

OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM



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Live Stream <https://www.kentchurches.com/churches/our-lady-of-gillingham>

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO, registered charity 1173050

31st December 2023 ✕ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH B ✕

Readers this week :6.30pm	9:30am	11:30am
PrincyManuel/Ugochi Ihuoma	Lennette Opeodu/Samuel Rebson	Maureen O-Krakue/Paul Nwachukwu

Reading 1	Eccl 3:2-6. 12-14	<i>He who fears the Lord respects his parents</i>
Psalm	Ps 127:1-2, 3, 4-5 r.1	<i>O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!</i>
Reading 2	Col 3:12-21	<i>Family life in the Lord.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Col 3:15. 16	<i>May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.</i>
Gospel	Luke, 2:22-40	<i>The child grew, filled with wisdom..</i>

Readers next week: 6.30pm	9.30am	11.30am
Princy Manuel/Ugochi Ihuoma	Edeji Family	Dinah Kansiiime/Maureen O-Krakue

- ✕ Please pray for Daniel Welke† and Crystal Talbot who has recently died and for all the following whose anniversaries occur about this time:
- ✕ Lucia Swan, Patricia Milton, Evaline Lubia, Ruth Kirwan, Mary Murphy, James McKeenie, Francis Gallo, Gwen Ryan. Benito Balducci, Frances de Wit, Richard Turner, Sigrid Hirschberg, Eileen McQuiggan & James Gordon.
- ✕ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Saturday 30th December	Vigil Mass	✕ MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday 31st		6.30pm Pro Populo
		9.30am In thanksgiving
		11.30am Repose of the souls of Sheila & Jackie Hamilton
		6.30pm
Monday 1st January 2024		10.00am. In thanksgiving
Mary, the Mother of God		10.00am Repose of the soul of James A Lane
Tuesday 2nd SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen		10.00am Paddy & Margaret McIntyre's intentions
Wednesday 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus		10.00am Repose of the soul of Santana Alvares & Aleena's birthday - thanksgiving-
Thursday 4th		10.00am Repose of the souls of James W Lane and Mary Jameson
Friday 5th St Thomas of Canterbury		7.30pm
Saturday 6th		10.00am Intentions of Brendan & Una McIntyre
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm

Collections The collection in church last week amounted to £429.98 of which £58 was Gift Aided. Christmas collection £2,646.45 of which £172 was Gift Aided.

TODAY IS A FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH; THE ARCHBISHOP + JOHN WILSON HAS SENT US HIS PASTORAL LETTER. ALSO, BEING THE END OF THE YEAR 2023, WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR PROVIDING US HIS GRACE AND PRAY FOR HIS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS ON OUR FAMILIES AS WE GET INTO THE NEW YEAR 2024.

CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION – Frs. Dennis and Pascoal, express gratitude to you for your generous Christmas donations and the Crib donations are for the Catholic Children's Society.

NEW YEARS DAY – 1ST January is the feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We have 2 masses at 10.00 am and 11.30 am respectively.

GRATITUDE – We express gratitude for all who contributed to the preparation of Christmas celebrations, the readers, the stewards, the choirs, the florists & decorators, the altar servers, the parish office support team, the clergy, the tea & coffee team, the cleaners' team and all our parishioners.

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE LIFE – In line the Archdiocesan team for family and marriage, in the year 2024 the focus of our pastoral plan is to promote marriage and family life. Hence, we have started by praying the Christmas Prayer for all the Families asking the Lord Jesus to bless all our families with abundant love, unity and prosperity. Copies of the prayers are available let each family take and pray every day during this Christmas season.

POPE'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

DEVOTIONS to the Blessed Virgin Mary continue by praying the Rosary every day. The time for reciting the rosary here at the Church is 9.30 am

READERS NEEDED – With the introduction of an extra Mass at 6.30pm on Sundays we need extra volunteers to read regularly on a rota basis. Please let Maureen O-Krakue or the office know if you can help.

PEACE SUNDAY 14TH JAN. – The second collection shall be for the work of Paxi Christi for the promotion of peace worldwide. Appeal envelopes shall be distributed next Sunday.

FREE MISSIO CALENDARS are available at the back of the church. And all MISSIO supporters are called upon to return the **RED BOXES** to the sacristy to be emptied.

MASS AT THE HOSPITAL – There is mass every Sunday at Medway hospital chapel, at 2 pm especially for the staff, the patients, and the visitors.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – There will be a Parents only meeting for on Saturday, 6th January 2024 after 10am Mass. All parents are invited to attend 10am Mass. Further information regarding the programmed will be made available.

FOOD BANK NEWS – A special "Thank You" to those parishioners who have been so generous by supporting the **SVP FOOD BANK collection.** There is still a desperate need for more donations to help those in our community. Not necessary tins or pasta but also biscuits/sweets/toiletries for both male and females/ soft drinks etc. there is an updated shopping list at the back of the church and **items** that the Food Bank need currently are Instant mash, Tinned/packet custard and pasta sauces

BAPTISMS – Parents who wish to have their children baptised should see Deacon Michael after one of the Sunday Masses

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE TEAM:

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>