

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 7 December 2025 Yr A



Appeal & retiring collection for
MSP

MISSION APPEAL FOR THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL (MSP)

We welcome Fr. Peter Akor MSP, of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSP), who will celebrate Masses this weekend and make the mission appeals.

The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their mission appeal. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses. Additionally, you can donate by setting up a direct debit or by cheque using the provided account details:

Account Name: The Missionary Society of St Paul

Sort code: 202963

Account No: 73306224

Bank Name: Barclays Bank

Alternatively, you can use your smartphone to donate via the QR code below or make a donation using the following link <https://donate.mydona.com/missionary-society-of-st-paul>



Thank you for supporting the MSP work and sponsoring the training of their Seminarians. Some give to the Mission by going. Others go to the Mission by giving. Why not consider going to the Mission by giving. Support the work of the MSP

**For further information contact:
The Mission Director**

Email: mission.office@mspofathers.co.uk

Telephone: 02077375669

Altar Servers at Christmas

As we enter the season of Advent, we wish to ensure that the Christmas Services run as smoothly as possible. We are asking our young Altar Servers, with their parent's approval, to let us know which Mass they intend to serve at on the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Masses

4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses

8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am

Please note a couple of procedural matters. First, we would ask that ALL Altar Servers arrive at least 15 minutes before the Mass commences. For Midnight Mass 30 minutes is requested. This allows for the delivery of any important information before the Mass starts.

Secondly, at Midnight Masses recently very young children have fallen asleep on the Sanctuary. They should be in bed really! Please only older Altar Servers at this Mass.

There will be lists in the Sacristy for Altar Servers to sign to let us know when they will be attending. If this is not possible, please contact Deacon Sean at seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk

Many thanks, Peter Lake

Being formed in the likeness of Christ, we strive to become a truly Christ centred community, through humble witness, love, compassion and communion.

ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S ADVENT 2025 REFLECTION

This Advent, Archbishop John is calling us on to reflect on the “astonishing truth” that the “Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us”. In a [video reflection](#), Archbishop John said that: “to say God is with us is not poetry but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven”. You can watch his full reflection at rcaos.org.uk/advent2025.

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 and hard-copies 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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall, Wednesday 10 December
7.45 pm Praise and Worship
8.00 pm Holy Mass
Celebrant –Fr Boniface Arapa
Followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
10.00 pm Evening concludes



SVP GIFT CARD APPEAL FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

SVP Beckenham has reached out to 10 of our local primary schools to offer a Sainsbury's gift card to those families in particular need. This year we hope to donate £5,000 via gift cards and would very much appreciate your support in getting to this total.

Donations can be made by bank transfer to: 60 60 04, 46076190, Ref: gift cards 2025
Cash and cheques can be posted through the parish office door.

THANK YOU 5TH BECKENHAM SOUTH SCOUTS

We would like to thank the 5th Beckenham Scouts for their generous donation from the profits of their very successful firework display in Croydon Rec on 8 November.

CLAVER SISTERS' CALENDARS

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will be selling their 2026 Mission Calendars after all Masses next weekend. The Sisters are raising funds to purchase a vehicle for the Sisters of St Louis who run Mobile Schools in the rural areas of a diocese in Ghana. Please give generously.

CHURCH SHOP

The church shop has many Advent and Christmas items in stock.

There are 24-day Advent candles, beautiful Christmas cribs, 2026 diaries, religious Christmas cards, lovely books for children, stocking fillers and all kinds of little gifts.

Please take a look.

WALKING GROUP

All members, past and present, are invited to coffee, mulled wine and mince pies at Margaret's house on Friday 12 December. Michael will lead a walk through Kelsey Park after 10.00 am Mass or just come to 69 Kenwood Drive, BR3 6QZ at 11.15 am

Margaret 07880 793175

PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

On **Saturday, 13th December at 7.15 p.m.** in the Church and online on our Webcam: www.saintedmunds.net. Carols and Readings to really get ready for Christmas.

A programme will be available on the website from 11th December.

We are raising money to support St. Christopher's Hospice and so we will have a collection. Should you wish to donate to this charity you can also do so online:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1699010107900>

or you can post a donation through the Presbytery door marked 'St. Christopher's Hospice'. There is also a QR code for this on the Noticeboard in the Church next to the poster.

We do hope you are able to join us in the Church and then for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine afterwards in the Church Hall!

SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Monday 15 December in the Hall at 1.00 pm

There will be a full Christmas meal and some seasonal entertainment.

No charge for those on a low income but a suggested donation of £15 for all others.

Please email beckenhamsvp@gmail.com or call 07789 497 482 and leave a message or text/WA to reserve your place, to advise of any dietary requirements or to arrange transport.

