

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP Website: www.saintedmunds.net
Parish Office - Phone: 020 8650 0970 - Email: beckenham@rcaos.org.uk
Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Andrew Bishop - andrewbishop@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Boniface Arapa - bonifacearapa@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Seán Murphy - 07960 958 441 - seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk
Safeguarding - Yvonne Epale - safeguardingSG3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver 020 8313 3915
sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com

Sunday 14 December 2025 Yr A



The Claver Sisters will be selling their calendars after all Masses.

HONESTY BEFORE GOD AND MAN GIVES US PEACE AND HAPPINESS

Dear friends in Christ,

When I visited one of the shopping centres in town this week, a gentleman came into the shop where I had gone to buy some small item, picked up some valuable, put it into his pocket and smartly walked out of the shop without paying! This shocked me and it made me recall this story of a very honest widow in Uganda which I will now share with you.

A shopkeeper had just opened his store when a woman arrived and said, "Sir, here is your 1,000 shillings."

The shopkeeper looked at the poor woman with questioning eyes, as if asking, "When did I give you 1,000 shillings?" The woman replied, "Last evening, I bought some items. I gave you 10,000 shillings, bought goods worth 7,000 and you returned 4,000 instead of 3,000."

The shopkeeper touched the 1,000 to his forehead, placed it in the cash box, and asked, "Tell me one thing, sister. You bargained so much while buying the items, even for 500 shillings and now you've come all the way to return 1,000?"

The woman replied, "Bargaining is my right. But once the price is settled, paying less is a sin."

The Shopkeeper said, "But you didn't pay less. You paid the full amount. This 1,000 came to you by my mistake. If you had kept it, it wouldn't have made any difference to me."

The Woman said, "It may not matter to you, but it would weigh on my conscience. I would know I kept your money knowingly. That's why I came last night to return it, but your shop was closed."

The Shopkeeper asked in surprise, "Where do you live?" She replied, "Road 8."

The Shopkeeper's mouth dropped open. "You came 3 kilometers just to return 1,000 shillings and this is your second visit?!!!"

The Woman calmly said, "Yes, it's my second visit. If you want peace of mind, you have to do such things. My husband is no longer in this world, but he taught me one thing: 'Never take even a single coin that belongs to someone else because a person may stay silent, but the One above can ask for an account anytime. And the punishment for that account might fall on my children.'"

Saying this, the woman left.

The Shopkeeper immediately took out 30,000 shillings from the cash box, got on his bike, and told his assistant, "Take care of the shop. I'll be back soon."

He went to another shop in the market and handed 30,000 shillings to the shopkeeper named Prince "Here, take your 30,000. Yesterday, when you came to buy goods, I overcharged you."

Prince laughed and said, "If you overcharged me, you could've returned it when I came back. Why come so early in the morning?"

The shopkeeper replied, "What if I die before you return? You didn't even know I owed you 30,000 shillings. That's why I

had to return it. Who knows when the One above will ask for an account? And the punishment might fall on my children." The shopkeeper left, but Prince was deeply disturbed. Ten years before, he had borrowed 3,000,000, (three million) shillings from a friend. But the very next day, the friend passed away.

The friend's family didn't know about the money, so no one asked for it. Prince, tempted by greed, never took the initiative to return it.

Today, that friend's family lives in poverty. His widow worked as a maid to raise her children. Yet Prince had kept their money.

The shopkeeper's words - "Who knows when the One above will ask for an account, and the punishment might fall on my children"-haunted Prince.

After three days of mental turmoil, his conscience awakened. He withdrew 30,000,000 shillings (30 million) from the bank and went to his friend's house.

The widow was at home, sitting with her children. Prince fell at her feet. For a woman struggling for every coin, 30,000,000 was a huge amount. Tears welled up in her eyes. She blessed Prince for his honesty.

She is the same woman who had gone twice to return 1,000/ shillings to the shopkeeper.

From the story above we learn that honesty makes us live in peace with God and with one another. As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, may we be honest with God in all our dealings, aware that He knows us through and through, and that we shall account to Him for our actions. May we always treat one another with love, honesty, sincerity and trust. Let our conscience always be our judges.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Fr Boniface Arapa

Altar Servers at Christmas

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

Christmas Eve Masses

4.00 pm, 6.00 pm, 8.00 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses

8.00 am, 9.30 am and 11.00 am

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

There are lists in the Sacristy for Altar Servers to sign to let us know when they will be serving. They can also 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.



**PARISH ADVENT
CAROL SERVICE
Saturday evening**



This **Saturday** at **7.15 pm** in the Church and online at:

www.saintedmunds.net

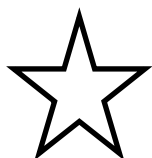
The programme is available on the website.

We are raising money to support St. Christopher's Hospice so there will be a basket collection. You can also donate online at:

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

or you can post a donation through the Office door marked for 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 Hall.



