CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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(020 8313 3915)

Sunday 22 November
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There will be a diocesan second collection for the Catholic Youth Service

CHURCH DOCUMENTS ON ADVENT

When the Church celebrates Advent each year, she makes present the ancient expectation of the Messiah. By sharing in preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

For this reason, especially during Advent and Lent, and above all at the Easter Vigil, the Church re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the "today" of her liturgy. Catechesis should help the faithful understand and live this mystery of salvation as revealed through the Church's liturgy.
Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy 96
Each Gospel reading has a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday).

The Old Testament readings contain prophecies concerning the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from Isaiah. The apostolic readings provide exhortation and proclamation in keeping with the themes of Advent.

Introduction to the Lectionary 93
"Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming."

What Do the Four Candles of the Advent Wreath Mean?
A valuable way to prepare for Advent is through the Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle with no beginning or end, reminding us that our lives participate in God's eternal plan of salvation and that we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Made from fresh greenery, it symbolizes the new life Christ brings through his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Three candles are purple, representing penance, preparation and sacrifice. The rose candle marks the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because Christmas is drawing near.
The light represents Christ, who entered the world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness.

As more candles are lit, they symbolize our growing readiness to meet the Lord. Let us join our parish in celebrating Advent, welcoming Christ at Christmas, and anticipating his coming in glory.

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah... the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming."
(CCC 524)

SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
First Sunday of Advent: Focuses on hope, symbolized by the purple Prophet's Candle, pointing to the long-awaited Saviour (Tit. 2:13; John 3:16).

Second Sunday of Advent: Focuses on faith, symbolized by the purple Bethlehem Candle, recalling Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:1-7).

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday): Rose vestments and the Shepherd's Candle symbolize joy at the approaching birth (Isa. 9:1-3; Luke 2:8-12).

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Emphasizes the peace Christ brings, symbolized by the Angel's Candle (Isa. 9:6; John 14:27; Luke 2:13-14).

Liturgical Calendar and Advent
The Church's Liturgical Calendar marks the seasons and feasts of the year. Advent occupies a unique place between Ordinary Time and Christmas. It is a season of reflection and preparation, helping us enter the celebration of Christ's birth with renewed hearts and minds.

PRACTICAL WAYS OF LIVING ADVENT
Advent Prayers and Devotions
There are many ways to deepen your spiritual preparation during Advent: Lighting the Advent Wreath: A new candle is lit each week, symbolizing growing anticipation of Christ's coming.
Scripture Reading: Spend time with the Nativity narratives and the prophecies concerning the Messiah and his glorious return. The Christ Candle: A large white candle may be decorated with Christian symbols and lit on Christmas Eve to mark the arrival of the Light of the World. It may also be lit throughout the year as a reminder of Christ's birth, resurrection, and promised return. Advent Devotions: The Rosary and other devotional practices can enrich the season.

What Is After Advent?
The season following Advent is Christmas, traditionally celebrated for twelve days until the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January. It continues the celebration of Christ's birth and the manifestation of God's love to the world. In the current calendar, the Christmas season extends to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Fr Boniface Arapa

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY 2026

Today is World Youth Sunday. The second collection, a diocesan collection, raises funds to support the Catholic Youth Service, which helps young people encounter Christ, grow in authentic friendship, and be equipped for mission in the Church and the world.

To find out more about diocesan activities for young people and young adults, visit www.scys.org.uk or scan the QR code.

ROSARY IN THE PARK

Why not enjoy walking through a lovely local park whilst praying the Rosary with friends and parishioners? If we have captured your interest, here are the details:

Venue: Beautiful Kelsey Park in Beckenham - entrance closest to the High Street
Date: Saturday 28 November.
Time: Meet for a coffee at 'Q' Bar & Café (High Street, Beckenham) at 11 am
Start the Rosary at 12 noon and complete by 1.30 pm.

More information from Peter Bull (07596 684926) or Jaydev Chauhan (079 6767 5509) or just turn up at 'Q' Bar (at 11 am) or Kelsey Park Entrance (12 noon) on the 28th.

SACRISTY ROTA

If you are interested in being part of a Sacristy team, please would you let us know your name, contact email or phone number, and which Masses you regularly attend on Sunday or during the week. Likewise if you are already a member of the Sacristy team and have not shared details with us before.

