

17 DECEMBER 2023

Dear Friends

Rejoice in the Lord always – gaudete in domino semper. Sunday is Gaudete or Rose Sunday, the third in Advent, when the rose candle is lit. The day is also known as the “Sunday of joy”, as we rejoice in the Lord.

This Sunday will be a Eucharist at 10.30, led by the Revd. Canon Michael Bullock.

We have many events this weekend, listed below, these include Carols in the Courtyard on Saturday at 16:30, the Children’s Christmas Party at 17:30, Nine Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday at 18:30, carols from around the world with the Milan Singers on Tuesday at 20:30 and Compline throughout the week at 21:00 starting on Sunday.



*The third Advent candle – the rose candle - is lit on Gaudete Sunday*

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## **Nine lessons and carols**

Our Nine Lessons and Carols service will be held on the evening of **17 December at 18:30**.

The first such service took place in 1880, in Truro, Cornwall, on Christmas Eve. Carols were, at that time, considered secular, but the Bishop of Truro wanted to tempt parishioners out of the local public houses and into church. The idea of a service comprising carols interspersed with short Biblical readings delivered by parishioners was born.

The collection at this service will be applied to the Bishop’s Advent Appeal and our Pranzo di Natale. The raffle, which raises funds for our Church, will be drawn after the service.

## **Compline**

Compline is a very moving and gentle way to end the day. During the final week of Advent **[Compline online](#)** will be held via Zoom at **21:00 from December 17 to December 23**. The prayer takes around 15 minutes – please join if you can and listen to the beautiful liturgy.

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## Disabled lavatory project events

Good news! We now have €23.076 in the Disabled Lavatory Project fund. Well done!

With events this week - **Carols in the Courtyard on 16 December at 16:30** and **The Milan Singers** performing "Merry and Bright" - a collection of carols and Christmas Songs from around the world on **19 December at 20:30** the fund might even reach €23.500 by the year end.

On the building, costings and government funding side, the team is in discussion with construction industry professionals. We should, hopefully, be able to provide more details on this early next year.



The project team wish to thank you for all your interest, generosity and support since the project launch in April. And we, of course, should thank Gillian and her project team, who are raising funds by targeting a wider audience than just our congregation.

## Children's Christmas Party

Open to all our Sunday School participants on Saturday **16 December at 17:30** – after the carols.

## Christmas weekend services

Eucharists will be held at **10:30** and **19:00 on Christmas Eve**, and at **10:30 on Christmas Day**.

## Links to our regular activities

**Sunday evening prayer** is on Zoom at 18:00 – the link is [here](#). **Morning prayer** is at 9.00 Monday to Friday - the link is [here](#).

**Bible study** in person takes place on Thursdays at 13.00 in the Church rooms. Bible study by Zoom is held on Tuesday at 6pm using the link found [here](#).

The **Jolly Club** is held on Tuesday beginning at 12.30 in the church's upstairs parish room. The Club is an informal meeting - chat and spend time together. Everyone welcome!

For pastoral care during the coming week, please telephone (0039) 345 5835978 (Church mobile), (0039) 026 552258 (Priest's apartment), or email [allsaintsmilanpriest@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmilanpriest@gmail.com)