

St Simon Stock Catholic Church

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

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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 21st 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)

Monday 22nd December, Feria

No Mass

Tuesday 23rd December, Feria

10.00am Mass (Holy Souls)

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

7pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

11.45pm Blessing of Crib and Solemn

Mass (Francesco, Michael and Michelle

Lanzino RIP)

The Season of Christmas

Thursday 25th December, The Nativity of The Lord

10.30am Mass during the day of the

Nativity of the Lord (Maureen

Auchterlonie RIP)

Friday 26th December, St. Stephen, Deacon, the first martyr, feast

No Mass

Saturday 27th December, St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast

10.00am Mass (Holy Souls)

Sunday 28th December 2025, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (A), feast

10.30am Mass (Josephine Cassar Manghi and Anna Falzon RIP)

1.30pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

6.30pm Mass (The people of the parish)

A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOSE: Dear family members and friends: In today's Gospel we reflect on the message of the angel to Joseph regarding the birth of Jesus. As Joseph knew Mary was bearing a child in her womb before their marriage, he was confused and decided to send her away quietly. But on the message of the angel about the birth of Jesus made him change his mind and accept Mary. On this last Sunday of Advent, let us reflect on the birth of Jesus in our lives through the Holy Spirit. In today's prayer over the offerings, we pray: May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts ... just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us pray that we also be filled with the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus in to our lives. Amen

We are celebrating the Nativity of Jesus this week. Wish you all the blessings of a very Happy Christmas. May Child Jesus be born in our hearts and life.

MAUREEN AUCHTERLONIE RIP - please pray for the soul of our dear friend and fellow parishioner Maureen who died on Monday 15th December aged 87 years following a short illness. We send our deepest condolences to all of her family, especially her sons Spencer and Stephen at the loss of their precious mother, and assure them of our heartfelt prayers at this sad time. Maureen will be greatly missed by all of us who knew and loved her. May she rest in the peace of Christ. †

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES - please take a sheet from the basket.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON - In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES - 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.

THE REPOSITORY (SHOP) - has for sale Christmas cards, beautiful cribs and statues, Christmas candles, 2026 calendars, and many other devotional items and gifts.

COLLECTIONS - Last week - £751.49 (£40 Gift Aid + £503.49 loose plate and machine + £208 standing order). Advent Appeal £59.90. Thank you. Second collection this week - Flowers for Christmas.

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