

This Sun (21st 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
 4pm Mass in Polish



Parish Of St Simon Stock



21st December 2025

4th Sunday Advent Yr A

Hymns for 11am Mass: 522, 686, 128, 585, 862, 684, 263

Ent Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm response: *Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.*

Gospel Acc: *Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. Alleluia.*

Comm: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Mon 10am Feria

Christmas Blessings on Lynne & Gordon Pearson

Tue 10am Feria

Christmas Blessings on Fr Joseph

Wed 6pm Christmas Eve

Rob & Tina Alston RIP

Midnight Mass

Paul Simpson RIP

Thu 9am Christmas Day

11am

Intentions of the Flood Family

The People of the Parish

Fri 10am St Stephen

William O'Farrell RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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

Next Sun (28th Dec) Readings

1st Reading –Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalm –128

2nd Reading –Colossians 3: 12-17

Gospel – Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Intentions

6pm Mary Barry RIP

9am The People of the Parish

11am Christmas Blessings April & David

Deaths and Anniversaries

Please pray for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year: Fr Bert White, Dymphna Crowe, Ivy Clout, Christine O'Toole, Mary Barry, George Kenny, Paul Simpson, Walter Kehoe, Bridget Swallow, Bill Hargadon, Sheila Ives, Mary Lafford, Elizabeth Delahunt, William O'Farrell, Jean Estibeiro, Mary Judge and Flo Brunetti. 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

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: “The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that “God is love” (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him”. You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025. Also, as you may have seen, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Richard Moth as the next Archbishop of Westminster.

Today at 9am Mass we welcome the Knights of St Columba Council 418, Chatham, who will be honouring the deceased brothers and widows of their fraternity.

Collection at Christmas Masses: By diocesan rule, the Collection at all Christmas Masses is your gift to the priest of the parish. Envelopes are available in the church lobby or card payments can be made on the machine.

A very big thank you to everybody for their generous offerings in the Red Missio Boxes throughout the year. **We collected, before gift aid, £2,187.06. VERY MANY THANKS to Adrian for helping us to achieve this brilliant total.** In 2026 the boxes will be collected at masses on 24/25 January; 25/26 April; 18/19 July; and 24/25 October. Sadly, we have lost a few box holders this year so if anyone would like a box please contact 01634 862877; or email: adrianhockney@btinternet.com and we will arrange to get one to you.

Epiphany Carol Service 4th 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. It would be great to do this again so if you would like to take part please contact Josie on 07915601076. WE REALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS AS SO FAR ONLY ONE COMMUNITY HAS COME FORWARDS.

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

Email: walderslade@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder

Parish News

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

If you wish to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one please leave them in the kitchen this weekend of 21st/22nd December with a card with your loved one's name.

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 2nd 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.

VACANCY FOR CARETAKER AT OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM CHURCH

Do you have strong DIY & cleaning skills; a flexible approach; problem-solving skills and an ability to work under pressure? The Caretaker position will become vacant at the end of December, and therefore we require a new person for the role, to start as soon as possible. For more info, speak with Fr Dennis & send CV to hr@rcaos.org.uk

DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH

On Tues eves from 13th Jan 7pm-9pm for anyone who wishes to see him about anything Ring Josie or Tanya in the office to make an appointment.

Community Events

Sun 21 Dec	No 2nd Collection CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS Mass in Polish at 4pm
Mon 22 Dec	Rosary on Zoom at 6pm
Tue 23 Dec	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH 7-9PM
Wed 24 Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: 6pm, 12midnight
Thu 25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: 9am, 11am
Fri 26 Dec	Mass - Feast of St Stephen, 10am
Sun 28 Dec	Crib Offerings to Catholic Children's Society
Mon 29 Dec	No Rosary on Zoom until 5th January
Tue 30 Dec	No Evening Prayer on Zoom until 6th January DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH 7-9PM
Wed 31 Dec	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament at 8pm then Mass at 9pm to end the Year 2025
Sun 4 Jan	No 2nd Collection today

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.