

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM PREPARATION

These sessions take place regularly throughout the year. Please contact the office for details and to book. The next Baptism session will be **in January 2025 (date tbc) at 7pm via Zoom.**

RECONCILIATION

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we encounter God’s love for us through the gift of forgiveness, pardon and peace. This Sacrament is regularly available in church on Saturdays after the 9.30 Mass or on request.

Children are introduced to **Reconciliation** during the year in which they make their first Holy Communion and are then invited to celebrate this sacrament of God's healing.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

Our First Holy Communion programme for 2024-25 is now underway. Please pray for all our First Holy Communion children, their catechists and their families.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation programme is now also underway. Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare for this Sacrament, which they will receive next year at Arundel Cathedral.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SAT 14 DEC	9:30	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR (MEMORIAL) NO MASS
	10:00	NO ADORATION & NO RECONCILIATION
	16.45	ITALIAN MASS
	18:00	PARISHIONERS
SUN 15 DEC	9:15	THIRD ‘GAUDETE’ SUNDAY OF ADVENT BERNARD & DAISY O’NEILL RIP
	11:15	BETTY BRAGANZA RIP
MON 16 DEC	9:30	ROY WHITE RIP
TUE 17 DEC	18:30	ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION
	19:30	PAT & FRANK MITCHELL RIP
WED 18 DEC	9:30	ANNA GOES RIP
	10:00	ROSARY
THU 19 DEC	NO MASS	NO MASS
FRI 20 DEC	9:30	MAUREEN & BILL DODDS’ INTENTIONS
	10:00	DIVINE MERCY
SAT 21 DEC	9:30	JOE & SARAH HEGARTY RIP
	10:00	ADORATION & RECONCILIATION
	16.45	ITALIAN MASS
	18:00	MICHAEL MONK RIP (BIRTHDAY)
SUN 22 DEC	9:15	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, ‘O REX GENTIUM’ ANN WEBB RIP
	11:15	ADAM CHUTTER RIP (ANNIVERSARY)



ST ERCONWALD’S NEWSLETTER

14-15 DECEMBER 2024

Dear brothers and sisters.

We have reached the midpoint of Advent, and Christmas is approaching quickly. On this Sunday, known as Gaudete Sunday, the Church encourages us to celebrate. Saint Paul’s Letter to the Philippians says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” The first word of the Latin text of that passage is “Gaudete,” which means “Let everyone rejoice.” That is why this Sunday is traditionally called “Gaudete Sunday.”

In the Gospel for this Sunday, the people ask John the Baptist, “What ought we to do?” In reply, the Baptist gives very practical advice: give to those in need, don’t cheat others, don’t bully anyone, be honest, and be content with your life. That is a very clear teaching for all times and, as ever, crucial in our day and age. Especially now, as we are preparing for Christmas and reaching out to those who are in need of our help and support. May God bless you all during this time of Advent with prayers Fr. Ruslan.

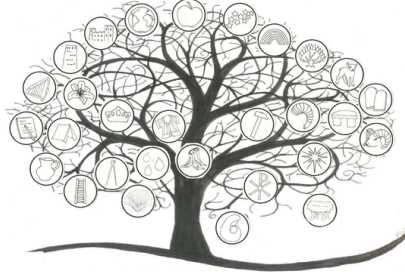
With prayers and all blessings
Fr Ruslan
Parish Priest

WELCOME!

If you’re new to the parish and would like to find out more about what is on, please pick up a copy of our welcome leaflet.

ADVENT ACTIVITY

Looking for an advent activity with your children? Making a decorated Jesse tree is a wonderful way to explore the season of Advent and the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The Jesse tree represents Jesus’ family tree. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1, in which Jesus is referred to as a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, the father of King David. The diocese has a lovely leaflet on how to set up a Jesse tree here: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/jesse-tree-and-crib>



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PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Tue - Fri 10:00 -13:30

WEBSITE
www.sterconwalds.org.uk

PARISH SCHOOLS

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL
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PARISH BANK DETAILS
SORT CODE 40-05-20
ACCOUNT NO 01126393

DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:
RCD A&B ST ERCONWALD’S
WALTON ON THAMES.

You can also donate in church using the DONA device or the QR codes in the pews. Please use Gift Aid if you can. Thank you for all your help and financial contributions!

DEAR PARISHIONERS

This section of our newsletter is for those in need of our prayers, whether sick, housebound or just in need of extra prayer. If you would like your name or someone you know to be added to the list, please let the office know. If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, please seek their permission first. If you are sick or unwell and would like Fr Ruslan to know but not have your name in the newsletter, just let us know.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS

Aman Allos, Teresa Azouz, Roger Blishen, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle, Katherine Cawley, Trish Claxton, Rose Collins, David Cox, Thérésè Crumpler, James De Leons-Hopkins, Maureen and Bill Dodds, Julia Donaldson, Mary Edenborough, June Ellis, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Michael and Cathy Flynn, Carole Frost, Carmen Galanty, Sophie Giannini, Franky Goes, Gloria Gowen, Ann Griffin, the Hansford family, Yvonne and Michael Johnson, Karen Lane, John Lydon, Rita McGloin, Oscar Menezes, Christian Misuraca, Sarah Mitchell, Maureen Moriarty, Colleen Murphy, Louise Nettleton, Arlo Nolan, Ben Piltsher, Shirley Rhodhes, Deborah Russell, Evie Sagun, Anna Sartori, Michael Spears, Michelle Thomas, Eileen White, Angela Widdup, Dina Yates.

