



## Parish Newsletter **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C 2024** **“Gaudete Sunday”**

**Mass Intentions 14<sup>th</sup> December – 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)**

**St Thomas More (STM)**

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 16) Agnes Ruby (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Steve Daniel (Thanksgiving, Birthday) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 17)	8.30am	Patrick Doyle (RIP, Ann.)
Monday	7.00pm	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 18) People of the Parish		
Tuesday	9.00am	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 19)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Jan and Brian Ellingham (Wedding Ann.) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 20)
Thursday	9.00am	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 21)		
Friday			10.00am	Anita Gooden (SI) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 22)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 23) Barbara Vernem (RIP)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am 12.15pm	People of the Parish Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 24)	8.30am	Maria Galagala (RIP)



Last week, our theme was "expectations" - what do we look for in Christ. But, as we well know, expectations that are not met give rise to disappointment leaving us down in the dumps and depressed. One's confidence is put to the test and one's faith wavers. Today's liturgy sets itself to reassure us; it shouts aloud "Rejoice! do not be afraid" The challenges of life are not beyond those who call on God's help.

**Zepaniah 3:14-18** With the exception of this passage, the whole of Zepaniah's prophecy is unmitigated doom and gloom; but here he encourages the Israelites not to give up their hope in God's power to save, and he tells them to rejoice in this hope.

**Philippians 4: 4-7** emphasises that the challenge of being Christ's disciples should be met with joy! Face up to what you are and let people know why you are what you are!

**Luke 3: 10-18** tells of John preparing his disciples for the coming of the Messiah. He wants them to be more generous, honest and fair in their dealings with people. His advice is directed to a broad cross section of the community including taxpayers and soldiers.

*Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle - Joy: "Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

**Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:**

**Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest**

**The Presbytery, Howard Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2NS • Tel/ 01279 426017**

**Email: [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org)**

**The Brentwood Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 23409**

**Our Lady of Fatima Hall:** [olfharlow@gmail.com](mailto:olfharlow@gmail.com)  
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**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM:** Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow - **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 5.00pm**

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week after all masses for Christmas Flowers.

**CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING:**

**OLF CHURCH:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11am – All Groups welcome

**STM CHURCH:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5.00pm

**EPIPHANY BRUNCH WITH CAROLS:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 after 8.30 mass. Food items for sharing are welcome.

**SVP:** the next meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in OLF Hall room.

**SVP Harlow Launch Event:** You are invited to celebrate the launch of SVP Harlow's conference at a fundraising event hosted at OLF on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 2.00pm. Join us for music and refreshments from our Harlow Parishes.

**FIRST COMMUNION Children:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm OLF Hall

**RCIA:** The group will continue to meet in the Presbytery on Tuesday 17th December.

**PREMISES MEETING:** The Presbytery on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**ALTAR SERVERS MEETING:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm in OLF Church.

**FUND RAISING TEAM** We are looking to form a Fund-Raising Team. If you are interested, could you please email: [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org) with your contact details.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE winning Numbers:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – **304 AF 700163**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - **383 AF 700801**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - **335 AF 800400**, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - **375 AF601169**

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

Twice a month on the First & Third Friday, 6.00pm OLF Hall (behind the stage meeting room)

**READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT:** Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these, go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025** are available for purchase (donation).

**OLF & STM SOCIAL & FUND RAISING: Christmas Hampers**

We would appreciate your support with food donations that can go towards the Hampers – this can be spare tins/jars of food, pasta (dry goods), biscuits, cakes, soft drinks in your cupboard. If you would like to nominate a family or someone within the community who may appreciate a food hamper for Christmas, please email [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org) with your contact details and we will liaise directly with you. Please ensure there is a good shelf life on any food donations, there will be a collection point for donations until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Pray for the sick:** J.C. Nkosa, Oswald Donkor, Teresa Lambe, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Pam Matthews, Andrew Dodge, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter, Tom Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanislaw Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, May Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Słota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of:** Giona, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Patys MS, Fr P Sofij MS, Gerald O'Brien, Mario Pascale, Robert King, Sheila Maher, Mary Doran, Des Rowan, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patrica Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Piotr Chudy, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Eileen Hynes, Irene Heaphy, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, Zbigniew Sienkiewicz, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Conway Love, Giuseppe Lobue, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

**[www.olfstm.weebly.com](http://www.olfstm.weebly.com) or [stmandolphparish.co.uk](http://stmandolphparish.co.uk)**

## The Season of Advent



As the days get shorter in many parts of the world, we enter a season of waiting and preparation. Both Lent and Advent are seasons of waiting, preparation, and penance. Like Lent, Advent is a season of waiting, preparation and repentance. The colour purple liturgically represents these spiritual themes for both seasons. During Lent, we await Christ's return from 40 days in the desert, His loving sacrifice for us, and Resurrection. In Advent, we prepare for His birth. The birth and resurrection of Christ are intertwined, and their connection is quite significant theologically. Yet, these seasons of waiting look different for us – Advent is a uniquely joyous and hopeful season in the Church.

We light candles amidst the darkness. We find warmth in the cold, dark winter season. And we come together as friends and family to celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical year. (This Advent season marks the start of Year C.) We begin the year anew, renewed by His birth.

The Advent wreath is a common symbol of the liturgical season. Its purpose is *literally* to light the way to the true Light of the World. The circular wreath, typically made of evergreen leaves like pine or fir, represents God's infinite and everlasting love for us. It also holds four candles to light each Sunday of Advent.

*Prayer for Lighting the First Candle - Hope: "Loving God, as we light the first Advent candle of hope, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of Christ's coming bring light to our darkness and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

*"God of peace, as we light the second Advent candle of peace, may your peace fill our hearts and our world. Help us to be peacemakers in our relationships and communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

*Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle - Joy: "Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

*Prayer for Lighting the Fourth Candle - Love: "Heavenly Father, as we light the fourth Advent candle of love, may your love inspire us to love one another as you have loved us. Let your love guide our actions and words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*



# ADVENT

# CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



**ST. THOMAS MORE RC CHURCH**

**HODINGS ROAD, HARLOW, CM20 1TN**

**Christmas Eve** (24<sup>th</sup> of December 2024)

**10.00 pm** The Office of Readings & Carols

**10.30 pm** Early-Midnight Mass of Christmas

**Christmas Day** (25<sup>th</sup> of December 2024)

**8.30 am** Mass



**OUR LADY OF FATIMA RC CHURCH**

**HOWARD WAY, HARLOW, CM20 2NS**

**Christmas Eve** (24<sup>th</sup> of December 2024)

**6.00 pm** First Mass of Christmas (For Children)

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass in Polish

**Christmas Day** (25<sup>th</sup> of December 2024)

**10.30 am** Mass

**12.15 pm** Mass in Polish

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

