

ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A: READINGS FOR THE MASS ON SUNDAY ARE ON PAGE 90

Saturday 20th December 6.30pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A People of the Parish	
Sunday 21st December 8.30am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A Deceased Members of Keshtenja and Stenaj Family	
10.00am	Mary Boryczka RIP	
11.30am	Margareth Carter Pestell RIP	
Monday 22nd December 9.30am	Feria Evelyn Madden RIP	2.30 pm Parish Prayer Group
Tuesday 23rd December 9.30am	Feria Ann Marie Pinto RIP	Divine Mercy Devotion and Rosary after Mass
Wednesday 24th December 9.30am 5.00pm Carol Service at 11.15pm followed by Midnight Mass	Christmas Eve Menino Pinto RIP James Peter and Maeve Mullany RIP People of the Parish	
Thursday 25th December 8.30am 10.00am	The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord John Thomas and Annie Smyth RIP Mullany Family Living and Deceased	
Friday 26th December 9.30am	Saint Stephen, Deacon, the First Martyr John Thomas and Anne Elizabeth Smyth RIP	
Saturday 27th December 9.30am 6.30pm	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist Lalitha Ragendram RIP Intentions of Annette and Davis Barker	8.45am Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th December 8.30am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph People of the Parish	
10.00am	Paul Pinto RIP	
11.30am	Ellen Daly RIP	

Collection	14th December 2025	Second Collection	
Cash	£ 490.14	This week	Next week
Gift Aid	£220	None	None
Total	£710.14		
Monthly Standing Order	£4157		

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

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) or to Denise Baldwin (alananddenisebaldwin@sky.com) if you would like more details.

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.

THANK YOU FROM HMP BELMARSH

Operation Elf would like to thank everyone at St. Lawrence's for the wonderful gifts, toys, and knitted goods donated for the children of prisoners at HMP Belmarsh. It was such a success! Over £500 was collected, and more than 150 presents were bought, donated, or made. Thank you all very much indeed. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, From the elves.

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.

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.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Join our pilgrimage to Lourdes, travelling overnight by luxury coach from 9–14 February 2026. This is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual journey, sharing in the Spirit of Jesus as we honour Our Blessed Mother.

Departing Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9 February, we leave Lourdes on 13 February and travel to Paris for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, Rue du Bac, on the morning of 14 February, arriving back in London later that day. Includes travel, full board, and a rich devotional programme: Blessed Sacrament Procession of the Sick, Candlelight Marian Rosary, International Mass on the Feast Day, Stations of the Cross, Confessions, Adoration and Hour of Mercy. Cost: £590.

For more information, call Millie on 07957 594646.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERING

We are happy to know that the people of Bethlehem will celebrate Christmas this year as the guns have gone silent for the time being. We continue to pray that the current lull in the fighting may lead to a permanent peace and that the children in Palestine may live as children once again. And so, our Christmas crib offering will go to **Friends of the Holy Land** to provide vital support to Christian Families and especially to children.

ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON'S 2025 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.

