

## This Sun (28<sup>th</sup> 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

**Hymns for 11am Mass: 652, 305, 585, 66, 643, 630**

**Ent Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**Psalm response:** *Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.*

**Gospel Acc:** *Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia.*

**Comm:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Mon 10am St Thomas of Canterbury

Tue 10am Christmas Octave

Wed 10am Christmas Octave

7-8pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass at 8pm

Thu 10am Mary Holy Mother of God

Fri 10am Feria

Alfred Connell RIP

Vera Guezenec RIP

Mary Melling RIP

Seasonal Blessings on Fr Bart Dudek

With Thanks to Les & Kim Boulton

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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

## Next Sun (4<sup>th</sup> Jan) Readings

1st Reading –Sirach 24: 1-2, 8-12

Psalm –147

2nd Reading –Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18

Gospel – John 1: 1-18

## Intentions

6pm Health & Wellbeing of Alfredo & Tricia De Vergori

9am The People of the Parish

11am New Year Blessings on Fr Pawel Sobol

## Sunday Collection 14/12/25 – With grateful thanks for your generosity

1<sup>st</sup> Coll GA £71, Non-GA £152.95; 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll Non-GA £39.36

## Deaths and Anniversaries

Please pray for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year: Joe Peg, Josephine Newman, Octavia Jedrzejewska, Allan Westbrook, Dorothy Burfield, Geraldine Killoran, Olutayo Olukoya, Alfred Connell, Michael Allen, Edward McPhillips, David Collins, Ryan Mills, James Eames, Mary Melling, Kate Avery, Kathleen Drumm, Richard Pike & Marjorie Pike. 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



# Parish Of St Simon Stock



28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Holy Family Yr A

The parish Clergy and the Pastoral Team wish everyone - visitors, friends and particularly parishioners, a very happy and holy time at this season of Christmas.

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV has appointed Canon Gerard Bradley an Auxiliary Bishop for our Archdiocese of Southwark. Archbishop John Wilson is so grateful to Pope Leo for his kindness in providing for the mission and care of the people and communities of our Archdiocese. Bishop-Elect Gerard's Episcopal Ordination will be on Monday 2 February 2026, the Feast of the Presentation, at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, and more details will be forthcoming in due course.

Finally, Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of the Holy Family 2025 will be read at all Masses on Saturday/Sunday, 27/28 December 2025. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

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.** 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](mailto:adrianhockney@btinternet.com) and we will arrange to get one to you.

## Epiphany Carol Service 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. 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 PLEASE.**

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

Email: [walderslade@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:walderslade@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder

Primary schools St Benedict's

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700

St Thomas More

Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701

## Parish News

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy resumes fortnightly from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 11am Mass

### PRESENTS UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE

We are 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. Please do not wrap them as the Children's Society distributes them throughout the year to those in need.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:hr@rcaos.org.uk)

### DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH

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

### BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS 2026

Baptism preparation sessions will run on Saturday mornings, 10.00 – 13.00 approx. on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like your child to be baptised please let the office know which session you will be attending. Baptisms may take place by arrangement with Fr Joseph or Deacon Martin, and can be done during Mass or at a separate ceremony. Expectant parents can also attend the baptism sessions and we look forward to seeing you and welcoming our new members of this community at St Simon Stock.

## Community Events

Sun 28 Dec	Crib Offerings to Catholic Children's Society
Mon 29 Dec	No Rosary on Zoom until 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Tue 30 Dec	No Evening Prayer on Zoom until 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Wed 31 Dec	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament at 8pm then Mass at 9pm to end the Year 2025
Sat, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Legion of Mary Meeting at 10am in the Parish Office
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Epiphany Carol Service at 3pm
Mon 5 Jan	Beavers in the parish Hall 5.45pm to 7.15pm Rosary on Zoom at 6.30pm RCIA in the Parish Office at 7.30pm
Tue 6 Jan	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6.30pm
Wed 7 Jan	ADORATION 2PM TO 10PM
Thu 8 Jan	Cubs & Scouts in the parish hall 5.45pm to 9pm Adult choir at 8pm in the Church
Fri 9 Jan	St Thomas More School Mass at 9.30am Confirmation in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm.
Sat 10 Jan	FIRST RECONCILIATIONS AT 11AM IN THE CHURCH
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Legion of Mary Meeting at 10am in the Parish Office
Sun 11 Jan	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection today CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS

### 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.