CLAVER SISTERS' CALENDARS

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will be selling their 2026 Mission Calendars after all Masses this 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

We still have candles made for our 75th anniversary celebration. These are beautifully boxed and would make a lovely Christmas gift.

SCOOTER

A child's scooter has been left at the back of the church for a couple of weeks. If it is your child's, please come to the Parish Office to collect it.

If it is not claimed by Wednesday it will be taken to a charity shop.



**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 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1 January

After 10.00 am Mass

You are all invited to come over to the Hall for refreshments with family and friends to greet 2026 with warmth and friendship.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

At the Christmas Fair last Saturday children were invited to write 'A Christmas Prayer'. These have been moved to the church and placed on a Prayer Tree in the Lady Chapel.

If any parishioner would like to add their prayer to this tree there are cards at the back of church this weekend.



Please will parishioners put their mobile phones on silent whilst they are in the church.

An increasing number of Masses are being disturbed by ringing phones.

Thank you for your co-operation.

READERS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

Booklets containing the readings for Midnight Mass and the Masses of Christmas Day (8.00 am, 9.30 am and 11.00 am) are in the sacristy for you to collect.

These booklets DO NOT contain the readings for the Vigil Masses of Christmas Eve (4.00 pm, 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm). We will notify readers for these Masses when we have the appropriate Missalettes.

Last week I was in Prague with Archbishop John Wilson and other priests of Southwark diocese who have been ordained in the last few years.

We visited the church of the Holy Infant of Prague and Prague Cathedral, visiting the tombs of St Vitus and St Wenceslaus and climbing the bell tower.

We celebrated Mass together at St Norbert's tomb at the Stahov Monastery (Fr. Gildas from the Norbertine community at Peckham arranged this). We also celebrated Mass at the Jesuit church of St Ignatius and this photo was taken afterwards.

If you look closely you will recognise a number of priests who spent some time at Beckenham: Allan McDonald, Frazer Bellfield and Joseph Gulliford (now with a beard).

Fr Andrew



CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall

Wednesday 17 December

7.45 pm Praise and Worship

8.00 pm Holy Mass

Celebrant –Fr Boniface Arapa

Followed by Informal prayer meeting

10.00 pm Evening concludes



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Last Saturday's Christmas Fair was a lovely parish occasion with many parishioners gathering in the Hall to meet friends, enjoy some refreshments and buy some of the gifts on offer.

This fair was deliberately kept smaller than usual as the organisers are planning a full scale one in the spring.

Thank you to Cathy and her team who put this together and raised £1600.00.

A few pictures of the fair.

A big thank you to Father Christmas for dropping in to see the children.

MASSES

Sun 14 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday
6.00 pm VIGIL	Angela Laws RIP
8.00 am	Monica Grima RIP
9.30 am	Mick Westgarth RIP
11.00 am	Agnes & Edward O'Reilly RIP Giacco & Chona's wedding anniv (Rite of Acceptance)
5.30 pm	Ints of Frances & Michael Northwood
Mon 15 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Dec'd members of the Fitzgerald Family
11.30 am	No Adoration Requiem of Eileen Cammiade
Tues 16 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Canon Jack Madden RIP
Wed 17 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Catherine Donnelly RIP
8.00 pm	No Adoration Charismatic Mass in Hall
Thurs 18 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Carmel Watt RIP
6.00 pm CLAVER	No Adoration
7.00 pm	Adoration St Mary's KS2 Carol Service
Fri 19 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Sue O'Donnell RIP
1.00 pm	Requiem of Marie Alford
Sat 20 Dec	Feria
10.00 am	Marie De Lourdes Nunes RIP (2nd anniv)
4.00 pm	Advent Penitential Service
6.00 pm VIGIL	Maurice Tydings, Mary Lena, Esther and Coleman RIP
Sun 21 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent
8.00 am	John Friend Pereira RIP
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am LATIN	Dec'd members of the Kairis Family
5.30 pm	Paddy & John Sheehan RIP

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.



We pray for all who have died: Ilean Curry, Eileen Cammiade, Marie Alford, Bruno Joseph, Josephine Oke, Angelina Kioko, Michael Dowler, Margaret Ziolek and Zigmunt Sobolewski

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Pamela Flood, Teresa Basquill, Mick Westgarth, John Ransford, Canon Jack Madden, Carmel Watt, Evelyn Deegan, Charles Paes, Angela Laws, Stella Ling, Terry Smith, Kitina Sana, Eileen Sullivan, Antoinette Davies, Peter Carr, Ann Craig, Carmel Connell, Orazio Rossi, Denise dos Santos Zanardine.

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, James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Sue Shaw, Linda Magness, Charles, John Warren Dene, Reggie Rock, Teresa Cadogan.

DIARY

December

Sat 13	Advent Carol Service 7.15pm
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 sends
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.