HOME VISITS

Fr Ruslan would like to meet parishioners who are too poorly to come to church at different times throughout the year in their homes. Do reach out to Susana in the office, Ann Meehan or Fr Ruslan so we can schedule visits.

PARISH NEWS/EVENTS

NEWSLETTER /PARISH OFFICE

Please note that next week's newsletter is the last one until the new year as we'll be taking a break after Christmas! If you have any items please send them in by Thursday at 1pm to the comms team: comms.sterconwalds@gmail.com. The parish office will also be closed from 23rd of December to 7th January (emails will be monitored sporadically).

COME TO HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS this Saturday 14 December from 10am-12pm.

YOUTH-LED MASS. Young people from our parish are participating in our 6pm Mass **this Saturday 14 December**, meeting afterwards in **the hall for pizza! Do join us!**

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no tea and coffee after the 9.15 Mass this weekend as we'll be setting up for the parish Christmas lunch.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Advent penitential service will take place this **Wednesday 18 December at 7.00pm** (not 7.30 as previously mentioned) followed by a **post-retreat social and reflection in the hall**. Do come along as part of your preparations for the coming of Our Lord.

CELEBRATION OF CAROLS AND READINGS

Join us next **Sunday 22 December** at 3pm for a celebration followed by refreshments.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM OUR DIVERSE PARISH. Have you looked at the map in the porch??! Is there a sticker on the country you're from? Do add one if not, and write Christmas wishes in your own language for us to display.. How many nationalities are represented in our parish??!

ADVENT OUTREACH. As part of our Advent outreach, you can donate to our local **foodbank** (there's a container in the porch). In addition, as a parish we shall be focussing on babies and children, and women facing unexpected pregnancies. For our overseas outreach, we invite children in our parish to write to children in an **orphanage in Ukraine**. A **box for cards** is by the altar. Donations will provide the children with a Christmas lunch. Local support will go to **Life**. Life is a UK charity for women facing unexpected pregnancy. Life has two houses locally for young women and their babies who would otherwise be homeless. A **Giving Tree for Life** has been set up in the porch. The tree has tags with gifts needed. **Please take a tag if you can, purchase the gift on it, and place the gift under the tree or on the altar** as soon as possible so we can get them to where they are needed!

CAFOD is making its annual Advent appeal, also focussing on families in Ukraine, through its **World Gifts** that benefit those who need our help the most. These can be ordered online now, or through a paper catalogue (copies in the porch), or by phoning CAFOD.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Dear parishioners, a gentle reminder that parish priests do not get paid a salary and are remunerated from mass stipends and from Easter and Christmas offerings. Christmas offerings will go to Fr Ruslan as your personal gift. If you plan to donate via bank transfer/DONA, please use the ref 'Christmas Offering'. Thank you.

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is planning for the new year when we celebrate the **Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope**. In addition to focussing on the regular Church seasons (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Season of Creation, Advent, etc), our focus this year will be on how we can live as pilgrims, as people of faith and hope. Some **events/activities planned** are: a three-week course in the context of the Jubilee year starting in January, a Divine Mercy retreat (in Lent), pilgrimages to Walsingham and Arundel, a one-day retreat leading on from our recent weekend retreat and, hopefully, a walk along part of the Pilgrim's Way. We'll also be participating as a parish in Diocesan-wide events, including the **Festival of Hope on 20 September**. Details to follow in due course.

Plans are also moving forward as the Steering Group for the new **Weybridge Parish** (currently all parishes in the Weybridge Deanery) continues to meet monthly, to discern how to implement Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan for our Diocese. The group is discerning, along with all clergy in our deanery, on the Vision for the new parish, which we shall be sharing with parishioners in the new year.

DIOCESAN/OTHER NEWS/EVENTS

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

The diocese is recruiting for the next intake for our Ministry of Consolation training. If you are interested in joining our team, our next training course will run on Wednesdays from **8 Jan-12 Feb 2025** via Zoom (9.30am-1.30 pm). For further details please visit the diocesan website.

DAY OF REFLECTION - MINISTERS OF THE WORD

On Saturday **25 January** the diocese will be holding a day of reflection, led by Bishop Richard, for Ministers of the Word from 11am-4pm at St Wilfrid's parish centre in Burgess Hill. Sign up here: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

FLAME (<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame>) is an inspiring biannual youth congress next held on **15 March 2025** for 10,000 young people at Wembley Arena, full of music, powerful speakers and a chance to meet other young Catholics from around the country. We'd love to take young people from our parish to go with the diocesan group. If you're interested in going, **Please contact the parish office** as soon as possible.

JUBILEE FOR YOUTH - PILGRIMS OF HOPE - ROME 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate the special Jubilee year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of hope. 25 July - 4 August. Full details on the diocesan website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Please send any newsletter/website/porch/social media items or any amendments to: comms.sterconwalds@gmail.com by Thursdays at 2pm for inclusion/uploading as appropriate. All feedback is welcome.

SAFEGUARDING

If you wish to work with children or vulnerable adults in our parish please contact Tina O'Kelly, our Safeguarding Rep for volunteers: tina@okellynet.com. See our website for further details.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are such a huge part of our parish and we would love to welcome anyone who wishes to get involved as we grow together as a faith community and reach out to those around us. For details: <https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/get-involved.html>

**YOUR OFFERINGS
PLATE COLLECTIONS FOR
08.12.24: £324.44**

**STANDING ORDERS
FOR NOVEMBER: £4706.67**

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATES

18 DEC: PENITENTIAL SERVICE
22 DEC: CAROL CELEBRATION
15 MAR: FLAME CONGRESS
5 JULY: RETREAT
20 SEP: FESTIVAL OF HOPE