

ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

PARISH PRIEST: FR. PAUL KYNE
ASSISTANT PRIEST: FR. ALLAN MACDONALD
Tel: 020 8300 2480 Email: sidcup@rcaos.org.uk

DEACON: REV. PETER VARNES
Tel: 020 8300 5074
Email: petervarnes@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: JEANETTE FERNANDES
Parish Office: 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, DA15 7HB
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm
Tel: 020 8300 2480
Email Office: sidcup@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.stlsidcup.org
Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/sidcup

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:
PATRICIA SLONECKI
Email: sidcupsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
ANTHONY SLONECKI
Email: sidcupsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
VIKKI CLEMENTS
Email: sidcupsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

ST. PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Baugh Road, Footscray, Sidcup DA14 5ED
Email: admin@st-peterchanel.bexley.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER : MRS. S. GOWER
Tel: 0208 302 6029
Website: www.st-peterchanel.bexley.sch.uk

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 17TH DECEMBER 2023

(Psalter Week 3)

Entrance Antiphon: ***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.***

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Communion Antiphon: ***Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.***

The Repository is open on Wednesdays and on Sundays during the coffee mornings. Christmas cards, Advent calendars and small gifts are on sale.

Envelopes for Christmas Offerings for your Parish Priests are available at the back of the Church. The Christmas Offerings can also be given through the card reader terminals which are located near the sides of the church.

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 journey through 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 shorter we 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.

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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 and click subscribe.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SETTING UP THE CRIBS

Volunteers are needed to help with setting up the crib at the front of the church and inside the Church. If you are able to help please come along to the church after the 9.30am Mass on Saturday 23rd December and see Deacon Peter Varnes.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Please join us on Christmas Eve for the Service of Carols and Readings at 11.00pm followed by Midnight Mass. The Parish Spiritual and Social Events Team will be serving mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee and relevant items for children in the Parish Hall after the Midnight Mass. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Hall after the Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY 2024

St. Lawrence's Church will be starting a monthly Children's Liturgy group for pre-First Holy Communion children at the 10am Mass on Sunday once a month (term time only). The first group will start on Sunday, 14th January 2024 (to be led by DBS checked parishioner volunteers). Further details will be announced after Christmas.

BARN DANCE - 3RD FEBRUARY 2024

The St. Lawrence's Barn Dance is back in 2024 with our favourite band 'The Cajun Boogaloo'. Save the date: Saturday 3rd February 2024. Further details and ticket sales to be announced after Christmas.

SOUTH EAST PASTORAL AREA, CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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

ST. LAWRENCE CHARITABLE FUND - In past years Parishioners have made a donation to St Lawrence Charitable Fund rather than sending Christmas cards. A listing is at the back of the church if you would like to do this again. Thank you. SLCF Chair.

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 visit the links <https://app.givingishuman.com/content/fQKQaHCuJCiUHbw39> and <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-day-lunch-tickets-753074936407?aff=oddtcreator>.

ST. PETER CHANEL PRE-SCHOOL - St. Peter Chanel Pre-School are currently allocating places for January 2024. The Pre-School offers morning, afternoon and full day places. We are an outstanding setting within the beautiful grounds of St. Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School. Places are available for children from 2-4 years. Please enquire with the school about the different funding options available for places. Visitors are welcome to come along and see our exciting Pre-School in action. You will be able to meet the team and ask any questions you may have. To book an appointment please telephone 0208 302 6029 or email admin@stpeterchanel.bexley.sch.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 16th December **Third Sunday of Advent Year B (Gaudete Sunday)**

6.30pm (Vigil Mass)

Anthony Charles Beare RIP

Sunday 17th December **Third Sunday of Advent Year B (Gaudete Sunday)**

8.30am

The People of the Parish

10.00am

Mary Josephine Flynn RIP

11.30am

John Crawley RIP

Monday 18th December **Feria**

9.30am

John Basley RIP

Tuesday 19th December **Feria**

9.45am

Brian O'Connell RIP

Wednesday 20th December **Feria**

9.30am

Tony McAleenan RIP

Thursday 21st December **Feria**

9.30am

Jeannie Healy RIP

Friday 22nd December **Feria**

9.30am

Evelyn Madden RIP

Saturday 23rd December **Feria**

9.30am

Michael Halse RIP

Saturday 23rd December **Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B**

6.30pm (Vigil Mass)

Ann Marie Pinto RIP

Sunday 24th December **Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B**

8.30am

James Peter Mullany and Maeve Mullany RIP

10.00am

For the Intentions of Theo, Mary and Francis Pinto

11.30am

The People of the Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 24TH DECEMBER 2023

(Psalter Week 4)

Entrance Antiphon: ***Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.***

Responsorial Psalm: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Communion Antiphon: ***Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.***

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mass 5.30pm

Service of Carols and Readings at 11.00pm

Followed by Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass 8.30am

Mass 10.00am

No Mass at 11.30am

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Vigil Mass on Saturday 30th December at 6.30pm

Mass 8.30am

Mass 10.00am

Mass 11.30am

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Vigil Mass on Saturday 6th December at 6.30pm

Mass 8.30am

Mass 10.00am

Mass 11.30am