

OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM



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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO, registered charity 1173050

15th December 2024

✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT C ✠

Reading 1	Zeph 3:14-18a	<i>The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.</i>
Psalm	Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6	<i>Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.</i>
Reading 2	Phil 4:4-7	<i>The Lord is very near.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Is 61:1 (Lk 4: 18)	<i>The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.</i>
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18	<i>What must we do?</i>

Readers this week; 6.30pm Gabriel Concepcion/Augustine Eghomare
9.30am Chizoba Okeke/Sharon Chinwuba. 11.30am Sinachi Uhoma/Joan Aruma
6.30pm Chidubem Uche/Stanley O-Krakue

Readers next week: 6.30pm Benedict Kenekwukwu/Yolanda Danday
9.30am Ifeoma Ihuegbu/Amara Ihuegbu 1130am Ellie Tetteh/Maureen O-Krakue
6.30pm Divine Uche/Stanley O-Krakue

✠ Please pray for Julieta Gomes†, and Maureen Chadwick† who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

✠ Susan Bishop, Alfred Dean, Norah Smith, Thomas Parsons, Estelle Flannery, Leslie Hollingsworth, Jack McIntyre. Mary Miceleff, Karen Slater, Patricia Videt, Rodney Kirwan, James (Jim) Fitzgerald and Betty Kelly,

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

Collections; This week's collection amounted to £499.85 of which £85.00 was Gift Aided and Football parking amounted to £220.00 Thank you.

The QR code for contactless payments is shown here.

TODAY we have a second collection for supporting the parish OLOG Seeds Youth Ministry.



PARISH NOTICES

JUBILEE 2025 –lasts until December 2025. The Pope's has given its theme as 'Pilgrims of Hope' It is a time for resetting our relationship with God, with one another and with the world around us. Hence the Pope intention for December is that we pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

CHRISTMAS - The parish is organising the Christmas home blessing as part of the Christmas pastoral program. This initiation has been developed by our young parishioners of OLOG Youth ministry. Families that are disposed to this spiritual exercise you can contact the Parish Priest of put you names of the form at the back of the Church indicating the date, time, and contact.

LEGION OF MARY -Immaculate Heart praesidium is inviting past and present Legionaries both active and Auxiliary members, and their families, and Visitors, to the Annual General Reunion (AGR) at St. John Fisher Parish Rochester **TODAY at 2pm**. There will be Prayers, music and fun, bring and share refreshments. We equally invite new members to join the Legion of Mary at their weekly meetings every Sunday in the Presbytery living room at 10.40 am.

FOOD BANK AT CHRISTMAS - The S.V.P. wish thank all our parishioners for their generous donations during the year. There are many families in our community who have benefited from your support and suggest that whilst Christmas shopping perhaps you could consider purchasing one extra item and place it the blue box in the church porch.

SUNDAY MASSES – When we come to attend mass we need to keep time and we want all of us to be harmonious and enjoy the mass, not upsetting others. We need to be considerate and our stewards are always there to welcome and help us to sit safely in the Church.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL – meets on the second Sunday of the after 11.30 Mass

PASTORAL SUPPORT TO PARISHIONERS – Those in need of spiritual direction, pastoral guidance and counselling, please book an appointment with Fr. Dennis, Fr. Pascoal or Deacon Michael.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY AT MEDWAY HOSPITAL There is Sunday mass at the hospital chapel/prayer room, at 2.00pm every Sunday for the hospital staff, visitors and patients. Visiting the in-patients on wards is on Wednesday, morning and Sunday afternoons done by priests, deacons and volunteers Thus, there is a call for catholic hospital volunteers. If you are willing and interested in offering this service please see Fr Dennis or Fr Pascoal or contact the parish office on 01634852979.

✘ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✘

Saturday 14th December

Vigil Mass 6.30pm Pro Populo

Sunday 15th 9.30am Rest of the soul of Abraham CC &
Theresa & Stephen Cottam's wedding anniversary
11.30am Ronald Keating's health & well being

. 6.30pm Holy Souls

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday 16th 10.00am Rest of the soul of Alice Cassidy

Tuesday 17th **Our Lady of Loreto**

10.00 Rest of the souls of Michelle O'Sullivan &
Aubrey & Mary Jamieson

Wednesday 18th **St Damasus, Priest**

10.00 Rest of the soul of Michelle O'Sullivan

Thursday 19th **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

10.00am Rest of the soul of May Sylvia Azibuine &
Evie Whiteoak's birthday

Friday 19th **St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

10.00am Rest of the souls of Una Brice & Maureen
Chadwick.

7.30pm Intentions of Elijah Azubuin

Saturday 20th **St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

10.00am Rest of the soul of Julieta Gomes

Followed by Exposition and Confession.

Vigil Mass 6.30pm Holy Souls

EXTENDED TRAINING AND FORMATION OF CATECHISTS

From today, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain “we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world”. This, Archbishop John said, “is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It’s a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It’s God’s love story towards our world and each one of us”. Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, “is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us – me and you – to do. To stay with Him in prayer”. You can watch the full message here <https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmassage2024> or via the QR code below.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS:

The collection taken during the Christmas Masses is traditionally given as a gift to the priests. The priests’ income is normally whatever they receive from the parish as Mass stipends. Therefore, the collection at Christmas forms an important part of their personal income for the year which enables them to meet personal expenses. As the Archbishop has made some changes on the Christmas top-up for our priests, we are all reminded as a parish to donate generously this Christmas in order to support our priests. We all need to appreciate the good work they are doing for us. The Christmas envelopes shall be distributed next Sunday. If you are away at Christmas, you can always hand in your offering before you go away. Thank you.”