

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

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**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**

## **1 - 9 December 2018**

Saturday	1 Dec	6.30pm	<b>FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY:</b> Special Benefactor - Bridget Mannion	
Sunday	2 Dec	9.00am	Clare Muldoon RIP- Rosemary & Michael	<b><u>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</u></b>
		11.00am	Jane Wadham RIP- David & Family	<b>Afro-Caribbean Mass</b>
		3.00pm	<b>BAPTISM:</b> Elisha Adetoluwani Adebisi	
		5.00pm	<b>FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>	
Monday	3 Dec	9.00am	Philomena (Phyllis) Williams RIP - Mary Kelly	ST FRANCIS XAVIER
		2.00pm	- 3.00pm - <b>MEDUGORJE PRAYER GROUP</b>	
Tuesday	4 Dec	9.00am	John & Maureen Kelleher RIP - Kim Riley	
Wednesday	5 Dec	9.00am	Victor Lewis RIP (Ann.) - J O'Brien	
Thursday	6 Dec	9.00am	Mrs Ingarfill's Intention - Mrs Ingarfill	
Friday	7 Dec	8.15am	<b>Darent Valley Hospital: MASS</b> - Holy Souls	ST AMBROSE
		9.00am	Lucas James RIP	
		12 noon	Martin Ward RIP (Ann.) - F.M.	
		3.45pm	- 7.00pm <b>JUNIOR CLUB</b> (Cascades - swimming)	
Saturday	8 Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls <b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b> of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
		6.30pm	<b>FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY:</b> Vincent Jude Ounsworth RIP - Family	
Sunday	9 Dec	9.00am	James Thomas Cosgrave RIP- Mary, Amy, Vinc & Kate	<b><u>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</u></b>
		11.00am	<b>FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>	
		2.00pm	- 3.45pm <b>SYRO MALABAR MASS</b>	
		5.00pm	Deacon Patrick Moloney RIP (Ann.)	

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Every Sat from 10.30am -11.00am and 5.45pm - 6.15pm

**DAILY EXPOSITION:** Mon to Fri 8.30am - 9.00am, Sat 9.30-10am **TEA ROTA:** check your new rota

**CLEANING TEAMS:** 06.12.18 Team 'A' (J Dunsworth, R Doyle), 13.12.18 Team 'B' (T Hoey, Doris), 23.12.18 Team 'C' (**African Community**)

**ADVENT:** This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. It is a time of preparation. For this reason you have an attachment to the newsletter which the history and the practice of the SEASON of ADVENT is explained.

**SENIOR PARISHIONER'S CHRISTMAS DINNER 2018:** The Senior Parishioner's Christmas dinner is due to take place on Sunday 16th DECEMBER 2018 at 1.00pm. **INVITATION CARDS** are now available after each Mass or the Presbytery. (Please return completed cards to Fr Pat as soon as possible).

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** The Children's Choir is very enthusiastic. Definitely we have to give these children all the support they require. They need instrument support. Anyone who is willing to lend support will help these children to gain greater confidence. I am sure this will bring out the best in these children. We rather need this support very urgently.

**BIBLE CLUB:** I would like to remind parents that the Parish Programme for First Holy Communion is a two year programme. The first year the children attend the Bible Club. Over fifty children have been enrolled for the First Holy Communion programme. For a child to be put forward for the reception of the Sacrament the two years of formation must be honoured. Children who missed the first year of preparation must fulfill that obligation. I shall offer the necessary assistance to ensure that all would be first communicants have covered the two year programme.

**CONFIRMATION:** The time for applying for the enrollment of the Sacrament of Confirmation is still open. If you wish to be confirmed please fill the form and return to the Presbytery.

### **ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Admission to Reception Class for September 2019:**

If you have a child born between 01/09/14 and 31/08/15 you can apply now for a place in the Reception Class at St Anselm's Catholic Primary School. You will need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The SIF is available from the school office or you can download a copy from the school website [www.st-anselms.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-anselms.kent.sch.uk). All completed SIFs must be submitted to St Anselm's Catholic Primary school by the 15th January 2019. You will also need to complete a local authority online application via [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). The online application closes on 15th January 2019. Please note both forms must be completed. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**PERU:** Reminder: We are holding two draws to raise funds for the Peruvian Project. Draw number one will consist of the sale of tickets for a wheelbarrow consisting of alcohol. (Once the tickets are sold we will hold the draw). Draw number two is a Children's Draw of a rocking horse with goods attached to it. Tickets are on sale from this weekend.

(1) WHEELBARROW TICKETS: £5.00 EACH

(2) ROCKING HORSE: 50pence each

Last Week's Offertory: 25.11.18 - £937.15

Second Collection: £161.21 (Catholic Youth Services)

**ADVERT:**

***'Come back to me' – Teaching and Leading in Catholic Schools***

Are you a Catholic and a teacher, middle or senior leader in a community school or academy and are interested in moving to the Catholic educational sector? If so, the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission would like to invite you to one of two twilight sessions: Teaching in and Leading Catholic Schools. The session will include information about the uniqueness of Catholic schools and practical tips in relation to the application and selection process. Twilight run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.  
14th January 2019 – Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road SE1 6HR  
17th January 2019– St Francis Catholic Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB

With my thanks,

+Peter

**VACANCY:**

**The Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated person to the post of Chaplaincy Adviser.**

The successful applicant will:

- be a practising Catholic with prior experience in leading and developing chaplaincy provision in a school setting;
- play a significant role within a dynamic team dedicated to supporting Catholic life and Religious Education in our 169 Catholic schools and colleges;
- be willing to be based initially in Orpington, but will also be willing to relocate to an office based in central London (near Waterloo Station);
- hold a full drivers' licence as the Chaplaincy Adviser role involves visiting schools and colleges.
- This position might suit an existing school chaplain who is currently on a part-time contract but would like further work in a similar field.

This position is subject to a full DBS check.

If you are interested and would like to have an informal chat in regards for this post and/or an application pack, please contact Sharon Docherty, the Deputy Director: Religious Education and Spirituality via: [sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk) or 01689 829331

Closing date: 4:00pm Monday 10 December 2018

Interview date: Wednesday 19 December 2018  
All applications will be acknowledged.

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# The Liturgical Season of Advent



How did the celebration of Advent come about?

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls. (For instance, this year, the fourth Sunday of Advent is obviously on Sunday, and then that evening is Christmas Eve.)

The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581 designated that from Nov. 11 (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to England. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential bent.

The Church gradually more formalized the celebration of Advent. The *Gelasian Sacramentary*, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (d. 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I (d. 604) enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses. Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1095) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year.

Despite the sketchy history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning coming.) The *Catechism* stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming : When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviours first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming (No. 524).

Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back and are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Lords first coming into this world. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the *Creed* that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him.

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A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent wreath. (Interestingly, the use of the Advent wreath was borrowed from the German Lutherans in the early 1500s.) The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of Gods plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true

meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfill the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.