THE LAST DAY TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE IS WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

LIVING WELL

We were delighted to be able to send 3 trolleys full of essentials and Christmas goodies to Living Well (thank you Mick for delivering it all). Additionally £925 was collected in cash and card donations. Thank you all

SCOOTER

A child's scooter has been left at the back of church for a couple of weeks. If it is yours, please contact the parish office (where it now resides). If unclaimed by 16 December it will be handed to one of the charity shops.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

At the Christmas Fair on Saturday the children will be invited to write 'A Christmas Prayer'. These will be moved to the Church early next week and placed on a Prayer Tree in the church. If any parishioner would like to add their Prayer to this tree there will be cards available to complete at the back of Church next weekend.

Margaret Ziolek RIP

The children of Margaret Ziolek: Ann, Jane, Paul, Michael and Andrew, are sad to announce the death of their dear mother on Wednesday 3rd December at Coloma Court Care Home, where she had been resident since April 2023. Funeral arrangements are yet to be made and will be shared when confirmed.
Ann Higgs

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST EDMUND'S – 2025

Christmas Eve:

Early Masses intended only for families with children. To avoid overcrowding,



others are asked to avoid these Masses.

4 pm – Vigil Mass for **children** and their families

4 pm – **Additional Mass in the hall for younger children** and their families

Masses for general congregations

6.00 pm – Vigil Mass

8.00 pm – Vigil Mass

Midnight Mass

(readings and carols from 11:30 pm)

Christmas Day:

8.00 am – Dawn Mass

9:30 am – Family Mass -

Mass of Christmas Day

11.00 am- Mass of Christmas Day

There are no evening Masses

SR ASSUMPTA

On behalf of the Parish we would like to welcome back Sister Assumpta who has re-joined the Calver Sisters Convent here in Beckenham after spending 6 years in Rome.

MASSES

Sun 7 Dec

6.00 pm **VIGIL** Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP
 8.00 am For the people
 9.30 am Private intention in thanksgiving
 11.00 am Victor Castelino (4th anniv)
 5.30 pm Ints of the Fitzgerald Family

Mon 8 Dec

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10.00 am Dcsd benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters

Tues 9 Dec

Feria

10.00 am Jim Enright RIP

Wed 10 Dec

Feria

10.00 am Thomas Lee RIP
 8.00 pm Charismatic Mass in Hall

Thurs 11 Dec

Feria

10.00 am Joe Doyle RIP (4th anniv)
 6.00 pm **CLAVIER** Adoration

Fri 12 Dec

Feria (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

10.00 am Birthday intentions of Marcellina Mayungbe

Sat 13 Dec

St Lucy

10.00 am Spiro & Alba Pensa RIP
No Adoration
 11.00 am Reconciliation for FHC candidates
 6.00 pm **VIGIL** Angela Laws RIP
 7.15 pm Advent Carol Service

Sun 14 Dec

Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Monica Grima RIP
 9.30 am Mick Westgarth RIP
 11.00 am Agnes & Edward O'Reilly RIP
 Giaco & Chona's wedding anniv
(Rite of Acceptance)
 5.30 pm Ints of Frances & Michael Northwood

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 - 11.00 am and 5.00 - 5.55 pm, and usually during Adoration

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am and Adoration after morning Mass from Monday to Saturday, unless otherwise announced.



CHRISTINGLE
Monday 22 December at 2.00 pm
 Make your own Christingle and join us for the service in church.

MICHAEL DOWLER RIP

Many of you will remember Mike our local street sweeper who sadly died last week. If you would like to make a donation in memory of Michael, please use this link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/michael-dowler?ref=ed_direct
 May he rest in peace.

We pray for all who have died: Rowena D'Souza, Ilean Curry, Eileen Cammiade, Elizabeth William, Marie Alford, Edwin Voss, Eva Maria Knapp, Bruno Joseph, Josephine Oke, Angelina Kioko, Michael Dowler and Margaret Ziolek

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Rachel Elias, Leonard Cook, Pearse Kilcullen, Mim Jennings, Mary Beck, Margaret O'Neill, Tony Hallett, Lucas Campos, Elizabeth Lynch, Sharon Wigner, Melvin Deakin, Valerie Colyer, William Ross, Mary Sullivan, Chris McBurney

We pray for all who are in ill health, for their families and for their carers: Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Paul Hixson, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Djasrabe, Margaret Brocklehurst, Leyla Pattison, Janice McIntosh, Zygmunt Sobolewski, James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Sue Shaw, Linda Magness, Charles, John Warren Dene.

DIARY

December

Sat 6 Christmas Fair 11-4.00pm
 Sat 13 Advent Carol Service 7.15 pm
 Mon 15 Requiem for Eileen Cammiade-11.30am
 Mon 15 SVP Christmas lunch - 1.00pm
 Fri 19 Requiem for Marie Alford -1.00pm
 Sat 20 Penitential Service 4.15pm
 Mon 22 Christingle Service - 2.00pm
 Tues 23 Requiem for Ilean Curry - 10.00am

Meditation every Monday in the Hall from 5.30 - 6.20 pm, except for the first Monday of each month and bank holidays.
 Please respect the need to arrive promptly and observe the silence

SOUTHWARK SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Southwark Spirituality Commission will be sending daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. Sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning via tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025. These reflections are a great way to keep your mind focused on the Lord Jesus during the busy Advent season.

