

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (served by the Missionary Society of St Paul)  
PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 21st DECEMBER 2024**

**Presbytery:** 192 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EN.

**Tel:** 01474-352415.

**E-mail:** gravesend@rcaos.org.uk

**Website:** www.stjohnsgravesend.co.uk

**Facebook:** Saint Johns Church

**CHURCHES:** St John's, St Mary's Rochester Road Denton DA12 2JN, St Katherine's Malthouse Lane Shorne DA12 3DP

**Parish Priest:** Fr Moses Amune, msp

**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr Stephen Ojapah msp

**Parish Sister:** Sister Elizabeth O'Hara

**Parish Secretary:** Teresa Potter

**Safeguarding Team:** Catherine Gurney, Henry Bodunrin

**Presbytery/ Parish office open 10am-3pm Mon:** Sr Elizabeth **Tues, Wed & Thurs:** Teresa Potter **Fri:** Jacky Hardy

**Schools:** St John's Catholic Primary 01474 534546

**St John's Catholic Comprehensive** 01474 534718

*Welcome!*

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

<b>First Mass of Sunday, (Saturday)</b>	6.00pm	Deceased Moreton family, Jeremiah Sheahan <i>live streamed</i>
<b>Sun 22 Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</b>	8.30am	O'Kane. Killaly & Loughrey family, Joe Smyth, Manning family RIP
<b>(St Mary's, Denton)</b>	9.30am	Stephanie Scowen (Recovery), John McDonach RIP 8th Anniv
<b>(livestreamed)</b>	10.30am	Henry & Juliannah Silver Wedding Anniv, Afeeva's Mother (Thanksgiving)
	6.00pm	Agnieszka Menczyk 40th birthday, Helena
<b>Mon 23 Dec Feria</b>	9.15am	Agnieszka (Thanksgiving for all prayers offered), Marie Deffew
<b>Tues 24 Dec Christmas Eve</b>	3.30pm	John Matthews <i>live streamed</i>
	6.00pm	Michael Dee RIP & deceased family, Zillah Shenton RIP, John Harkin & Marie Tanner, Maria Lawrence, <i>(livestreamed)</i>
	11.30pm	(Carols) & Midnight Mass Hannon family intention, The Parish
<b>Wed 25 Dec Nativity of the Lord</b>	8.30am	Ayrton Alemo (14th Birthday), Wahab family, Roy Cattermole RIP, John Palasz RIP Anniv
<b>(St Mary's, Denton)</b>	9.30am	Jason Chapman RIP
	10.30am	Mary Otare RIP (Rufina's Mother) <i>(livestreamed)</i>
<b>Thurs 26 Dec St Stephen</b>	10.00am	Stephen Walsh RIP, Neville Telford RIP
<b>Fri 27 Dec St John the Evangelist</b>	9.15am	Rynes McLoughlin RIP, Anne Brown (nee Murray) RIP, For the Parish
<b>Sat 28 Dec Holy Innocents</b>	<b><u>Adoration after 10am Mass until 12.30pm (Reconciliation 11.30-12.30pm)</u></b>	
	10.00am	Patrick Coughlan
<b>First Mass of Sunday, (Saturday)</b>	6.00pm	Anna's Birthday <i>live streamed</i>
<b>Sun 29 Dec Holy Family</b>	8.30am	Nancy Brown, Bridget Delaney RIP, Allen & Susan Basco 38th Wedding Anniv
<b>(St Mary's, Denton)</b>	9.30am	Sisters of Mercy <i>(livestreamed)</i>
<b>(livestreamed)</b>	10.30am	Henry & Juliannah Silver Wedding Anniv, Afeeva's Mother (Thanksgiving)
	6.00pm	Birthdays & Anniversaries celebrated in December



**Please pray for the souls of all deceased parishioners, family and friends**

**Elivera Haigh** - Requiem Tuesday 14th January @ 11am

*May God console their families. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace;*

**Please pray for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time including....**

**May they rest in peace**

22: Brigid Harkin, Eileen Kavanagh, Kevin Joseph Clarke, Kevin Patrick Whelan, Kathleen Ryan, Patrick Joseph Murphy, Elizabeth Joan Diprose

23: Maureen McCarthy, Jeremiah Sheehan, Hannah Harriet Clark, Margaret Nellie Freeman, Kenneth Denny, Doris Jane Broad, Helga Sieloff, Elizabeth Neilsen, Derek Coulton, Teresa Hylands, John Joseph McDonach,

24: Derry O'Donoghue, Michael Nelson, Sister M. Winifred Walsh, Maureen Iris Reader

25: Kathleen Upton, Frank Peach, Olive May Johnson, Sister M. Columba O'Malley, Michael McCarthy, John Palasz, Monica Camilla Murphy

26: Michael Mallinder, Sheelah Cherry, Lilian Hester Webster, Stella Chessworth, Joseph Whelan, Annie Wagborne,

