

## **This Sun (14<sup>th</sup> Dec) Readings**

**1st Reading –Isaiah 35: 1-6,10**  
**Psalm –146**  
**2nd Reading –James 5: 7-10**  
**Gospel – Matthew 11: 2-11**

## **Intentions**

**6pm** Christmas Blessings on Martin & Denise Smith  
**9am** The People of the Parish  
**11am** Christmas Blessings on Marie Alston

**Hymns for 11am Mass: 129, 617, 870, 585, 368, 522**

**Ent Antiphon** Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Psalm response: Come, Lord, and save us.**

**Gospel Acc: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.**

**Comm:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Mon 10am Feria**

**Tue 10am Feria**

**Wed 10am Feria**

**Thu 10am Feria**

**Fri**

**8pm Feria**

Breda D'Silva RIP

Christmas Blessings Margaret & Ed Whitworth

Christmas Blessings Les & Kim Boulton

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 2PM TO 10PM**

Private Intention

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 7PM TO 8PM**

Christmas Blessings Mike Griffin

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

**Friday 7.15pm to 7.45pm Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm**

## **Next Sun (21<sup>st</sup> Dec) Readings**

**1st Reading –Isaiah 7: 10-14**  
**Psalm –24**  
**2nd Reading –Romans 1: 1-7**  
**Gospel – Matthew 1: 18-24**

## **Intentions**

**6pm** Christmas Blessings on Bridie Kyne  
**9am** The People of the Parish  
**11am** Geraldine Killoran RIP

**Sunday Collection 7/12/25 – With grateful thanks for your generosity**

1<sup>st</sup> Coll GA £93, Non-GA £149.71; 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll Non-GA £99.02

## **Deaths and Anniversaries**

Please pray for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year: Michaela Hammond, Ada Boswell, Kathleen Wright, Patrick O'Brien, John McCann, Michelle Garrett, Benedict Samuel, Joan Judd, Hans Czechowski, Leonard Davis, Dick James, Teresa Skelton, William Baldwin, Rosemary O'Keeffe, Philip Robinson, Edgar Wilmot, Charles Barnes, Vilold John Blesky, James Robertson, Francis Henry, John Quinn, Albert Braden & Pat Massey. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

**Sick and Housebound:** We pray for all those who are sick and the housebound., and all those in our parish and their families. **St Simon Stock, keep them in your care**

**Mass Intentions:** Please make cheques payable to St Simon Stock Church. See website for details of how to make a bank transfer.

**100 Club (Parish Lottery)** - Cash Prizes to be won monthly! Annual Subscription £12 per number. Dec Winners £100 No 325 Chuks Uwaechia £50 No 242 Dermot Bassett £25 No 323 Chuks Uwaechia

**Parish Gift Aid Scheme:** If you wish your offertory and other donations to be gift-aided please contact Sandra Rocco on 07720 772089

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Of St Simon Stock



14<sup>th</sup> December 2025



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Yr A

Why do we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent with rose vestments? It's called *Gaudete* Sunday - 'Rejoice' - because we are meant to respond to a shift of mood in the liturgy, away from austerity and restraint to joy and delight, because the Saviour's advent, arrival, in our world is imminent. But why the colour rose? I must admit I don't know.

My own purely speculative thought is that rose is a subtle variation on purple and red. May be rose vestments are a reminder that the joy of Christmas is tinged with blood, touched by suffering- as well as reflecting the power and energy of the Holy Spirit who is to take this Good News of Jesus's birth to the entire world. When we know grace, when we are touched by the advent of the Lord, we know and feel joy.

Joy is a response to grace. We are always surrounded by the mystery of God's love which renews us in hope and brings us joy -provided we are patient with ourselves and learn to rejoice as God rejoices.

Finally, my thoughts and prayers go especially to the sick and the housebound, to all who have suffered bereavements, and to all those in need. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

**After all Masses this weekend is the last opportunity to buy raffle tickets for our lovely Christmas hampers. Tickets will be on sale after every weekend Mass. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December after 11am Mass.**

**There will be Mass in Polish on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4p**

**Collection at Christmas Masses: By diocesan rule, the Collection at all Christmas Masses is your gift to the priest of the parish.**

**Priest:** Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Martin Smith: [martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk).

**Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension**

Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925, Website. [www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk](http://www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk)

## **Parish News**

### **EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 3PM**

Last year we invited our different parish communities to sing a carol in their own language and we had Italian, Polish and Ghanaian carols. But it would be great to have more communities represented this year. If you would like to take part please contact Josie on 07915601076.

### **HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS**

These are available after all Masses from now on.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY / NATIVITY AT 6PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

Children's Liturgy every Sunday during 11am Mass during Advent and there will be a practice from 10.15am till 10.50am for the children's Nativity at the Christmas Eve 6pm Mass. If your child wishes to take part please come to the practices.

### **PRESENTS UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

We will be collecting children's presents under the tree again this year and they will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society at our Epiphany Carol Service.

### **BEREAVMENT SUPPORT GROUP (by appointment)**

We usually meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the hall. If you would like to come along please let us have your details through the church email and we will put you in touch with one of the members of the group to discuss arrangements for attending.

### **POST OF SACRISTAN FOR WEEKDAY MASSES**

We need a volunteer to be Sacristan for the weekday Masses. Fr will offer any training needed. A DBS will be required for this post.

### **PARISH OFFICE WORKING HOURS**

Josie works Wed 10am to 3pm and Fri 10.30am to 3.30pm. Tanya works Mon and Thurs 9am to 1pm. Sandra Rocco will be working in the office on Tuesdays 10am to 1pm.

### **NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS AT ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL**

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact Mr Simon D'Souza, Chair of Governors on [dsous054@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk](mailto:dsous054@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk) or his personal mobile number on 0792 5326 059.

### **DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH**

on Tues eves from 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 7pm-9pm for anyone who wishes to see him about anything Ring Josie or Tanya in the office to make an appointment.

### **POINSETTIAS**

## **Community Events**

Sun 14 Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection for Organist for Midnight Mass <b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS</b>
Mon 15 Dec	Rosary on Zoom at 6pm No Cubs until 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Keeping the Fires Burning 7.30 to 9pm in the Parish Hall</b>
Tue 16 Dec	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm <b>Advent Reflections by Fr Joseph in Parish Hall at 7pm</b>
Wed 17 Dec	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 2PM – 10PM</b>
Thu 18 Dec	No Beavers & Scouts until 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Adult choir at 8pm in the Church</b>
Fri 19 Dec	<b>ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE 7-8PM IN CHURCH</b>
Sat 20 Dec	<b>Legion of Mary 10am – 11:30am in Parish Office</b>
Sun 21 Dec	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection today <b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS</b> <b>Mass in Polish at 4pm</b>
Mon 22 Dec	<b>Rosary on Zoom at 6pm</b>
Tue 23 Dec	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm <b>DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH 7-9PM</b>
Wed 24 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: 6pm, 12midnight</b>
Thu 25 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: 9am, 11am</b>
Fri 26 Dec	<b>Mass - Feast of St Stephen, 10am</b>
Sun 28 Dec	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection today <b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS</b>

### **Prayer for Peace**

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world! You sent Your Son, the Prince of Peace, for the salvation of the world. We pray that the Peace of Christ will reign in the whole world. Please protect and send aid to those who are at-risk. We pray for peace - we pray for all who are working towards it and for all who are in danger from these conflicts. We pray for an end to violence and war, we pray for wisdom for all leaders who have a hand in this. Lord God, please help those in most need of your mercy. Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us! Saint Joseph,

Protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church, pray for us! Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, may your kingdom reign in all the world. Amen.