



## ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

An Anglican / Episcopal  
Christian community in Lugano

# newsletter

**December 2020 - January 2021:** We hope you will use our booking system to join us for worship in this Holy Season of Advent. Sadly our traditional Carol Service cannot take place this Christmastide as Diocesan and local regulations advise us most strongly against the singing of hymns, due to the spread of Covid-19. Our 10:30 Sunday Services will therefore incorporate several musical interludes for quiet reflection during the Liturgy. During the Interregnum the church council will be meeting regularly to support the community.

## CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS

An appropriate seasonal service is held every Sunday at 10:30 am. Numbers are now restricted to 30 worshippers, please see overleaf for our booking system. Services of Morning Prayer will be led by either Angela Mirani or Diana Dell'Acqua.

Whatever your Christian denomination, you are welcome to join us and to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

**Mid-Week Service:** Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions the mid-week service of Holy Communion has been suspended, until further notice.

**Sunday School:** Sadly lessons have also been suspended for the moment. Our teaching team will place activity sheets at the back of the church for use during the service in family seating areas: please bring your own pencils. Thank you 😊

### DECEMBER

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Said Eucharist 10:30 - Archdeacon Adèle
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Said Eucharist 10:30 - Fr. Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Said Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord 10:30 - Fr. Alistair
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Morning Prayer

### JANUARY

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Said Eucharist 10:30 - Archdeacon Adèle
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Said Eucharist 10:30 - Archdeacon Adèle
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Said Eucharist 10:30 - Archdeacon Adèle

## From Bishop Robert's

### Christmas Message

In one of our best-loved carols, Christina Rossetti situates the birth of Jesus 'in the bleak midwinter'. She paints a severe and freezing manger scene, with howling wind and deep snow. She represents the frosted earth and water with iron and stone.



From the biblical narrative, it seems unlikely that Jesus was born in the bleak mid-winter, as the shepherds would not be putting their sheep out to pasture in freezing conditions. But that does not stop us gladly enjoying Rossetti's romantic poetic licence and reminding ourselves that the conditions of the first Christmas were hard, extraordinarily hard by modern standards. Mary was a young girl giving birth a long way from home. The town of Bethlehem was crowded with strangers registering with the tax authorities of the occupying powers. Mary laid her new-born baby in an animal's stone feeding trough. And the first visitors were not close family but rough men from the fields. The festival has now become overlaid with medieval nativity scenes and Romantic or Dickensian winter scenes. In the twentieth century, Christmas became the setting of the perfect family gathering. Most significantly, the run up to the commercial Christmas is a now a vital part of the retail industry so that vast sums are expended on advertising to persuade us to acquire more goods and more debt.

But not in 2020. This year it will be very different. Travel bans, lockdowns and quarantines mean it will be harder and perhaps impossible to get together with our loved ones. People are poorer. High streets are closed in many countries. And even when they re-open, shopping isn't quite the same when you have to physically distance and wear a mask. Christmas will be simpler this year. And for many it will be sadder. As Covid-19 has progressed, more and more families have been affected by the virus and its frightening and sometimes long-term symptoms. Some of us have a relative who has been in intensive care, struggling to breathe. Many of us know someone who has very sadly lost their life, and some of us face the first Christmas without someone close to us.

This year, perhaps we more intuitively sense the harshness of the manger scene, the cruelty of death, the pain of a bleak mid-winter. Another well-known, much older carol speaks to us about 'tidings of comfort and joy'. In 2020 we need to hear these tidings. For Christmas is at heart the story of a God who draws near to us in Jesus, sharing the sorrows and joys of human experience. In the mystery of the incarnation, the eternal God wonderfully condescends to be born as a human baby, in the roughest conditions. He is 'Immanuel' - the God who is with us.

Whatever conditions you face this Christmas, I hope you will be able to reach out and find the God who is with us. I hope you will take comfort from the presence of God with you, and perhaps also find opportunity to comfort others.

I wish each of you and your families comfort and joy as we approach this Christmas season.

## Christmas Day



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Sung Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord**

*O Come all ye faithful,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Born this happy morning!*



All the Swiss chaplaincies are invited to create a **'Virtual Choir'** singing one of the Christmas Carols. We will use this in our on-line Christmas Carol service on

**December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve at 17:30**

Please contact Mark Charles  
(director of music at Holy Trinity Church in Geneva)  
[mark.gwynfil.charles@gmail.com](mailto:mark.gwynfil.charles@gmail.com)  
Mark will happily answer all your queries.

**The deadline for contributions is 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

You can either join individually or as a group.  
Hopefully there are one or two people at St Edward's who would like to have a go!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (During the scholastic year)  
Sunday School lessons have always taken place during the 10:30 morning Eucharistic Service. Please see Front Page for an announcement concerning Sunday School.

Our **Pebbles** group welcomes children from the age of 3, whilst those with more reading ability are invited into our **Rocks** group. All the children follow a fun-filled programme based on the book, **Living Stones**, supplemented with craft activities, songs and role-play.

All our Sunday School members are encouraged to participate at regular intervals during the year at the Sunday morning service. For further info contact: Diana [dellacqua.ficino@gmail.com](mailto:dellacqua.ficino@gmail.com)

**THE TODDLERS CORNER** at the back of the church has been completely refurbished with blue carpets, cushions and plenty of colouring material for the youngest children to enjoy quietly during the Service.

#### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive a newsletter via email? Contact: [emily.lingeri@bluewin.ch](mailto:emily.lingeri@bluewin.ch)

## SNAPSHOT OF WORSHIP AT ST EDWARD'S

from All Saints to prayers at Remembrance Sunday and lighting the first Advent Candle



## BOOK A TICKET

New Cantonal Restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 now limits attendance at Church services to a maximum of 30 worshippers.

Sadly this means we need to put a Booking System into place. If you wish to register your attendance please email [stedwardslugano@gmail.com](mailto:stedwardslugano@gmail.com)

And you will find instructions on how to "book a ticket".

St Edward's has always been a welcoming community ready to embrace all those who step through our door. However, in these difficult times our first duty of care is to protect our people, especially the vulnerable and elderly.

We hope you will understand the necessity of these latest measures, as we pray for a future when we can fill the church once again with our praise and worship.



#### CHURCH CONTACTS

#### INTERREGNUM PERIOD CHURCHWARDENS

The Anglican Church of St Edward the Confessor  
Via Clemente Maraini 6, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland

**The Church office telephone is not being manned at present**  
Diana Dell'Acqua [stedwardschurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:stedwardschurchwardens@gmail.com)  
JP Engele [stedwardschurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:stedwardschurchwardens@gmail.com)

[www.stedwards.ch](http://www.stedwards.ch)



**PARKING** is available during every Sunday morning Service inside the parking garage of the ProCrea Clinic next door to the church.

