

# ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A: READINGS FOR THE MASS ON SUNDAY ARE ON PAGE 88**

<b>Saturday 13th December</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent - Year A</b>	
6.30pm	Bridget Reilly RIP	
<b>Sunday 14th December</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent Year A</b>	
8.30am	People of the Parish	
10.00am	Marion Beadle RIP	Children's Liturgy
11.30am	Kathleen and Francis Ryan RIP	
<b>Monday 15th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	2.30 pm Parish Prayer Group
9.30am	Intentions of Maureen Hegarty	
<b>Tuesday 16th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	Divine Mercy Devotion and Rosary after Mass
9.30am	Francois de Cormerand RIP	
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
9.30am	For the comfort and healing of Mary Fitzgibbon during illness	
<b>Thursday 18th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
9.30am	Joan Somerset RIP	
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
9.30am	Brian O'Connell RIP	
<b>Saturday 20th December</b>	<b>Feria</b>	8.45am Morning Prayer
9.30am	The street children living and dead	
6.30pm	People of the Parish	
<b>Sunday 21st December</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A</b>	
8.30am	Deceased Members of Keshtenja and Stenaj Family	
10.00am	Mary Boryczka RIP	
11.30am	Margareth Carter Pestell RIP	

Collection	7th December 2025	Second Collection	
Cash	£ 491.85	This week	Next week
Gift Aid	£282.90	None	None
Total	£774.75		
Monthly Standing Order	£4157		

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

Baptism preparation course for parents will take place on the first Monday of every month at 7pm. Call to book a place.

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

### For Christians in areas of conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** - If you would like to request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish newsletter, please send an email to:

[regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk)

### PLEASE PRAY FOR - Those who have died recently:

Colin Bradbury, Joan Somerset, Ivan Randolph Gregory, Demalza Gnahorc, Bridget Reilly.

**HAIL HOLY QUEEN** Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

**V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.**

**R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**REPOSITORY** - Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and small gifts will be on sale in the Repository, in the church hall, after the Sunday 8.30am and 10am Masses and during the Wednesday coffee mornings.

### PARISH HISTORY

The Parish Council is considering the possibility of producing a history of St Lawrence of Canterbury Church and would be pleased to hear from any parishioner who might be interested in playing a role in the project. Please send details to the Chairman of the Parish Council ([frankjsavage@icloud.com](mailto:frankjsavage@icloud.com)) or to Denise Baldwin ([alananddenisebaldwin@sky.com](mailto:alananddenisebaldwin@sky.com)) if you would like more details.

**CIVIC CAROL SERVICE** takes place on Sunday, 14 December, at St. John's, 4pm, featuring two school choirs, students from Rose Bruford College & Bexley Music Centre, plus a combined Churches choir. All welcome.

### ADVENT IS HERE AND CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Calling all our children and any visitors' children  
Please come to the Children's Christmas Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve,

Dressed as shepherds or angels to join in our lovely nativity.

**CAROLS IN THE HIGH ST.** Meeting outside Better Gym from 11am on Saturday, 20 December. All welcome.

### THANK YOU – WORLD VILLAGES FOR CHILDREN

Thank you to everyone for your generosity in the retiring second collection for World Villages for Children. A wonderful total of **£854.40** was donated. Mandy Bridges is deeply grateful, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for their kindness and support. Your contribution will help provide food, clothing, and the educational essentials that open the door to long-term opportunity for the children and their families.

### ST LAWRENCE CHARITABLE FUND ANNUAL APPEAL

The Trustees would like to thank the Parishioners for their generous response to our recent appeal. The total raised over the weekend 23rd/24th November was £1762.46. Thank you for your continued support. [www.stlcf.org.uk](http://www.stlcf.org.uk)

### OPERATION ELF – GOES LIVE!

See the Elf's helpers and give a child a present this Christmas. Outside church after all Masses from this weekend.

### LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Join us weekly on Mondays at 2:30 PM in the upper room of the parish community centre. These seminars help deepen your faith and grow closer to God—endorsed by Pope Francis and our Archbishop as a powerful form of evangelisation for all parishioners.

### CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT CONSULTATION RESPONSE PUBLISHED

Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at [rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit](http://rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit) and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.

### ADVENT FOOD BANK APPEAL

As we enter the season of Advent, our thoughts turn to those who continue to struggle to meet their basic needs, especially at this time of year. With this in mind, we invite you to consider adding an extra item or two to your weekly shop to support our parish food bank.

Items most needed include:

Tinned vegetables and fruit, canned fish, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, long-life milk, rice, pasta, sugar, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and washing-up liquid. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing generosity of our parishioners, whose kindness has supported our work throughout the year.

### 100 CLUB – UNCOLLECTED PRIZES

Could the following 100th Club winners please come to the office to collect their winnings: **J. Thrift, L. Fernandez, L. Saunders, and J. Brooker**. Your cheques are ready for collection. Thank you!

### ST PETER CHANEL KS2 Carol Concert -St Lawrence's Church

St Peter Chanel are very excited about our upcoming KS2 Carol Concert at St Lawrence's Church, Sidcup on Thursday 18th December at 4pm. This is the first time we are performing in the Church so this should be a wonderful occasion to gather together as a Parish to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Doors will open at around 3:50pm - please do not enter the church before this time (Check the weather in advance and dress accordingly!) We really hope you all can join us for what should be a fantastic afternoon!

### CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. LAWRENCE

Join us for the Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Lawrence and stay afterwards for refreshments in the Parish Hall.

### PARISH SUGGESTIONS BOX

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts you would like to share to help support and improve our parish, please place them in the Suggestions Box located at the back of the church.