



ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER

21-22 DECEMBER 2024

Dear sisters and brothers,

The heartwarming story of Jesus Christ's birth reminds us that God chose to be among us, offering us closeness and salvation from our sins. Jesus truly came as a precious gift, and this beautiful message is as relevant today as ever. As we joyfully celebrate the Nativity, we express our heartfelt gratitude to God for our countless blessings—especially the gift of life, our families, our faith community, and our wonderful friends and neighbours. I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for being such a wonderful blessing to our parish and sharing your generous gifts of time, talent, and thoughtful financial support. A special shout-out goes to the PPC and all the amazing volunteers in our ministries for their enthusiastic dedication to serving our parish's diverse needs. Wishing you a joyous and blessed Christmas season! May your holidays be filled with happiness and may the New Year bring you abundant blessings. Merry Christmas to you all!

With prayers and all blessings
Fr Ruslan
Parish Priest

WELCOME to all who are joining us this Christmas season, whether you've come back from a while away, or are new to the parish. **We're glad you're here!** Do fill in a **parish registration form** if you haven't done so recently (copies available in the porch and online) and drop off in the parish office/in the sacristy. It'll help us serve you better.

This is the last newsletter until the new year. The parish teams wish everyone a very **blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year**, whether you are staying at home or travelling to be with friends and family. The **parish office** will also be **closed from 23 December to 7 January** (emails will be monitored sporadically).

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. All 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.



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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)
MON 23 DEC	9:30	23 DECEMBER IN GREATER ADVENT, 'O EMMANUEL' ANN & STANLEY BROWN RIP
TUE 24 DEC	15:00	CHRISTMAS EVE (SOLEMNITY) IN THANKSGIVING FOR SERGIO & ELIZABETH DE PAULA
	18:00	VIGIL MASS OF THE NATIVITY JOHN RYAN RIP
	22:00	MIDNIGHT MASS FRANKY & VENITA'S SPECIAL INTENTIONS
WED 25 DEC	9:15	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS(SOLEMNITY) BERNARD & DAISY O'NEILL RIP
	11:15	ARNANDO FERNANDES RIP
	12:30	ITALIAN MASS
	13:30	POLISH MASS
THU 26 DEC	9:30	ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR (FEAST) ANNE RICHARDSON RIP
FRI 27 DEC	9:30	ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST (FEAST) JAMES MCCAULEY RIP
	10:00	DIVINE MERCY
SAT 28 DEC	9:30	THE HOLY INNOCENTS MARTYRS (FEAST) GOOD HEALTH OF DEBORAH RUSSELL
	10:00	ADORATION & RECONCILIATION
	16.45	ITALIAN MASS
	18:00	PARISHIONERS
SUN 29 DEC	9:15	THE HOLY FAMILY (FEAST) MASS
	11:15	BETTY BRAGANZA RIP

PARISH PRIEST
Fr Ruslan Kurdiumov
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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
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office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk

SALESIAN SCHOOL
Guildford Road, Chertsey Surrey, KT16 9LU
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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!

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 8th January 2025 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.

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, Antonio Lanzisera, 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!

Thank you to all who worked so hard welcoming parishioners to our **annual parish Christmas lunch** last Sunday, cooking, giving lifts, and being present! Another **thank you** to all who **decorated our church** ready for Christmas. A huge **thank you** to the children who have written **Christmas cards** for the elderly and housebound of our parish, and for children in Ukraine. Your cards are wonderful! Finally, **thank you** to those who came to the **youth mass** and to Fr Ruslan for providing the delicious pizza afterwards!

CELEBRATION OF CAROLS AND READINGS

Please join us this **Sunday 22 December** at 3pm for a celebration followed by refreshments in the hall.

ADVENT OUTREACH

As part of our Advent outreach, you can donate to our local **foodbank** (there's a container in the porch). We're also collecting for an **orphanage in Ukraine** run by a friend of Fr Ruslan. Donations will provide the children with a Christmas lunch.

The **Giving Tree for Life** in the porch still has some tags on it 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 **by Monday** so we can get them to where they are needed on time!

CAFOD is making its annual Advent appeal, also focussing on families in Ukraine, through its **World Gifts**. Looking for a last-minute gift? You can still order them online or by phoning CAFOD.

CHRISTMAS WISHES REFLECTING 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. Take a look and see how many nationalities are represented in our parish!

JUBILEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica, marking the start of the Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It is an invitation to renew our hope, a hope from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are. Pope Francis says:

"Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life."

Even if we can't travel far, the Jubilee Year will still be a journey for all of us - a journey of hope. Starting on **Weds 15 January**, we shall be holding two **4-session series of reflections** on the meaning of this special year, and how it calls us to reset, renew our faith and commit to building a fairer world where all people may flourish. You can either come on Wednesday mornings from 10-11.15am, or in the evening from 7.45-9.15pm in the parish hall. **Please go to our website and look for Parish Calendar and follow the link to the signing page.**

YOUTH MASSES

Youth masses will start again in January; keep an eye out for announcements and speak to Fr Ruslan if you'd like to be involved.

HELP PLEASE!

We'd like to start a drop in coffee morning once a month in the New Year during the week and need a few people to get this going - it'd likely be after morning Mass on Mondays or Wednesdays. Please contact Lucy Jardine on ppc.walton@abdiocese.org.uk or the parish office.

Living as Pilgrims in the Jubilee Year

As we enter the Jubilee Year, the Parish Pastoral Council invites everyone to journey together in faith and hope. Alongside observing the Church seasons (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and more), we'll explore what it means to live as pilgrims through various events and activities:

- A four-week series of reflections starting in January (see sign-up details)
- A Divine Mercy retreat during Lent
- Pilgrimages to Washingham and Arundel
- A walk along part of the Pilgrim's way

We'll also participate in Diocesan-wide events, including the Festival of Hope on 20 September. Stay tuned for more details.

Are you a parent of a young child?

The Parish Pastoral Council is considering launching a Faith Parenting course in the new year to help parents nurture their child's spiritual growth. If you'd be interested in this, keep an eye out for more details soon—we'd love to hear from you!

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

Young adults from all over the world aged 18-30 will be gathering in Rome from 28 July-4 August to celebrate the special Jubilee year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join other like-minded people as part of the Diocesan group as we travel to Rome, with opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of hope. Full details are 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 15.12.24: £323.51

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: DAY RETREAT
20 SEP: FESTIVAL OF HOPE