Please provide your details to the office or by completing the form in the Sacristy.

Fr Steve.

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL & MIDNIGHT MASS

Thursday Night - 24 December

Several Readers are required for this Christmas Service which starts with the Vigil of Readings at 11.15 pm before proceeding to Mass at Midnight.
If you would like to read at these celebrations, please contact Rosemary by **email:** (r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk) or **Text** (07956 109465) as soon as possible.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING 2027

We will be running training sessions for new and current altar servers on Sunday 10 January 2027.

- Session 1 - Introduction and refresher training from 3pm - 3.45pm
- Session 2 - Master of Ceremony (MC) training from 4pm - 4.45pm

Registration forms are available in the Sacristy with further information on eligibility and what will be covered in the sessions.
Any questions please contact Ruth McConkey via beckenham@rcaos.org.uk.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteer helpers to support and deliver the parish First Holy Communion programme 2026-2027.

We are a friendly supportive team but we need more adult helpers to make the classes even more engaging for the children as they prepare for their First Holy Communion.

The classes are held in St Edmund's Hall, on alternate Saturdays from 9:15-10:30 am.

For more information please email:
www.beckenhamfhc@rcaos.org.uk

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

We had such a fantastic response to our shoebox appeal, thank you to every wonderful parishioner who filled a box this year.





They were all - **128 in total** – taken to the Blythswood depot on Friday and will soon be on their way to Ukraine where each box will bring happiness and joy this Christmas.
Thank you also for the generous cash donations which have been sent on to Blythswood.
Susie and Lucienne

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MASS FOR THE BEREAVED

Last Saturday we celebrated our annual Mass for the Bereaved. It was very well attended and many candles were lit to recall those who were being remembered. Fr Boniface preached a wonderful sermon and Clare McConkey and her singers led the congregation in some joyful singing. Many crossed to the Hall afterwards for lovely refreshments provided by the Hospitality Team and it was good to see so many parishioners catching up with friends.

Thank you to Jan Pontifex and Clare Ross of our Bereavement Support Group for arranging this Mass so beautifully.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 25 November

7.45 pm Praise and Worship
8.00 pm Holy Mass
Celebrant Fr Mark Binang
10.00 pm Evening concludes

On the last Wednesday of November, and in keeping with remembrance of the Holy Souls, we welcome Fr Mark Binang, who will celebrate **Mass for the Healing of the Family Tree**.

Please invite family members and friends. You may also wish to bring water, salt, and or Extra Virgin Olive oil which Fr Mark will bless.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

Saturday 12 December
Church Hall
1.30 – 4.30 pm

A young parishioner is hosting a Christmas crafts afternoon with refreshments and fun! Perfect for families.
Make sure to pop down and support the afternoon.

SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Monday 15 December in the Hall at 1.00 pm

Booking is now open for the annual SVP Christmas lunch.

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.

SVP GIFT CARD APPEAL FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

SVP Beckenham has reached out to 10 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 2026
Cash and cheques can be posted through the parish office door.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Please find attached details of how to purchase tickets for the Nation Conference on Migration, Integration and Human Dignity, Saturday 21 November, 9:30 am-4 pm.

Guest Speakers will include
Dr David Ryall Director of JESUIT Refugee Service UK
Christine Allen Executive Director of CAFOD
Dr Rev. Biju John author of Pope Leo X1V Amor Sed Amor.

This will be a resourceful and informative conference on the issues that arise in our life's, work and parishes every day.

Tickets are £12.00/£10.00 students, under 12's free. Light lunch and refreshments included.

Conference Team
Our Lady of the Rosary RC Church, Blackfen
Archdiocese of Southwark

DEBORAH'S PALM
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 AT 3.00 PM

Every last Thursday of the month the Sisters of St. Peter Claver offer the opportunity for people to come to the convent in the afternoon, share a cup of tea, chat with the Sisters, share their thoughts and needs and, if they so wish, also pray with them.