27: Harry Enefer, Kathleen McDermott, Roger David Hall, Elizabeth Mary Langley, Mary Angela Millar, Mary Georgina McGaley, Linda De Abreau

28: John James Leatham, Michael Brennan, William Phillip Sharp, Lionel Edward Fox, Gladys Amy Hendy, Josephine Cooper

29: Irene Grant, Patrick Curran, Rev. Fr. Edward O'Byrne, Francis Joseph Traynor, Marie Therese Salter, Henry James Silwood, Angiolina Maria Marrant, Liam Joseph Dolan,



Welcome to St John's as we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. If you are visiting, we hope you have a happy Christmas and wish you all God's blessings for the coming year. If you are returning to Mass after an absence, long or short, welcome home! We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate Christmas Mass with us today.



We wish all parishioners the peace and joy of Christmas, and extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our parish. Thank you for all your cards and gifts.

Our wonderful celebrations this Christmas could never have gone ahead without so many people giving their time and skill to the Parish. Our warmest thanks to the Altar Servers and Sacristans, Choirs, Crib & Flower arrangers and Church Decorators, our fantastic Cleaners, Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Catechists, Helpers at Masses, Collectors & Counters and Gift Aid team, Repository, Children's Liturgy helpers, and all those people who work so tirelessly throughout the year behind the scenes. Those who look after St Mary's and St Katherine's, the Parish committees - Finance, Building, Parish, Bazaar, Social and Safeguarding. To those who take communion and visit the sick and housebound. The Sisters of Mercy and Schools including Headteachers/Teachers. We are blessed to have so many dedicated parishioners.

**Last weeks collections** £1,237.64. Thank you for your continued generosity and to those people who pay by standing order and contactless. **The collection over Christmas will be your personal gift to our priests. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.**

**Family craft event** - Sunday 22nd December 2.30-4pm at St John's Church. Lots of different Christmas themed craft activities for families to enjoy. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Craft supplies are on a first come first served basis. We look forward to welcoming you to this free event.

**Wednesday Tea/Coffee** A huge thank you to everyone who supports the Wednesday teas. The group have raised £1,218.81 throughout 2024 for Church funds. Refreshments are served in the Coffee bar after 12 noon Mass. All welcome.

**Gift Aid** Thanks to everyone who signed up to Gift Aid recently. Our Gift Aid Coordinator can answer any queries by calling the office or email [gravesendgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:gravesendgac@rcaos.org.uk)

**Confirmation** The preparation programme for young people in Years 8-13 at school or 13 years of age by 1 September 2025, who are interested in being confirmed in 2025 begins in January 2025. To register for the programme please complete the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/Getb9fGoGsNY1JTX9>

**A Confirmation Preparation Assistant is required (Classes start in January 2025). Please see Fr Moses**

**Booking Mass Intentions:** Envelopes for Masses are available at the back of the Church, write the intention and put the stipend (Diocesan recommendation is £10) in the envelope. Please do not use the Dona Machine for Mass stipends.

**Baptism** Application forms for Baptism are available from the back of the Church or the parish office. Families need to attend a talk before the baptism (the next session is Monday 13th January @7pm). Please email the office.

**Southwark Archdiocese Rosary Prayer Project** Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery. For details see the poster on the noticeboard, pick up an invitation leaflet at the back of church or email [southwarkrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:southwarkrenewal@gmail.com).

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Christ is really present in the Blessed Sacrament; come and talk heart to heart with Him, either on Wed (10am-12noon) or Sat after 10am Mass until 12.30pm; or 1st Friday 24 hour Adoration.

**Mother's prayer group** takes place straight after the 9.15 mass every Friday. You are invited to join us and pray for our children especially.

**Padre Pio Prayer Group** each Tuesday straight after 9.15am Mass in the Cry Chapel. All welcome to join us in prayer. We especially remember our sick friends and family.

**Time With the Word** Meets on online Wednesdays @8pm. Go to the parish website

**Mustard Seed** Bible study every day @ 8.30pm; Lectio Divina on Fridays @ 7.30pm. Please go to the parish website.

**Jubilee Year 2025** Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee "Pilgrims of Hope". – an event that happens every 25 years. The Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024 and ends on January 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door. We have some booklets explaining the year ahead at the back of the Church (£1.50). We will be speaking about our parish plans soon.

**Crib** Thank you to the team of crib builders and maintaining the beautiful crib figures. Please encourage the children to watch the scene build week by week with the story of Christmas.

**Sick/housebound** Please contact the parish office and let us know of neighbours/family members who are unable to come to Church and would like to receive Communion or call 07405803862. We remember in our prayers those who are sick, housebound or in hospital & those who care for them and their families. **Please, when on admission in the hospital or care home, volunteer the information of your faith as you won't be asked ordinarily.**