

ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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HEADTEACHER : MR. A. DAVIES

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent (C)	
6.30pm	Intention of Moreen Hegarty on her 90th Birthday	
Sunday 15th December	Third Sunday of Advent (C)	
8.30am	Intentions of Moreen Hegarty	
10.00am	Intentions of Moreen Hegarty	Children's Liturgy
11.30am	Parishioners	
Monday 16th December	Feria	
9.30am	John Basley RIP	2.30 pm Parish Prayer Group
Tuesday 17th December	Feria	
9.30am	Intention of Marie-France Muldoon	Divine Mercy Devotion and Rosary after Mass
Wednesday 18th December	Feria	
9.30am	Holy Souls	Coffee Morning
Thursday 19th December	Feria	
9.30am	Brian O'Connell RIP	
Friday 20th December	Feria	
9.30am	Stephen Gatley RIP	10am-12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 21st December	Feria	
9.30am	Mary Boryczka RIP	8.45 am Morning Prayer 9.00 am Rosary

Collection	8th December 2024
Cash	£451.06
Gift Aid	£399.00
Total	£850.06
Monthly Standing Order	£4707

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

HELP NEEDED: CHRISTMAS CRIB SETUP

Deacon Peter Varnes will be putting up the Christmas Crib on Saturday, 21st December and we are kindly asking for volunteers to assist with this important task. If you are available to help on the day, your support will be greatly appreciated.

DEATH NOTICES

1. Funeral Mass for Anne Maxted RIP will take place on Friday 20th December at 11.00 am. The family has kindly requested that attendees do not wear black, as this will be a celebration of Anne's life.
 2. Funeral Mass for Bryan Moran RIP will take place on Thursday 9th January at 11.00 am followed by cremation at Eltham Crematorium at 1.00pm.
- May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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 10am SUNDAY MASS - The Children's Liturgy dates for the Spring term 2025 are as follows: January 12th, 19th, 26th; February 2nd, 9th; March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th.

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.

VISITS TO ST PETER CHANEL

St Peter Chanel is open for 2025 Reception applications for children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021. The deadline for Reception applications is 15th January 2025. We also have places in our outstanding Pre-School available, with an immediate start, for children from the age of two. If you would like to arrange a visit to our Pre-School or main school, please contact 0208 302 6029 or email admin@st-peterchanel.bexley.sch.uk

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 big thank you to all those who supported the above. Just a reminder that the bins will be in their usual place for parishioners who wish to donate food every week. 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 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 - "Legalising assisted suicide also undermines the essential trust between patients and healthcare professionals. Those who dedicate their lives to healing and comforting the sick are being placed in an untenable position. Conscientious objection — the right of medical practitioners, nursing and care staff, and institutions to refuse to participate in practices that violate their deeply held ethical or religious convictions — must be upheld and protected. Without this assurance, the ethos of our healthcare system and the integrity of those who serve within it are at serious risk. Instead of moving towards assisted suicide, we must commit to improving palliative care, ensuring that expert pain relief, emotional support, and spiritual care are available to all who need them. No one should feel alone or abandoned in their suffering." - to be continued in the next newsletter

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