



30 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER 2024

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 on Wednesday 11 December 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.

Table with columns for date, time, and mass intention. Includes entries for SAT 30 NOV, SUN 01 DEC (First Sunday of Advent), MON 02 DEC, TUE 03 DEC (St Francis Xavier Memorial), WED 04 DEC, THU 05 DEC (No Mass), FRI 06 DEC, SAT 07 DEC (St Ambrose Memorial), and SUN 08 DEC (Second Sunday of Advent).

WEEKLY EVENTS

TODDLERS GROUP - Play and Praise continues on Fridays during term-time from 10-11.30. Sign up in advance and check dates here (the last one before Christmas will be on 13 December): https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/dnp0lyul.

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, a time of waiting for the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ This Sunday, we begin the holy season of Advent and a new Liturgical Year. Throughout Advent, we will hear the message: "Prepare your hearts, for our God is sending a Saviour, Emmanuel," which means "God-with-us." A key theme of Advent is our strong belief in God's presence among us. Our faith calls us to live active lives characterised by prayer, participation in the Church's liturgy and sacraments, and willing service to one another. This season of Advent summons us once more to this vital mission: to encounter the God who arrives in our lives each day.

During this time, we particularly reflect on Christ's birth in Bethlehem, which took place over 2000 years ago and was meant to redeem humanity. Both Advent and our yearly Christmas festivities aim to deepen our commitment to Christ, our Saviour, as we remember how God became one of us to grant us salvation. May God bless us all as we begin this time of Advent. With prayers and all blessings Fr Ruslan Parish Priest

Full details of all of our Advent events and activities are in our Advent leaflet and summarised in this newsletter below. Please take a copy from the porch or visit the dedicated page for Advent on our website. This weekend, our welcome will be handing out a prayer card for Advent, do take a copy.

PARISH RETREAT

THANK YOU to all who supported, whether through hosting, preparing food, preparing the church, attending and praying. Many of us who attended the retreat we still be digesting and reflecting on its impact on us. We heard some powerful stories from our retreat leaders on how God has been active in their lives in the darkest of times, never giving up on them. We heard how God loves us unconditionally and how all of us have a role to play in our communities. We prayed for the Holy Spirit to be with us, and reflected on how the Holy Spirit comes to 'transform everything that is lukewarm'. Some of us received individual prayer, and were blessed by the wisdom of those praying with us. For those who were unable to attend, or if you'd like to revisit some of the sessions including the testimonies, the website will be updated in the next few days.

So what next?

There will be a reflection evening in the hall after the penitential service on Wednesday 18 December, and follow up sessions as we prepare and reflect on the Jubilee year on Wednesdays in January. if you'd like to feedback or have any suggestions, please do talk to Fr Ruslan, or any member of the Parish Pastoral Council, in person or via ppc.walton@abdiocese.org.

PARISH PRIEST Fr Ruslan Kurdiymov EMAIL: ruslan.kurdiymov@abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH DEACON Deacon Joseph Côté EMAIL: micheljoseph.cote@abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE TEL: 01932 221 101 MOB: 07494 749 833 EMAIL: walton@abdiocese.org.uk

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

WEBSITE www.sterconwalds.org.uk

PARISH SCHOOLS

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL Arch Road, Hersham Surrey, KT12 4QT TEL: 01932 222536 EMAIL: office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk

SALESIAN SCHOOL Guildford Road, Chertsey Surrey, KT16 9LU TEL: 01932 582520 EMAIL: info@salesian.surrey.sch

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, Thérèse 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 Rhodes, 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.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY/CHANGES IN THE CHURCH

Some of you may remember that three years ago, all members of the Catholic Church globally were asked to complete a survey as part of a three-year process on ‘**synodality**’, and at St Erconwald’s we participated in that survey, submitting feedback to our diocese on the question ‘What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together?’ The concept of synodality emphasises listening to each individual person as a member of the Church, to understand how God might be speaking to all of us. The Bishops and other members of the Church have just concluded their final meeting (synod) in Rome, and the **Final Document**, approved by Pope Francis is now part of the authentic teachings of the Church. It calls for structural changes, including stronger Parish Pastoral Councils, more lay and women participation in the Church. Bishops are now tasked with implementing the changes in their dioceses. There’s a zoom meeting on **4 December** to discuss the final document. Full details in the porch/on the website. Read the document here: www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG—Documento-finale_traduzione-di-lavoro.pdf.