At 3.00 pm we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (10 minutes) and from 6.00 till 7.00 pm we will have adoration. All are free to come and to go as they wish. From 3.10 till 6.00 pm one or other of the Sisters will be available to talk to whoever may desire to come to the convent at 89 Shortlands Rd, BR2 0JL

Sr Assunta Giertych

MASSES

Sun 22 Nov	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
6.00 pm	The soul that saved my life
8.00 pm	Bailey Hussey-Grey RIP
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am	Canon Alan McLean RIP
5.30 pm	Dawid & Nadia –wedding congratulations
Mon 23 Nov	**St Clement, Pope & Martyr**
10.00 am	Marie Alford RIP (1st anniv)
6.30 pm	Wilbert & Alice Simmons RIP
Tues 24 Nov	**Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, Priests & Companions, Martyrs**
10.00 am	Armando & Paulo Cogoni RIP
6.30 pm	Patrick & Helen Donnelly RIP
Wed 25 Nov	**St Catherine of Alexandria**
10.00 am	Gretta Colonnese and Ron Renton RIP
8.00 pm HALL	Charismatic Mass
Thurs 26 Nov	**Feria**
10.00 am	Brendan Spillane RIP
6.45 pm	Julia Jennings, Margaret Gaffney, Dave Baskerville, Sid & Rena Rowbotham RIP
6.00 pm CLAVER	Adoration
Fri 27 Nov	**Feria**
10.00 am	Janice Maureen Dunn Browne & dec'd family members
Sat 28 Nov	**The Blessed Virgin Mary**
10.00 am	Leonor Bongay Simpkins
6.00 pm	Rita Costelloe RIP
Sun 29 Nov	**The First Sunday of Advent**
8.00 pm	Ambrose Harper RIP
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am	Mary Porta RIP & Estella Campos RIP
5.30 pm	Maureen Leahy (nee Howard)

EXPOSITION

Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9-9.45 am
Thursday evening: 6-7 pm at Claver Convent
Friday: after morning Mass.

CONFESSION

Saturday after morning Mass until 11.30, and Saturday evenings from 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm.

On occasion exposition will not take place owing to a funeral being held

MASS TIMES AT ST MARK'S, WEST WICKHAM

Weekdays
10.00 am daily (except Monday)
6.00 pm (Monday only)

Sunday Mass
8.00 am
10.00 am
11.30 am

MASS TIMES AT ST ANTHONY'S, ANERLEY

Monday to Saturday
9.30 am daily
Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm

Saturday
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Mass
9.30 am
11.15 am
5.30 pm

WE PRAY FOR ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

Those who have just died: Caimin Lynch

Those whose anniversaries are at this time: Anna Tropea, Eileen Rogers, Aurora Matella, Penelope Wood, Marie Alford, Josephine Oke, Maureen Bentley, Crescenzo Panetta, Gretta Colonnese, John Doyle, Pauline May Tolhurst, Epiphany Fernandes, Giovanni Camponaro, Roisin Patricia Acquah, David Fletcher, Henry Alfred Jones, Siobhan Carly Smith.

Those in ill health: Joe, Chris Elgar, Peter Anthony Jones, Katherine McLaughlin, Henry Ginn, Paul Hixson, Arlene Sinclair, Emma Rodrigues, Christine Parker, Don, Beatrice Allegretti, Yvonne Forshaw, Elizabeth Hardaker, Sheila Crozier, Margaret Arnold, Bishop John Keenan, Domenica Rasuro, Patrick Francis Dunn, Sergio De La Fuente.

And all those suffering with long term sickness.

May the Lord bless them and keep them – Amen.

If you know of any parishioner who is sick or housebound and who would welcome a visit from the clergy team, please make contact with one of them or call the Parish Office.

If a family member is in hospital please ask the ward staff to notify the hospital chaplain.

DIARY DATES

December

7 SVP Christmas Lunch
12 Advent Carol Service at 7.15 pm followed by refreshments in the Hall.
19 Advent Reconciliation Service 4.00 pm

SILENT PRAYER

Silent prayer time in the Hall on Mondays from 5.30 - 6.20 pm

Every Monday (except second Monday and bank holidays).
John Main Christian Meditation Group

Second Monday
Quiet Monday (reaching out to other local churches) - see flyer in porch for details

Please note the need to arrive promptly and observe the group silence. Access is via stairs.

mary's meals
20 YEARS OF FEEDING CHILDREN

After our fundraising evening for Mary's Meals we let you know that your contributions had raised enough money to feed 426 children a hot meal every school day.
We know know that some generous supporters have promised to double our contribution so that now we are feeding 852 children for a whole school year.