



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH NEWSLETTER



www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk

The liturgical celebration of today emphasizes joy and anticipation as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts anew at Christmas and finally at the end of time in his kingly glory. It is for this reason that this third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, which means "Rejoice" in Latin. This Sunday reminds us that even in our waiting, we can find joy in the hope of the Lord's coming. For this reason, we are invited to rejoice always. No matter the darkness that surrounds us resulting perhaps from our own sins and/or the sins of the society, we need to remain joyful and hopeful because God, in His Son Jesus, is always drawing close to help us. Joy is not dependent on our circumstances but on our relationship with God who is capable of transforming our loneliness, fruitlessness, our fatigue and hunger into an experience of bliss, justice and light.

Filled with joy at the thought that the Lord is near, we have to continue waiting in patience and trust. Like John the Baptist, we need to yearn for the Lord's coming with joy and anticipation even in the midst of our chains. Jesus performs miracles and sends John's messengers to report to John what they have seen. Even in doubt and pain, we can find reassurance in the signs of God's presence around us. This evokes joy and patience.

*O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.*

## Dec 2025: Mass Times & Mass Intentions

Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	18:30	Felix Rodrigues, A
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	08:00	
		09:15	Chris Pestrige, A
		11:00	Penelope Jane Craig, SI Fr Liam Cummins, SI
		16:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family
		18:30	♪ ♪ ♪ Carols Service ♪ ♪ ♪
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	No Mass. Mother's Prayers in Church
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Coleman Family, FM
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00*	Canon John Doran, FM
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Maria & Roy, SI
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	George & Brenda Leanage, A Ranji Leanage, A
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Rodrigues Family Intentions, SI Denalda Pinto, SI
		18:30	Donovan & Cooney, A
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	08:00	
		09:15	Thomas Doyle, A Kathleen Higgins, A
		11:00	
		15:00	Filipino Mass <b>Simbang Gabi</b>
		17:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family

**Adoration** before Mass: \*9-10am

**Confessions** on Saturday after 10am Mass / before 6.30pm Mass

A: Death Anniversary; FM: Foundation Mass; RIP: Rest in Peace, SI: Special Intentions

St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition

Issue #22

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A

13th /14th Dec 2025

**1<sup>st</sup>: Isa 35:1-6,10** God himself is coming to save you.

**Ps 145 R/ Come Lord and save us.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jas 5:7-10** Establish your hearts, for the Lord's coming is at hand.

**Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matt 11:2-11** Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?

Colours of Advent:  
Rose represents joy  
and reveals a shift  
away from repentance  
and toward  
celebration.



### Fr Ephraim's Thank you & Farewell message:

Thanks to all the parishioners for the lovely time I spent with you and for the grand farewell you gave me crowned with plenty of gifts and fun. It was a beautiful Sunday and as Scripture says, "The day the Lord has made." I wish you all a merry Christmas!

During Mass, all the children will gather for their Liturgy in the Main Hall to celebrate Christingle & continue with the Advent Jesse Tree decorations for the pulpit before bringing their oranges back to Church for the Offertory Christingle Song.



Thank you for supporting last month's International Dinner. It was a great evening, and we raised £2690! After expenses, £2100 will be sent to a Mill Hill Missions in Pakistan to fund a womans' literacy project. *Fr Brian*

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK \*

Gift Aid: £208.00 ↓ Non-GA: £781.98 ↓

Thank you for Gift-Aid! HMRC added £52.00!

\* Loose plate + Dona/Sumup

### Works of Mercy: Give Alms to The Poor

As we await the coming of the Lord this Advent, let us work together towards a world where everyone has enough. When we light the candle of Joy, may we Rejoice and be moved to stand alongside our Sisters and Brothers who are in need.

Our continued donations of Toiletries, Cosmetics, Food and clean, warm clothing will add Joy to the Peace and Hope we have brought to all those who rely on our support.

