer all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people.

The Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. In today's Responsorial Psalm, Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her, exclaiming: "My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Savior." St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonians to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ's second coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them. Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptizer, who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

Therefore, we need to bear witness to Christ the Light: By Baptism we become members of the family of Christ, the true Light of the world. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Hence, our mission as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Mystical Body, the Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect upon and radiate Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness everywhere. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the attractions of the world. Also, many feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. All these people are waiting for us to reflect the Light of Christ into their worlds and to turn their lives into experiences of joy, wholeness, and integrity. The joy of Jesus, the joy of Christmas, can only be ours to the extent that we work with Jesus to bring joy into the lives of others. Let us remember that Christmas is not complete unless we show real generosity to those who have nothing to give us in return.

# CHURCH NOTICES

3rd Sunday of Advent- 13-12-2020

1. **SECOND COLLECTION:** Today, being the Second Sunday of the month, there will be a second collection towards seminary fund.

2. Next Saturday from 10 am to 12 noon, we will have **THE CLEANING OF THE CHURCH**. All those who can come, kindly join for this.

3. On 18th and 19th of December, priests will be available for the sacrament of confession from 5 pm to 7 pm.

4. **ANTICIPATED CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** Due to the situation created by Covid-19 Pandemic, we will not have the usual Midnight Service at Cathedral this year. Instead, we will have anticipated Christmas Mass on 24th evening, in the Church. Hindi Mass will be at 6.00 pm and Mass in English will be at 8.00 pm. Kindly note: There will not be 1.00 pm mass on 24th December.

5. **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE:** On 25th of December, we will have four Masses in Cathedral as follows: 7.00 am in Malayalam, 9.00 am in English, 10.30 am in Hindi and at 11.45 am in English. There will not be any mass in the evening on 25th of December.

6. **KINDLY NOTE:** on 24th and 25th of December, limited entry will be allowed on the basis of Online Registration only. The Main Gate of the Church will remain closed. Visitors will not be allowed to visit the Church on 24th evening and on the Christmas Day. Entry for the Masses will be from St. Columba's School Gate at Bhai Veer Singh Marg. Registration link for masses on 24th and 25th December, 2020 will be shared through WhatsApp and also will be posted at the Cathedral Website. For more details, kindly look at the Notice Board or the Cathedral Calling.

7. **ONLINE COMPETITIONS:** In view of Christmas, various online competitions like Crib competition, Essay writing and Carol-Singing competition is organized.

**CRIB COMPETITION:** The Crib Competition is for all the Parishioners. You are encouraged to prepare Crib at Home and send two photographs and one video of the Crib to the Cathedral email-id "sacredheartcathedralnewdelhi@gmail.com". Please register your participation at the Help Desk.

**CAROL SINGING COMPETITION:** Carol Singing competition is only for the Catechism Children. All the participants can sing a Carol song either in Hindi or in English and record a video of it and send it to the Cathedral email-id.

**ESSAY COMPETITION:** Essay competition is open for all the parishioners. The topic for the competition is "CHRISTMAS – A REASON FOR HOPE DURING COVID SEASON". The essay can be of 2000 to 2500 words. Submit your essays to cathedral email-id. For all these competitions, the Last Date for submission is 22nd of December.

8. **SPONSORS FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:** -All those who would like to sponsor cake, coffee and snacks for the 'Christmas services' may kindly do so by making your contribution at the help desk.

**Fr. Lawrence PR**

**Parish Priest**

## READINGS OF THE WEEK

- 14 Mon:** Num 24:2-7,15-17/Ps 25/Mt 21:23-27  
**15 Tue:** Zeph 3:1-2,9-13/Ps 34/ Mt 21: 28-32  
**16 Wed:** Isa 45:6-8,18,21-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18-23  
**17 Thu:** Gen 49:2, 8-10 / Ps 72 / Mt 1:1-17  
**18 Fri:** Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72/ Mt 1:18-25  
**19 Sat:** Jdgs 13:2-7,24-25 /Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25



**For a Life of Prayer  
We pray that our  
personal relationship with  
Jesus Christ be  
nourished by the Word  
of God and a life of prayer.**

