

## ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 3RD DECEMBER 2023

*(Psalter Week 1)*

Entrance Antiphon: ***To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.***

Responsorial Psalm: ***God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.***

Communion Antiphon: ***The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.***

If you would like to book a Mass Intention, please use the Mass Intention Envelopes available at the back of the church and put it through the office letter-box with your contact number. The recommended Stipend by the Archdiocese for a Mass Intention is £10.

The Sacrament of Penance is available on Saturday mornings from 11am until the final confession and before and after Mass on Saturday evening and by prior arrangement.

As we enter into the season of Advent we are invited to become more spiritually alert by considering our deeper longings for life, light, love, truth and joy through the Word made flesh, Jesus, who is born for us. As the days become progressively shorter we can find ourselves retreating more to the confines of our homes, this may give us the opportunity for a little more time for prayer and contemplation to prepare ourselves to welcome our Saviour into our lives this Christmas. Let us pray together: 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

Have a blessed Advent.

**Fr. Paul.**

## **SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER OR UPDATES BY EMAIL**

If you would like to receive the newsletter or updates by email please visit the parish website at <https://www.stlsidcup.org> and click on the Subscribe to our Newsletter button which is at the top of the homepage and complete the form.

## **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

The Confirmation Programme starts on the 9th December 2023 at 5pm in the Hall.

## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

The Christmas Fayre raised a total of £2280.45. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the Parish Christmas Fayre. Prizes for the winning raffle tickets 102, 59, 85, 34, 49, 69 and 23 can be collected from the parish office.

## **KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA - CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The Knight's of St. Columba Welling Council 294 would like to thank all parishioners for your kind and generous donations. Their Christmas Appeal raised a total of £236.11.

## **ST. LAWRENCE CHARITABLE FUND APPEAL**

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank parishioners for their generous response to this year's appeal. The total raised was £1,512. Your prayers and support are appreciated. SLCF Team.

## **COFFEE MORNINGS AND REPOSITORY**

Come and join fellow parishioners in the Church Hall after the 9:30am Mass on Wednesdays and after the 8:30am and 10am Masses on Sunday for tea/coffee, biscuits and cake. The repository is open on Wednesdays and on Sundays during the coffee mornings. Christmas cards, Advent calendars and small gifts are on sale.

## **YOUNG ADULT ADVENT RETREAT - SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

Are you aged between 18 and 35 years? Are you looking to make time for prayer this Advent? If so, the Sisters of the Faithful Companion of Jesus invite you to join them on 16th December between 10.30 am - 2.30 pm for a day of reflection at the FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA. To find out more and to book email: [bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk](mailto:bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk). All are welcome.

## **A DAY WITH MARY - SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

10:00am to 5:30pm at St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 7HY. Please see the poster on the notice board for details or visit [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org).

## **100 CLUB WINNERS**

| <b>MONTH</b>     | <b>£75</b>  | <b>£50</b> | <b>£25</b>     | <b>£10</b>  |
|------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | E. Armfield | J. Flynn   | L. Sanders     | C. Tragheim |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | P. Slonecki | N. Wells   | J. Regan       | D. Sexton   |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | J. Brooker  | M. Wells   | M. Grady-Hills | E. Armfield |

There are a few 100 Club numbers available at £5/month. These are displayed at the back of the church. If you would like to join the club please email your contact details to the parish office at [sidcup@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sidcup@rcaos.org.uk).

## **ADVENT SERVICE**

The annual joint Advent Service between St Lawrence's and Holy Trinity Lamorbey will take place on Sunday 3rd December at Holy Trinity (corner of Hurst Road) at 6pm.

## **PRISON ADVICE AND CARE TRUST (PACT) ADVENT SERVICE**

The Prison Advice and Care Trust will hold its Annual Advent Carol Service on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7pm at Our Lady of Victories RC Church, 235a Kensington High Street, London W8 6SA. All are welcome.

