

## ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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**SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:**

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### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday 7th December</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (C)</b>	
6.30pm	Mauro Figueroa RIP	
<b>Sunday 8th December</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (C)</b>	
8.30am	Holy Souls	
10.00am	Charlotte Brown RIP	Children's Liturgy
11.30am	Intention of Patricia Tims	
<b>Monday 9th December</b>	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
9.30am	Barbara Cabral RIP	2.30 pm Parish Prayer Group
<b>Tuesday 10rd December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
9.30am	Margaret Quinn-Fish RIP	Divine Mercy Devotion and Rosary after Mass
<b>Wednesday 11th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
9.30am	Mauro Figueroa RIP	Coffee Morning
<b>Thursday 12th December</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	
9.30am	Dick Tooher and Joe Fitzpatrick RIP	
<b>Friday 13th December</b>	<b>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Memorial</b>	
9.30am	Holy Souls	10am-12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Saturday 14th December</b>	<b>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial</b>	
9.30am	Marion Beadle RIP	8.45 am Morning Prayer 9.00 am Rosary

Collection	1st December 2024
Cash	£484.51
Gift Aid	£318.50
Total	£803.01
Monthly Standing Order	£4707

The Sacrament of Penance - Saturday mornings 11am-12noon and before Mass on Saturday evening or by arrangement.

## **DEATH NOTICE**

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Anne Maxted. Anne was a cherished member of our parish community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Please keep them in your prayers as we entrust Anne to God's eternal care. May she rest in peace.

## **WELCOME**

We are delighted to welcome our new parish secretary, Andreea Munty to our Parish Team, who started on Tuesday, 26th November. **The secretary is available in the office on Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm.**

**CONFIRMATION APPLICATION FORMS** - The Confirmation Programme for children in Year 9 and above will be starting on the 18th January 2025. For an application form please see Fr. Allan after Mass. The deadline for returning the completed forms is Wednesday 18th December 2024. There will be a Parents Meeting on Saturday 11th January 2025.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - The Children's Liturgy dates for the Autumn term are as follows: December 8th, 15th. The Children's Liturgy Christmas Party will take place after the last session on December 15th from 11am to 12.30pm. Children are most welcome to come along in fancy dress! All are welcome.

**ST. CATHERINE'S GARDEN** - The flower bed to the left of the Church door is named St. Catherine's Garden, or 'The White Garden' in remembrance of still born babies and babies that died soon after birth and the names on the plaque have not been updated for quite some time. If any parishioner would like to have a name included on the list, would they please contact Deacon Peter Varnes with the names and they will be added on the plaque.

**REPOSITORY** - Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and small gifts will be on sale in the Repository, in the church hall, after the Sunday 8.30 Masses until 11.30 and during the Wednesday coffee mornings.

**MUSICAL CONCERT - WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 10.30AM** - Woodlands Primary Care are holding a musical concert in the Hall. Parishioners are invited to join them for music, tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

## **PARISH FESTIVE FILM NIGHT - WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER**

Please come along and join us for our next film night with a Festive theme. From 7pm for social, film starts at 7.30pm. Festive refreshments will be provided by us including mulled wine, mince pies and other treats. We would love to see some new faces along with our lovely regulars. Please see poster at the back of the church for further information. Christmas jumpers welcome!!

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SIDCUP EVENTS** - The Civic Carol Service at St. John's, Church Road is on Sunday 15 December 4pm. The carol singing in the High St. outside Gym on Saturday 21 December 11am -12noon. All are welcome.

## **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.

**MONTHLY FOODBANK DONATION** - A very big thank you for the generosity shown by so many of our parishioners each week and for your continued contribution and support. More donations are required as the numbers seeking food continues to grow so in addition, we would be grateful if all parishioners, where possible, could provide one or two items of food for the Foodbank and bring along to mass on the last weekend of every month. We look forward to your donation and support for this very worthwhile cause. Our next monthly Foodbank donation will be on the weekend 28/29 December. Once again thank you for supporting this very worthwhile and much needed cause!

## **SAINT LAWRENCE CHARITABLE FUND**

As in previous years Parishioners wishing to make a donation to St Lawrence Charitable Fund rather than sending Christmas cards can add their name to a list at the back of the church. Donations can be made via our **new website** [www.stlcf.org.uk](http://www.stlcf.org.uk) or in an envelope marked SLCF donation, handed into the Parish office. Thank you for your support.

## **SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT**

Everyone is warmly invited to joint this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery. (For details please see the poster on the notice board).

**STATEMENT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTHWARK** - "I am deeply saddened and extremely worried by the progress made in the House of Commons towards the legislation of assisted suicide. While this is not yet the final step in enacting this legislation, it represents a seismic and concerning shift in our nation's approach to caring for the vulnerable among us. Compassion, rightly understood, means standing with those who suffer, sharing their burdens, and honouring their dignity until the natural end of their lives. It does not mean hastening death, even in the face of pain or despair. Every human life is of immeasurable value, and our response must always be to protect and support those who are most in need. The experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced serves as a grave warning. Promised safeguards are eroded over time, leaving the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill at risk of feeling their lives are a burden to others. The subtle, and sometimes overt, pressure this creates threatens the very fabric of a society built on care and protection for the weakest." - to be continued in the next newsletter

We encourage all parishioners to write to their Member of Parliament to oppose the assisted suicide law.