

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 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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SAT 07 DEC	9:30	ST AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR (MEMORIAL) MASS
	10:00	ADORATION & RECONCILIATION
	16.45	ITALIAN MASS
	18:00	PARISHIONERS
SUN 08 DEC	9:15	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT NICOLETA LANZISERA RIP
	11:15	IN THANKSGIVING FOR KIARRA CARMEN ON HER 18TH BIRTHDAY
MON 09 DEC	9:30	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (SOLEMNITY) HENRY AND FRANCES O’CONNOR RIP MASS
TUE 10 DEC	18:30	ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION
	19:30	WELLBEING OF THE GONZALEZ FAMILY
WED 11 DEC	9:30	WELLBEING OF THE WALT FAMILY
	10:00	ROSARY
THU 12 DEC	NO MASS	NO MASS
FRI 13 DEC	9:30	ST LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR (MEMORIAL) MASS
	10:00	DIVINE MERCY
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



ST ERCONWALD’S NEWSLETTER

7/8 DECEMBER 2024

Dear brothers and sisters.

We are currently in a particularly dark time of year. The mornings are dim, and the evenings plunge into deeper darkness, with light feeling scarce as we approach the year's shortest day. Today, we proudly lit our second Advent candle to stand strong against this darkness. Despite the days growing shorter, our Advent wreath shines with remarkable brilliance. Its light serves as a powerful inspiration as we prepare for the grand celebration of Christmas—the birthday of the true light of the world. With the birth of Jesus, the light of God’s love decisively illuminates our lives and banishes all darkness

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.

As we move closer to Christmas, we move closer to the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica and the start of the Jubilee year, ‘**Pilgrims of Hope**’. Pope Francis asks us to be signs of hope for others, putting our faith into action through caring for our world and supporting our sisters and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty.

We know that the world is facing many of these challenges... but many of us across the globe will join together in the Jubilee year, to bring the light of hope and the message of God’s love to every part of the world!

We can all be Pilgrims of Hope, whether we journey far or not. Pope Francis says:

“By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope...and reawaken in every heart the joy and the courage to embrace life to the full.”

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.

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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!
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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, Theresè 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

THANK YOU to all those who came along to the Advent wreath-making workshop last Saturday! We learned how everything we place on the wreath is symbolic of an aspect of Jesus' life and his never-ending and unconditional love for us all, and how we can pray with hope, faith, joy and love as we wait for Christ's coming. And a big thank you to those who provided the Advent activity packs for children last weekend. 96 packs were handed out!!

CONFIRMATION MASS OF ENROLMENT. We welcome our confirmation candidates this weekend as they are formally enrolled in the programme at the 9.15 Mass. Please pray for them as they prepare for this important sacrament.

WALK WITH ME. All parishioners are encouraged and invited to participate in "Walk with me", with daily readings and reflections, taking us on a journey to Christmas and to the Jubilee year 'Pilgrims of Hope 2025. Additional booklets are in the porch, do taken one - it's never too late to start if you missed the first week!

TODDLERS PLAY AND PRAISE. This coming **Friday 13 December** from 10-11.30am it's the final toddlers play and praise of advent - there'll be Advent activities, stories and carols! Do come along. Sign up here: <https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/gcqq5rwk>. The group will start up again on Fridays in the new year.

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

YOUTH-LED MASS. Young people from our parish will participate in our 6pm Mass next Saturday 14 December, meeting afterwards in the hall for pizza! Please contact Fr Ruslan if you'd like to participate/ attend.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM OUR DIVERSE PARISH. Do place your Christmas wishes on the map (in your native language) in the porch and a sticker on the map on the country you are from - 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 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. 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 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.

HELP NEEDED

Is there is anyone in the parish with a van who might be able to drive a lady in her wheelchair to and from from the **Christmas lunch on 15 December?** She would be helped into her wheelchair by her carers. Please contact the office.

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!

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.

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

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

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
01.12.24: £228.09**

**STANDING ORDERS
FOR NOVEMBER: £4706.67**

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