-Pope Francis-

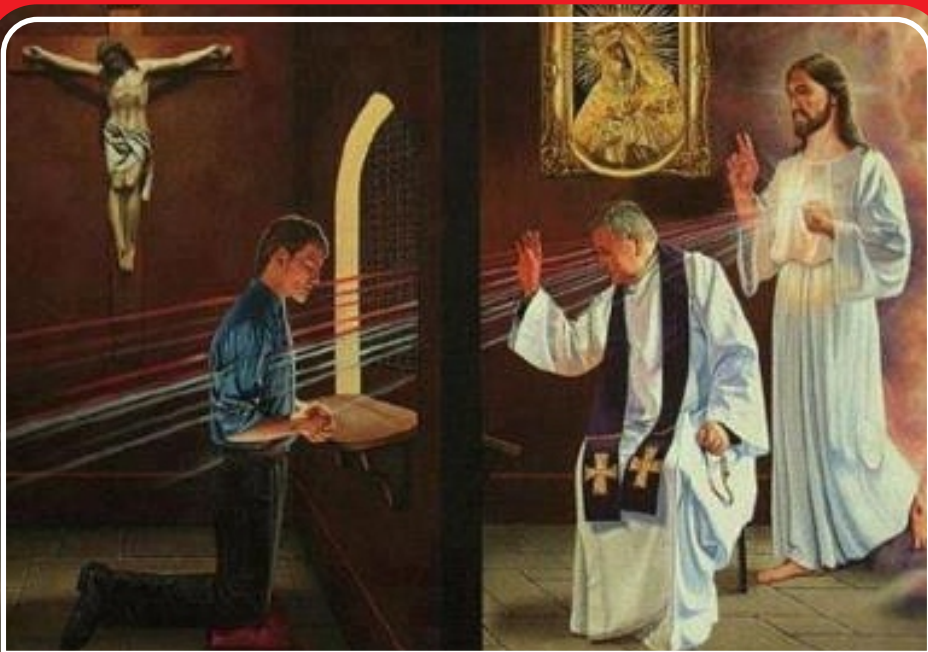
## St. John of the Cross Prayer

O God, by whose grace Your servant John of the Cross, kindled with the flame of Your love, became a burning and shining light in Your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before You as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Whom lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.



## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

- 14 Mon: St John of the Cross**      **15 Tue: St Maria Crocifissa di Rosa**  
**16 Wed: St Adelaide**                      **17 Thu: St Lazarus of Bethany**  
**18 Fri: St Winebald**                      **19 Sat: Pope Bl. Urban V**



# **CONFESSIONS**

**on 18th & 19th of Dec.  
Priests**

**WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR CONFESSIONS  
FROM**

**5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME - 2020**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Venue	Remark
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Friday & Saturday	5.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation /Confession	Cathedral	Entry through Church gate
24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Thursday	6.00 pm	Anticipated Christmas Mass in Hindi	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate
24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Thursday	8.00 pm	Anticipated Christmas Mass in English	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Friday	07.00 am	Malayalam Syro-Malabar Mass	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Friday	09.00 am	Solemn English Mass	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Friday	10.30 am	Solemn Hindi Mass	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	Friday	11.45 am	Solemn English Mass	Cathedral	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only

### **Kindly Note:**

On 24th and 25th of Dec. limited entry will be allowed on the basis of online Registration only. The Main Gate of the Church will remain closed. Visitors will not be allowed to visit the Church on 24th evening and on the Christmas Day. Entry for the Masses will be from St. Columba's School Gate at Bhai Veer Singh Marg.

**For those who  
would like to pay  
Church Support Fund  
or other contributions  
through online may kindly  
do so in the following  
account.**

**ACCOUNT NAME:**

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:**

**020500563450190001**

**IFSC CODE:**

**CSBK0000205**

**BANK:**

**CATHOLIC SYRIAN BANK**

**CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI**

**Kindly note:**

After transferring the payment, kindly send the following  
details through SMS/ WhatsApp/ E-mail

1) Name, 2) Parish Membership Number

3) Amount transferred, 4) Details of payment

(Indicate the months for which the CSF payment has been made)

Parish E-mail ID: [sacredheartcathedralnewdelhi@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartcathedralnewdelhi@gmail.com)



“प्रभु! हम किसके पास जायें!  
आपके ही शब्दों में अनंत जीवन का सन्देश है।”  
योहान 6:68

हे प्रभु, तू हमारे लिए क्रूस पर मर गया ताकि हमें जीवन प्राप्त हो और परिपूर्ण जीवन प्राप्त हो। हम अपने पापों को स्वीकारते और स्वयं को तेरे चरणों में सौंपते हुए तेरी दया की भीख मांगते हैं। प्रभु हमारी रक्षा कर कि हम कोविड-19 महामारी से नष्ट न हो जाएं। तेरी असीम दया और प्रेम पर ही हमारा भरोसा है।  
आमेन

“Lord, to whom shall we go? you  
have the words of eternal life.”

John 6:68

**Lord Jesus, you died for us that we may have life and have it in all its fullness. We surrender our lives to you confessing our sins and begging for your mercy. Save us Lord from this terrible COVID-19 pandemic lest we perish. We trust in your infinite kindness and love. Amen.**