## **ANNUAL ADVENT TEA PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

The Annual Advent Tea Party for Senior Citizens at St Catherine's School, Watling Street, Bexleyheath DA6 7QJ will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30-3.00pm.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SIDCUP (CTiS) - UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. Civic Carol Service organised by Churches Together in Sidcup in conjunction with the London Borough of Bexley takes place at St. John's, Church Road, on Sunday, 10th December, commencing 4pm. All are welcome.
2. CTiS's Carol-singing in the High St. takes place outside the gym opposite Hadlow Road on 16th December 11am-12 noon. All are welcome to join in.

## **CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE - WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM**

The annual Cathedral Carol Service, led by Archbishop John Wilson will take place on Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm at St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 7HY. All are welcome so please invite family and friends to join in the service.

## **CAROL SERVICE AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH IN BEXLEY DEANERY**

All are welcome to attend the Carol Service in the Bexley Deanery taking place at St. Stephen's Church, Deepdene Road, Welling, on Saturday 16 December at 3pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. Come along and listen to some joyful Christmas music, as well as carols to join in with.

## **SOUTH EAST PASTORAL AREA, CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East warmly invites you to the Christmas Carol Service of the South East Pastoral Area, Archdiocese of Southwark on Sunday 17th December 2023 Gaudete Sunday at 7.30pm at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill 11 Trent Road, London, SW2 5BJ. See poster. All are welcome.

## **CHRIST THE KING SIXTH FORM - CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL**

If you would like to support CTK's Christmas Gift Appeal please see the poster on the notice board for details. Items that can be donated include toys, puzzles, colouring/puzzle books, toiletries, chocolates, biscuits and hot beverages. The Gifts need to be dropped off at the entrance kiosk at CTK St Mary's, Chislehurst Rd, Sidcup DA14 6BE. The deadline for donating gifts is Wednesday 13th December.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH**

Albany Park Baptist Church, Stansted Crescent, Bexley DA5 3JB will be opening their Church doors to serve Christmas Day Lunch at 2pm for the marginalised, the lonely, the bereaved and those struggling in the community. For further details and to support this cause visit the link <https://app.givingishuman.com/content/fQKQaHCuJCiUHbw39> and <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-day-lunch-tickets-753074936407?aff=oddtcreator>.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 2nd December</b>  | <b>First Sunday of Advent Year B</b>                                     |
| 6.30pm                        | In Thanksgiving  |
| <b>Sunday 3rd December</b>    | <b>First Sunday of Advent Year B</b>                                     |
| 8.30am                        | The People of the Parish   |
| 10.00am                       | Maureen Griffin RIP  |
| 11.30am                       | Eulalia Mascarenhas RIP  |
| <b>Monday 4th December</b>    | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 9.30am                        | Friends of Mary Healy both living and deceased                           |
| <b>Tuesday 5th December</b>   | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 9.45am                        | Intention of Leila Hannah  |
| <b>Wednesday 6th December</b> | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 9.30am                        | Holy Souls   |
| <b>Thursday 7th December</b>  | <b>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b>                    |
| 9.30am                        | Gwen Lane RIP  |
| <b>Friday 8th December</b>    | <b>Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> |
| 9.30am                        | Theresa Antonypillai RIP   |
| <b>Saturday 9th December</b>  | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 9.30am                        | Holy Souls   |

|                        |                    |                 |                         |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Collection             | 26th November 2023 | 2nd Collection: | Catholic Youth Services |
| Cash                   | £260.00            | Cash            | £302.71                 |
| Gift Aid               | £362.00            | Gift Aid        | £243.00                 |
| Total                  | £622.00            | Total           | £545.71                 |
| Monthly Standing Order | £4790              |                 |                         |

Please pray for all the sick of our parish who are at home and in hospitals. Please also pray for the souls of all the faithful departed that God may grant them eternal rest.

***Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.***  
***Psalms 25: 4-5***