**Come, Lord, source of Joy, bearer of Love and bringer of Hope.**

**HFP:** Holy Family Parish; **SE:** St Elizabeth's; **SJ:** St Joseph;  
**SEC:** St Edmund Campion; **STM:** St Thomas More

### PARISH NEWS/ EVENTS – All are welcome!

- **27 Dec 7.30pm** Christmas Dinner & Dance in the Hall. Contact Edgar 07864 977536 for tickets
- **30 Jan NOSTALGIA NIGHT** The West End is coming to St Edmund

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St Edmund Campion **17 Dec** 18:30 – 19:00

St Joseph **20 Dec** 10:30 – 11:00

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**17 Dec** 18:00 St Mary's School Carols Evening (Wed)

**19 Dec** 10:00 St Mary's Pre-School Nativity Mass (Fri)

**21 Dec** 15:00 Filipino Christmas Mass Simbang Gabi

**24 Dec** 17:30 Children's Christmas Eve Mass

20:00 Christmas Eve Mass

23:30 Carols followed by Midnight Mass

**25 Dec** 08:00 Mass in St Joseph's

09:15 Mass in Elizabeth's

11:00 Mass in St Joseph's



### CHILDREN:

**17 Dec 6pm Junior Carol Service** by St Mary's in St Joseph's Church. Come along and support our lovely school. Buy a ticket here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarys-maidenheadorguk/t-aaqxrja>

**18 Dec 7pm Relaxed Advent Service** at St. Thomas More Twyford. This is a low-level lighting, low-sound event. Refreshments, Lego and fidget toys available throughout.

**Christmas Eve:** Please come at 5pm if your child would like to participate as Angels, Kings, Shepherds, Sheep etc. Bring/ wear what you have, or use our costumes! Please contact Helen if you have any queries or can help on the night: hmmeanwell@gmail.com / 07753 840611

**Please note that the children's snug will be shut while we repair the damage / vandalism made by unsupervised children. DO NOT LEAVE YOUNG CHILDREN ALONE IN THE SNUG.**

**We will also be installing a CCTV in the room.**

### Friday Night (5 Dec)



### Monday Morning (8 Dec)



**SACRAMENTALS** All **forms** can be found here: <https://stjosephsparish.co.uk/newsletter/>

♦ **Baptism Course 6 Jan** For expecting parents and parents whose child(ren) is being baptised in M'head

♥ **Marriage:** Thinking of getting married? Enquire via our online form!

**Retrouvaille** helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983

**Confirmation & First Holy Communion Classes:** As you may be aware, the Confirmation and FHC journeys are in three stages. Stage 1: come to Mass for the last number of months and participating in the prayers and singing, and being comfortable with the journey of liturgy. At the end of each Mass, the candidates received an attendance stamp. This will continue. The family/child will need to show the priest or catechist their Mass Attendance Card. If there is consistency, then the child will be invited into Stage Two, which are the classes. If not, and there seems no interest in Mass attendance, then the child and family will be asked to postpone the reception of the Sacrament for another year.

○ **FHC Stage 2:** First class in **SJ: 9.30am 11 Jan** / SEC: 4.30pm 10 Jan. Classes will be followed by Mass and official enrolment for the First Holy Communion programme.

🔥 **Confirmation Stage 2** Eligible Candidates will begin this stage **Saturday 24 Jan 4.30pm at SEC** school. Bring along your Mass attendance cards. A letter and an update of dates have been sent out to their families recently. Please note the requirements to enter Stage Two of the programme. We continue to pray for them.

✙ **OCIA:** We are blessed with having eighteen candidates join the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). These are made up of people from Holy Family Parish, Maidenhead & Twyford. They are all involved with our church community. Some desire to be baptised, others to be received into the Catholic church from another church, and some are Catholics who desire to complete their Initiation process by the Sacrament of Confirmation. All we be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil, April 4th, 2026. Classes are beginning. We continue to pray for them.

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### REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

- ❖ **Loss & Bereavement Group last session** 14 Dec 2.30 in SEC hall. Befriending support available in the Parish via SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) - contact the office for their number. Alternatively, contact Cruse Bereavement Support on 01344 411919
- ❖ **Thursdays Zoom Room: 2pm** Rosary  
**6pm Journey together through Holy scriptures** [www.tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp](http://www.tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp)
- ❖ **Fridays 8.45-10.45am Baby & Toddler Group** SEC (term time)

### CLASSES/ EVENTS IN SJ CENTRE

See notice board/ website (some are privately run)

- **Tuesdays: Practical Art** Join U3A untutored Art Group. Bring your art materials and join in the fun every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2-4pm in SJ Hall. Contact Peter 01628 674097
- **Wednesdays: 5-6pm Taichi** in Hall.
- **Thursdays 7pm Yoga** with Una in Hall. All proceeds to SJ!

Over the next few weekends look out for the "Lego Christmas Story Trail" posters. Scan the QR code, click, point, and watch!

There will be five story posters for you to find between now and Christmas! Can you scan and watch them all?