



Parish Newsletter **Second Sunday of Advent** Year A 2025

Mass Intentions 6th December – 14th December

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	People of the Parish Frank Taliana (Recently dead)		
Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Hayley Wright (RIP) Ireneusz and Barbara Zolcik (RIP)	8.30am	Dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące (Holy Souls)
Monday ICBVM	9.00am 10.30am 7.00pm	No Mass intention Funeral Mass of Thomas Mulligan People of the Parish		
Tuesday	9.00am	Bp Thomas McMahon (Recently dead)		
Wednesday	7pm- 8pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Philomina Jacob (SI) Gerald Doyle (Ann., RIP)
Thursday	9.00am	Genowefa Gawel Gregorian Mass (1)		
Friday			10.00am	Genowefa Gawel - Gregorian Mass (2) Fr Bogdan (Birthday, SI)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Genowefa Gawel Gregorian Mass (3) Ann Mary Jacob (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Agnes Ruby (RIP, Ann.) People of the Parish	8.30am	Genowefa Gawel - Gregorian Mass (4)



New Beginnings - Last Sunday our thoughts were focused on "being prepared" for the day of judgment and were morbid; today, a more joyous theme is presented as we are shown the ideal image of God's presence in and amongst people. Our readings tell us of a vision of peace, joy and hopefulness that contrasts ^{starkly} with the reality that we know.

Isaiah 11: 1-10 - In Isaiah's vision, the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the lion shall live together with a child leading them! Evil and Hate shall no longer exist; they will be replaced by Justice and Love under the rule of the Messiah!

2 Romans 15: 4-9 - Paul argues that, with Christ as the common denominator, all people, regardless of origin or background, can live in a state of harmony with each other.

Matthew 3: 1-12 - The thoughts expressed in this passage of St. Matthew's gospel are a little more down to earth. John the Baptist, with his colourful rhetoric tells his followers that one more powerful than he is coming; they must prepare themselves for this new Teacher by changing their lifestyles through repentance.

Prayer for Lighting the Second Candle - Peace: *"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."*

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

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

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM: Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am OLF: Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

CHURCH CLEANING: OLF Church - Friday **12th December at 6.00pm** – Holy Communion English Group C
STM Church - Saturday **20th December at 10.00am (Volunteers)**

FEASTS:

Monday 8th December -The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity

The Masses: 9.00 am and 7.00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Saturday 13th December – St Lucy, V, M – Memorial

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who supported this year's Christmas Bazaar! Final amount raised will be published next Sunday. Thank you to those who organised, helped set up, run a stall, cooked, entertained and cleaned up after. Please know we appreciate all your hard work.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion meetings will continue for children on Wednesday each week at **5.30pm** in the church hall.

RCIA: The Catholic Church's process for adults to be introduced to the Catholic faith, learn its teachings, and become full members by receiving sacraments like Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The next meeting **is** on Tuesday **9th December at 6pm** in the Presbytery.

Social Event: STM are hosting a breakfast after mass on **Sunday 28th December**. Please bring and share items or just bring what you would like to eat. Everyone is welcome.

COUNSELLING Service for OLF & STM

The service is free to parishioners. Clients are requested to donate £15 for each session towards the church. Further details and business cards are available in the porch or from Fr Bogdan or Dr Ray Aldridge-Morris on 07946 854632.

Learn To Pray Course Online

Would you like some tips to help your prayer life each day? The Diocesan Service Team are offering an online course running from Friday 14th November for six weeks until Friday 19th December from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. If you are interested in signing up for this course, please follow this link: <https://wkf.ms/3VcDEgi?text0=>

Pray for the sick:, Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lamb, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Kathleen Evans, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Mary Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter 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, Mat Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Slota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alica and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Bishop Thomas McMahon, Thomas Mulligan, May Aitken, Frank Taliana, Maria Cooper, Alice (Dow) Insch, Nick Cronin, Tony Poole, Mathew Joseph, Helen Noyo Owie, Br Wojciech Durlak MS, Fr Augustyn Hamielec MS, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.



FUNERAL DETAILS FOR BISHOP THOMAS McMAHON at Brentwood Cathedral.

Monday 15 December at 5.00 pm Reception of the body of Bishop Thomas

Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 11.30am Live Streaming the Requiem Mass for Bishop Thomas McMahon [https:// www.shealolin.co.uk/ bishop-thomas](https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas)

Please note the broadcast will begin approximately 10 minutes before the start of the service.



What is Advent?

Advent is a season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting, and longing, for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire for the Lord more deeply into our lives, and to renew our desire for Christ's triumphant second coming into the world.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the goal of Advent is to make present for ourselves and our families the "ancient expectancy of the Messiah...by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming."

What does the word Advent mean?

Advent comes from the Latin *ad+venire*, which means, essentially "To come to," or "to come toward." *Ad+venire* is the root of the Latin "Adventus" which means "arrival."

So, Advent is the season of arrival: The arrival of Christ in our hearts, in the world, and into God's extraordinary plan for our salvation.

Is Advent the "new year"?

Advent is before Christmas. What's the deal?

The Church's feasts and celebrations run on a year-long cycle, which we call the "liturgical year." The "liturgical year" starts on the first Sunday of Advent. So, it's a new liturgical year when Advent starts.

Advent wreaths.

Where do they come from? Is it true that they're just pagan wreaths borrowed by the Church?

The Catholic Church has been using advent wreaths since the Middle Ages. Lighting candles as we prepare for Christmas reminds us that Christ is the light of the world. And the evergreen boughs remind us of new and eternal life in Christ, the eternal son of the Father.

It is definitely true that Germanic people were lighting up candle wreaths in wintertime long before the Gospel arrived in their homeland. They did so because, well, candle wreaths in winter are beautiful and warm. That a Christian symbol emerged from that tradition is an indication that the Gospel can be expressed through the language, customs, and symbols of cultures that come to believe that Christ Jesus is Lord.

One candle is pink. Why?

There are four candles on the Advent wreath. Three are purple, and they are first lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which we call Gaudete Sunday. On that Sunday, in addition to the pink candle, the priest wears a pink vestment, which he might refer to as rose. But rose, from this writer's perspective, is a shade of pink.

Gaudete is a word that means "Rejoice!" and we rejoice on Gaudete Sunday, because we are halfway through Advent. The three purple candles are sometimes said to represent prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the three spiritual disciplines that are key to a fruitful Advent.



Monday 8th December -The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The Immaculate Conception means that Mary from the first moment of her existence was free from the influence of that universal sinfulness which touches us all from the time we are born.

The reason behind this belief (which is not explicitly contained in Scripture and was only infallibly defined in 1854) is that only a sinless environment was fitting for the Son of God in his becoming a human being. It has a very long history in the Church.