The document’s implementation may have particular relevance at St Erconwald’s as we journey together to become a part of a larger parish as a Community of communities.

PARISH NEWS/EVENTS

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 new welcome leaflet on the table in the porch.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

All parish readers will be specially commissioned at all masses this weekend. During training last week, we learned how there are actually two altars - the altar for the part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the ambo -specifically for the Ministry of the Word. We are now looking at how announcements and anything not relating to the Ministry of the Word should be delivered, to reflect the dignity of the Ministry and the ambo.

CONFIRMATION MASS OF ENROLMENT

It will take place during the 9.15 Mass next weekend (8/12). Please pray for our candidates as they prepare for this important sacrament.

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 will be in the porch. Any donations received (via Dona) will go towards providing the children with a Christmas lunch. Local support will go to Life. Life is a UK charity for women facing unexpected pregnancy, and has two houses locally for young women and their babies who would otherwise be homeless. **A Giving Tree for Life** will be set up on the altar **next weekend**. The tree will have tags of gifts needed. Please take a tag if you’d like to purchase a gift, and place the gift under the tree.

CAFOD is making its annual Advent appeal through **World Gifts**: Looking for gifts that suit everybody? Gifts that benefit those who need our help the most? Eco-friendly, postable and a perfect match with the true meaning of the Christian Christmas, CAFOD World Gifts can be ordered online now, or through a paper catalogue (copies in the porch), or by phoning CAFOD.

Walk with me

All parishioners are encouraged and invited to participate in “Walk with me”, which is a **personal prayer and scripture journey** for the season of Advent, with daily readings and reflections, taking us on a journey to Christmas and to the Jubilee year ‘Pilgrims of Hope 2025. There are booklets for adults and separate ones aimed at primary school children. Please take a booklet from the back of church, and do join in - either on your own or in your families.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM OUR DIVERSE PARISH

Do place your Christmas wishes on the map in the porch and a sticker on the map - how many nationalities are represented in our parish??!

COME TO HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS on Saturday 14 December - details to follow.

YOUTH-LED MASS

The next mass led by the young people of our parish will take place on **Saturday 14 December at 6pm**, followed by pizza! Please contact Fr Ruslan if you’d like to participate/attend.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Advent penitential service will take place on **Wednesday 18 December at 7.30pm** followed by a post-retreat social and reflection in the hall.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

All are invited to our Parish traditional Christmas lunch on **Sunday 15 December** from 12.15-2.30pm. Places are limited so please do **sign up** in the porch as soon as you can!

CELEBRATION OF CAROLS AND READINGS

Join us on **Sunday 22 December** at 3pm for a celebration followed by refreshments. If you’d like to help, please contact John Joyce via the parish office.

DIOCESAN/OTHER NEWS/EVENTS

DEADLINE EXTENDED: CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL is currently advertising for a fixed term learning support assistant. Contact the school and apply either via www.eteach.com or the school website.

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.

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>

PLATE OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS FOR 24-11-24: £306.69
SECOND COLLECTION FOR ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL: £144.32

STANDING ORDERS FOR NOVEMBER: TBC

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATES:

14 DEC: CHURCH DECORATING
14 DEC: YOUTH-LED MASS
15 DEC: CHRISTMAS LUNCH
18 DEC: PENITENTIAL SERVICE
22 DEC: CAROL CELEBRATION
15 MAR: FLAME CONGRESS