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**THIS IS A DOUBLE EDITION!**

**Newsletter for the week commencing 22nd December 2024  
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

**First Reading:** from the prophet Micah 5: 2-5a  
**Psalm 80 Response:** Bring us back, O God, let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.  
**Second Reading:** the Letter to the Hebrews 10: 5-10  
**Gospel:** Luke 1: 39-45

**Father Behr writes:**  
 Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to the Parish Social Committee for organising two lovely social gatherings over Advent. I have sent off a cheque to Cafod for £974.37 and to the Tenterden Hub for £104 to support their great work in our local community. We look forward to other events in the new year.

**Christmas Offering**

Your Christmas Offering is your personal gift to your parish priest. Envelopes are available for those who are going away and would like to make their donation this weekend. The card machine is also available labelled Christmas Offering.

I pray God will bless you and your family with peace this Christmas season.

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Recently deceased:** Emeritus Bishop/Fr. John Hine, RIP

**Those ill or infirm:** Brian Lawrence, Roger Styles, Mary Basher, Paul Rumball, Paul Lane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Mary Hounsell, Joanna Powell, Edward Albert Turner, Mary Stevenson, Rosina Cordell, Richard Diedo, Liz Goodwin, Trevor Arthur Leney, Terry Schouten, Freda Budd.

Rose Mount, Mary Anne Simmons, Bill Norman-Taylor, Whilhelmina Johanna Franklin, Jane McKinnon, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, Mary Bly, Brian Leo Barrett, Moya Crofton, Anthony Whately, Joseph Davis, Martin Vickers.

Gloria Woods (Mrs Woods' daughter) and Helen Miller.

<b>Masses and services for the weeks (21st December 2024 – 4th January 2025), Feasts and Mass intentions.</b>	
<b>Saturday 21st December</b> Feria	No public Mass am 10.30 -11am Confession 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>Reader: Pat</b>
<b>Sunday 22nd December</b> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</b>	10am Mass <i>Last Family and Paul Rumball</i> <b>Reader: Brian</b> 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
<b>Monday 23rd December</b>	10am Mass <i>Mary Elizabeth Phillips RIP (Anniversary)</i>
<b>Tuesday 24th December</b>	6pm Vigil Mass <i>Ivy Masterson</i> <b>Reader: Wendy</b> 9pm Mass <i>Intentions of Brian &amp; Frances Lawrence</i> <b>Reader: James</b>
<b>Wednesday 25th December</b>	8.30am Mass <i>For Priests</i> <b>Reader: Peter</b> 10am Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>Reader: Frances</b>
<b>Thursday 26th December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>

<b>Friday 27th December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 28th December</b>	<b>No public Mass am or Confession</b> 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>Reader: Pat</b>
<b>Sunday 29th December</b>	10am Mass <i>Intentions of Jesus and Mary</i> <b>Reader: Kathy</b> 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
<b>Monday 30th December</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <i>Donor's Intention</i>
<b>Tuesday 31st December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 1st January</b>	10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Thursday 2nd January</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Friday 3rd January</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 4th January</b>	<b>No public Mass am or Confession</b> 6pm Vigil Mass <i>Private Intention</i> <b>Reader: Peter</b>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	10am Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>Reader: Suzanne</b> 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
<b>Flowers for Christmas – 23<sup>rd</sup> December – all arrangers please</b> <b>If you have put together a vase or arrangement (red, gold, white and green) for a windowsill please let Frances know</b> <b>(01233 732657),</b> <b>and bring it to church at 10am</b>	
<b>Flowers for 28<sup>th</sup> December (Holy Family) – tweak and tidy - Hilary</b>	
<b>Flowers for 5<sup>th</sup> January - Frances</b>	

**Confession** Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

#### **Children's Liturgy**

Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The next lesson with Lorraine on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

Our parish has a **WhatsApp group**. We will post parish events including social events, special occasions and requests for help in the parish as well as general parish news. If you would like to join please get in touch. Fr Behr

As you may know, the **Jubilee Year of 2025** is set to begin on 24th December 2024 and will formally close on 6th January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany. The theme is "**Pilgrims of Hope**".

#### **Building a Better Marriage (BABM) – Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope**

To celebrate Jubilee 2025 a one day Building a Better Marriage opportunity will be held in the following 9 Southwark deaneries during 2025.

The day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.30pm and is free to attend. The day will be open to other deaneries in 2026 who have not experienced the event

To join one of these day's please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

25 January - St Stephen Church, Welling

1 February - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs

15 March - Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen

12 April – St Mary Church, Croydon West

28 June – St Raphael Church, Kingston Upon Thames

5 July - St Thomas More, Dulwich

13 September – Southwark Cathedral, London

4 October – Holy Cross, Catford

1 November – St James the Great, Petts Wood

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON:** In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain "we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world". This, Archbishop John said, "is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It's a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It's God's love story towards our world and each one of us". Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, "is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him and keep watch with Him.

This is what He invited us – me and you to do. To stay with Him in prayer". You can watch the full message here. <https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmessage2024>

## **Information and events for the next few weeks: -**

### **Baby Basics**

We now have an official collection box and thanks so much everyone for their generosity

### **Food Bank**

Regrettably. The need for this collection continues and again many thanks to all the generous donors

### **Advent Reflective Services – Women of the Nativity – 9am – followed by light breakfast**

The next services will be:

- Saturday 28th December – Rachael’s story – St John’s Smallhythe
- Saturday 4th January - Elizabeth’s story – St Mary, the Virgin – Stone-in-Oxney

### **Christian Meditation**

This will re-start on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6pm (45 minutes) and for the foreseeable future will be in the family room at Saint Andrew’s, because of the Saint Mildred’s refurbishment

### **Town Carol Service**

This annual ecumenical event will be on Wednesday 18th 2024 at 7:30pm in Saint Mildred’s. Carols from 7pm.

### **Christian Unity Week 2025**

Next year this begins on Saturday January 18th. We will be having our usual Christian Breakfast in Saint Mildred’s Church Hall, followed by our Annual Service. A service booklet with prayers/readings for the week will be provided at the breakfast.

Title for 2025: Do you believe this?

For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy.

As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha’s confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus’ provocative question to Martha: “Do you believe this?”

### **The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women’s World Day of Prayer)**

In 2025, this will be on March 7th, 2025, and will be hosted by Saint Andrew’s. The material has been compiled by the women of the Cook Islands. Pat Sargent urgently needs volunteers **PLEASE**

### **Parish Magazine**

This publication is now an ecumenical publication with contributions from the Catholic, Baptist and Church of England denominations. Please purchase a copy and leave your donation in the wall safe.

#### **Money raised in collections...**

The collection for flowers raised £180.11.

The collection for Tenterden hub, from raffle etc raised £104.00.

Thank you.

Regards

Liz Leahy.