

We pray:

For the church around the world: Especially those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for compassion and kindness, inclusion and love for all. We pray for all who have not yet let Jesus into their lives. For peace & reconciliation

For our world: All the casualties of war and conflict; victims of natural or manmade disasters; those who are living in poverty or under oppressive regimes; for all who have no safe place to live in. For the earth and all the damage done to it by humankind. For more empathy and compassion.

For our local community: [8: Park Rd, Avenue Rd]

[9: Park Lane, Parkgate][10: South Essex College, Uni of Essex] [11: Aarandale Lodge Care Home][12: Market Pl, Royal Terrace] [13: Clifton Mews, Clifftown Parade] [14: Forum, Southend Central Station]

For those who are sick or in need:

Margaret Jones, Terry, Maff, Ken, Valerie, Brogan, Tony, Kat, Violette, Judith, Christine, Mark, Diana, Audrey, Chris Binks, Louis, Natasha & family, Rosetta, Doreen, Janet.

And all on our long term list.

Prayers for all sick in hospitals, hospices, care homes and at home. For those who are caring for them.

For the recently departed:

In Memoriam: December Angela Hillman

5/12; Ronald Rouse, 12/12 Helen Sandover, 24/12

Patricia Swinford, 27/12 Flora Sleebush and Ginny

Savory

All who have died with no-one to pray for them.

NOTE: Words for final prayer for the departed and for Hail Mary is in Mass Book

Advent & Christmas at St Mark's All Welcome

8/12: Winter Wonderland Christmas Show
[£10 per person, Children under 12 free]
6.30pm

9/12: Diddy Christingle 1100am

9/12: Mudlarks/Feelgood Choirs Christmas
Concert Free Entry 8pm

13/12: Scouts Carols 6pm

15/12 Christmas Lunch Social 1pm [Free - but
contact us so we can plan]

22/12: Queer Carols 230pm*

23/12: Messy Christingle/Christmas 2pm

24/12: Crib Service 3.30pm

24/12: Midnight Mass 1130pm

25/12: Christmas Day Mass 10 am

28/12: Darren Jones Christmas Folk Music
7.30pm

Family Friendly Sunday Services during Advent at 1130am

*Please check website for any updates on times.

Parish of St Alban, Westcliff &
ST MARK, SOUTHEND

8 December
2 Sunday Advent



El Greco **John the Baptist**
[1597-1607]

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the call of St John the Baptist, the one preparing the way for Jesus. Why do we reflect on the role of St John the Baptist early on in Advent? John is the last of the old covenant prophets. He

is the bridge between the Old Testament and New Testament. He is the hinge between the old and the new. El Greco's John the Baptist is presented as a strange and awkward man. And this is probably the artist's intention as the prophet would become a thorn in the side of Herod who could not kill him and could not stop listening to him either! [Blessings, Mother Cherry](#)

[Our advent reading 2: Watching And Waiting: The Visitation by Domenico Ghirlandaio](#)

Contact Details

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St Mark's Website: <https://www.stmarkschurchsouthend.org/>

St Alban's Website: [Saint Alban the Martyr, Westcliff-on-Sea - A Church Near You](#)



Our parish is a member of Inclusive Church. This means that we are committed to work towards being a church which celebrates and affirms every person.