

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Paddy Keating; Sylvia Walsh; Brendan Rossiter; John Culkin; Patricia Wilkinson,
John McEnroe; Della McEnroe
and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2025

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Saturday 13th December

SUNDAY 14th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00 pm	Ints of Elaine Moriarty
	8.30 am	Paddy Keating (RIP)
	10.00 am	Sylvia Walsh (RIP)
	12 Noon	Brendan Rossiter (RIP - anniv)
	6.00 pm	The People of the Parish

Monday 15th **9.30 am** **John McEnroe (RIP)**

Tuesday 16th **9.30 am** **Ints of Dympna Gaffney**
 10.30 am **Tuesday Morning Prayer Group**
 2.00 pm **St Thomas's School Carols**

Wednesday 17th **No Mass today. Church is closed.**
O Sapientia

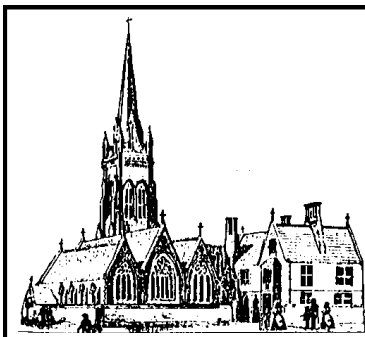
Thursday 18th **9.30 am** -
O Adonai **1.30pm** **Funeral Mass of Patricia Wilkinson**

Friday 19th **9.30 am** **John Culkin (RIP)**
O Radix Jesse

Saturday 20th **10.00 am** **The sick and housebound**
O Clavis David **10.30am** **Adoration and Benediction**

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.20AM ; 5.00 - 5.40PM
OR BY ARRANGEMENT**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
11AM - 3PM, (Closed on Wednesday)**



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
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Catechesis with Deacon Wayne

Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' which means 'Joy' or Rejoice'. The opening antiphon for today's liturgy asks us to Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

One of the most well-known Christmas carols is 'Joy to the world.' The words to this carol were written by Isaac Watts in 1719. At Christmas it will be sung all over the world. The music for it comes from Handel's 'Messiah.'

The first words that Mary hears when she is told that she is going to be the mother of Jesus are, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured.' Mary is to be filled with joy because God has called her by her name and her son will be the long awaited Messiah. When she goes to see Elizabeth her cousin, she breaks into song, singing out loudly, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour'. Mary does not keep her good news or her joy to herself, she freely shares them Elizabeth and the whole world. When the angels appeared to the shepherds they heard this life-giving message, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy.' The good news of Jesus' birth is meant not only for the shepherds, it continues to be good news for each of us today. Like Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, today each of us is asked to be a person of joy and we are asked to share that our joy with others. There are many people, some of whom we may even know, who have little reason to be joyful at this time of the year. As Mary did with Elizabeth, may we follow her example and share our joy with all those we meet during these last few days and weeks of Advent. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Deacon Wayne



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20

Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRCDT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER UNTIL AFTER THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY.

THE SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR THIS PERIOD IS ON THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARD, AND - WITH THE PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS - ON THE NOTICE BOARD AT THE SIDE DOOR OF CHURCH.

**A SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS
IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS
MONDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM**

Prepare for the coming Feast Days with a time of prayerful reflection and joyful singing of traditional Christmas Carols and some of the best Christmas music from the Catholic tradition.

**SOME GOOD ADVICE FOR THE DAYS OF ADVENT FROM
BISHOP ROBERT BARRON OF "WORD ON FIRE" WEBSITE**

"Be a person of steady and regular prayer; don't allow your relationship to the Lord to fall into disrepair. Avail yourself regularly of the sacrament of reconciliation; bring your sins before Christ and seek his forgiveness. Don't let grudges and resentments fester; keep your relationships in good repair.

Memento mori: following the Christian spiritual tradition, regularly "remember your death," it is the positive and healthy way to value and respect life.

FUNERAL MASS OF PATRICIA WILKINSON (RIP): The Funeral Mass is this week on Thursday 18th December at 1.30pm. If you are available please come to pray for her soul.

OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FROM THE HOLY LAND: Thanks for your support of The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy land (Bethlehem). This raised some £1900 for the Christians of the Holy Land. They write to us: *"We had an amazing and a great response from the*

parishioners, it was a blessing and a great help. Thank you again for all your help and support."

ADVENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TODAY: The Advent editions of "*Walk with me*" and "*My Day by Day*" are on sale today, with versions of "*My Day by Day*" for young and very young children too. Prices listed on the notice on the literature table. The Christmas and January editions will be put out for sale as soon as they arrive.

YEAR OF JUBILEE ICON: This week, CAFOD's Jubilee Icon is arriving in the Diocese. Over the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Icon will be travelling around the Diocese, visiting "Places of Hope" (Schools, Parishes, Chaplaincies, a Prison, St Alban's Cathedral and our own Westminster Cathedral). See poster in church for details of where to find the icon, and prayer cards by the doors of church.

The Year of Jubilee in our diocese officially ends on the Feast of the Holy Family, 28 December, but in Rome concludes on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, on 6 January.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: A reminder that the financial offerings made at Christmas go a long way to provide for the priestly ministry to the parish for the entire year ahead. ***Thank you for your generosity.*** Special envelopes for offerings are available in church and there is a dedicated option on the "tap-to-give" tablet. Envelopes can be added to the Offertory or returned to the Presbytery.

200 CLUB NOVEMBER RESULTS: There were 125 members in the November draw, the winners are: 95: £156.25 Molly Oliver; 68: £31.25 Elizabeth Mariano; 49: £31.25 Matteo Merlo; 14: £18.90 Laura Parreira; 141: £18.90 Jean White; 117: £18.90 Sheila Simpson. Congratulations to the winners. Prizes will be paid by bank transfer where we have details, or by cheque. ***You have to be in it to win it!***

200 CLUB NEWS UPDATE: Now is the time to join the 200 Club, or to renew your subscription. This is the Parish lottery - membership is £5 per month if paid by standing order or £60 for the year. Half the money raised is paid out in prizes, half goes to support parish activities. Last year, with 125 members, we have raised £7415 to date - half paid in prizes, half to support the parish. For details see the renewal forms in the racks by the side door.

The more members we have the bigger the prizes and the greater the support for the parish. If you already pay by standing order, thank you for all your support, no further action is needed. We have 125 members...but it's the 200 club!! So let's get some new members.