

# St Simon Stock Catholic Church

Priest in Charge: Fr. Jose Anchanickal Sebastian, Brookfield Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 4EU tel: 01233622399

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Hire of St. Simon's Hall: email - hallhire@outlook.com; Phone 07955323211

Parish School: St. Simon of England Primary School, Noakes Meadow, Ashford, TN23 4RB. 01233 623199 Headteacher - Peter McCabe

## PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Third**

**Sunday of Advent (A)**

**Gaudete Sunday**

10.30am Mass (Marie and Lawrie Stiffell RIP)

3.30pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

6.30pm Mass (The people of the parish)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

No Mass

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

10.00am Mass (Ikemefuna Onianwa RIP)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

6.05pm Recitation of the Rosary

6.30pm Mass (Fr. Behruz and St.

Andrew's Parish, Tenterden) followed by Adoration until 7.30pm

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

10.00am Mass (Deceased members of Racine, Kennedy and Hogan families RIP)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

9.30am Mass with St. Simon's School

(Tony Shanny RIP)

7.00pm Parish Carol Service

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Feria**

9.30am Advent Confessions

10.30am Mass (Michael & Maria Zaldak RIP)

11.00am First Holy Communion lesson

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025, Fourth**

**Sunday of Advent (A)**

**Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers**

10.30am Mass (Mary & Victor Ferraro RIP)

1.30pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

6.30pm Mass (Stephen Slattery RIP)

**A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOSE:** Dear family members and friends: Today is Gaudete Sunday, a call to rejoice as Christmas approaches. The readings of today are full of hopeful joy in anticipation of Christ's arrival. Today's Gospel announces the arrival of the Messiah describing what Jesus is doing as answer to the question of the disciples of John the Baptist whether they should wait for another one. It clearly states that the reign of God is at near. Jesus continues to speak about John the Baptist's role to prepare the way for the One who is to come. He raises John the Baptist as the greatest among those born of women, but the least born into the Reign of God is greater than him. Let us be joyful that we are born in the reign of God and let us be witnesses to that. Amen

**DECORATION OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS - CAN YOU HELP?** we will be decorating the church, and erecting the crib, ready for Christmas, on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER from 2.30pm**. If you are able to lend a hand, even if only for a little while, please do come along. Many hands make light work, as the saying goes!

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.00PM** - Come to praise the Lord with carols and scripture reading and reflection followed by mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments in the foyer afterwards. All welcome

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** - there will be Advent Confessions on Saturday from 9.30am until 10.30am when there will be Mass. Please afford this opportunity to make your confession prior to the Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** - please take the sheet from the newsletter table showing Mass times for the week of Christmas and the start of the New Year.

**REPOSITORY (SHOP)** - has for sale Christmas cards, beautiful cribs and statues, Christmas candles, 2025 calendars, and many other devotional items and gifts. **For your convenience the shop now accepts card payments.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE ON THE NEWSLETTER TABLE** - The offertory collection taken during the Midnight & Christmas Day Masses is traditionally your personal gift to your Fr. Jose. A priest's income is normally whatever he receives from the parish (mainly Mass offerings). This collection at Christmas forms an important part of Fr. Jose's income for the year and enables him to meet personal expenses. If you can gift aid your offering, the parish can benefit from the tax refund. To do so write your name and address on the envelope provided, or use one of the Gift Aid envelopes available in the church foyer. Offerings made by cheque must be made payable to "St. Simon Stock Catholic Church". You can also make your Christmas offering using the contactless machine in the church foyer. If you are away at Christmas, you can hand in your offering before you go or on your return.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** - The Crib will remain on display throughout the Christmas season and up to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). We will be donating our crib offering to **The Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund** which helps families in our Archdiocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. To gift aid your offering please use one of the envelopes on the table.

**ADVENT APPEAL** - we continue with our **Advent Appeal second collections for The Friends of the Holy Land**. May we continue to remember those striving to remain in the birthplace of our Hope.

**CHRISTMAS CARD RACK** - if you are unable to deliver your Christmas card personally, for your convenience the Christmas card rack is up in the church foyer.

**COLLECTIONS** - Last week - £426.50 (£32.20 Gift Aid + £186.30 loose plate and machine + £208 standing order). Advent Appeal £122.69. Thank you. Second collection this week - Advent Appeal.

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast down to hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

### CONFESSIONS

After 10am Mass  
Saturday and on  
request

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for:  
Francesca Baker,  
Emma Baker,  
Tricia Coppin,  
Fred Ward,  
Luke Fellowes,  
George McQuillan,  
Agnes

Perinpanayagam,  
Raymond  
Trumpfheller,  
Kitty O'Mahoney,  
Gerard Quinn,  
Pulkeria Msoka,  
Susannah John,  
Emma Broad,  
Peter Vokes,  
Dorothy Wiseman,  
Ken Gwam  
Frankie Lanzino,  
Maria McCarthy,  
Zita Wilkinson,  
Marie Columb  
Maureen Woods  
Beryl Swaffer  
Nicola Woods  
Frances  
Fr. Jose  
Maureen