

The Presbytery, Mallard Close, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5HU UK

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14 - 22 December 2024



PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Patrick Zammit

Tel: 01322 279955

PARISH PRIEST EMERITUS (Retired):

Fr Michael Leach

PERMANENT DEACON:

Rev Michael Dale

PARISH SCHOOL – St Anselm's

Headteacher – Mrs Laura White

Tel: 01322 225173

Saturday	14 Dec	6.30pm	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY: Private Intention
Sunday	15 Dec	9.00am	Ronald Barry Thomas RIP (Ann.) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)
		10.30am	Mrs Virginia Owa – In Thanksgiving - Owa Family
		1.00pm	SENIOR PARISHIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025 (in Hall)
		5.00pm	FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Monday	16 Dec	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
		9.00am	Alice Weg Wer RIP - Labouchardiere
Tuesday	17 Dec	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
		9.00am	William Ward RIP (Ann.) – William, Ramona Hyde-Ward & Family
		12.00noon	Baptisms: Rereololuwa Simone & Morololuwa Serena Olowolagba
Wednesday	18 Dec	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
		9.00am	Leo & Kathleen O'Connor RIP – J Crowley
		6.00pm	- 7.00pm CHILDREN'S CHOIR (in the Presbytery)
		7.00pm	St Anselm's School: CAROL SERVICE - in Church
Thursday	19 Dec	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
		9.00am	Philomena Cook RIP (Ann.)
Friday	20 Dec	8.15am	Darent Valley Hospital – MASS – Brendan Casey RIP – Ward Family
		8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
		9.00am	Deacon Vincent Wilfred Bowgett RIP – Janet Crowley
Saturday	21 Dec	10.00am	Simon Evans RIP – Christine Evans
		6.30pm	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY: Mick Staunton RIP – Dan McCarthy
Sunday	22 Dec	9.00am	Good Estate of Angelo Boffa FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)
		10.30am	FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH – Filipino Mass & Party
		5.00pm	Derek Smith RIP – Brian & Marion Havard

CLEANING TEAMS: Rotas: dates due to be changed shortly

3rd Banns of Marriage: Beta Alisa Miccou of Greenhithe & Marco Nando Dellaballe of Greenhithe.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Afro-Caribbean Choir: A practice on Wed 18 Dec at 7pm in the Presbytery.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT: (GAUDETE SUNDAY) Halfway through Advent we are asked to rejoice. We are that same people upon whom he is calling. We always look for good news in our newsletter. For this reason I have chosen a reflection from the "Word of Life" provided by the Focolare movement which helps us reflect on the importance of Advent. **Reflection: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."** Paul wrote to the Thessalonians at a time when many of Jesus' contemporaries were still alive. They had seen and heard him and had witnessed the tragedy of his death and the wonder of his resurrection and ascension. They recognised the mark he had left upon others and expected his imminent return. Paul loved the Thessalonian community who were exemplary in the way they lived and in their fruitful witness. He wrote this letter to them, imploring them to share the content with all (v 1:6) and he recommended that the letter to them, imploring them to share the content with all (v5: 27) and he recommended that the latter should be imitators of us and the Lord' (v 1:6). He summarized this as follows:

Dialogue among believers of different religions and beliefs leads to an even deeper understanding that praying is a profoundly human action; prayer constitutes and elevates all human beings. How can we pray without ceasing? The Orthodox theologian Evdokimov wrote, 'It is not enough to have prayers to say and have rules and habits regarding them; we should be prayer incarnate. Our life should be liturgy, prayer concerns that most ordinary and everyday things.' Chiara Lubich emphasized that we can love (God) as our children and our hearts can be filled with the Holy Spirit of love and trust in our Father. Such confidence makes us speak to him everything that we are doing, our intentions and plans for the future.

There is a way to pray without ceasing that is accessible to everyone: you can do this by pausing before each action, focusing upon the intention and saying, 'For you'. It is a simple practice that transforms our activities from within and makes our entire lives into constant prayer. Giving thanks in all circumstances is an attitude that flows freely from gratitude and love for the One who silently sustains and accompanies individuals, peoples, history and entire cosmos. There is also gratitude for others who journey with us and who make us aware that we are not self-sufficient.

Rejoicing, praying and giving thanks are three actions that bring us closer to becoming as God sees and wants us to be and they enrich our relationships with him. We trust that 'the God of peace will sanctify us entirely.'

By living this way, we prepare to enter more deeply into the joy of Christmas; we contribute to making the world a better place and we become creators of peace in ourselves, our homes, our workplaces and the areas where we live. Nothing is more necessary and urgent today.