

# This week at St Lawrence's



14th/15th December 2013

Third Sunday of Advent  
(Missal Page 88 – YEAR A)



Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Missal Page 90): Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7;  
Matthew 1:18-24

Dear Friends

I don't know about you but I find Christmas shopping the ultimate test of faith, hope and charity. There's plenty of Christmas goodies but not a lot of Christmas spirit! Advent can so easily get swallowed up in the mad dash to get the cards sent, the tree up, the freezer filled, the bar stocked. But in all this it is good to press the pause button, and the Church helps us to do it.

This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day that reminds us of the real reason for this season of gladness, what Advent and the coming Feast of Christmas is really about. We are simply to "Rejoice"! It pays to stop and think – the great God of heaven, your creator, has come down to earth because He loves you. In Jesus He comes to share your life, to teach you, feed you, free you, forgive you, save you, carry you, lift you up. He invites you again to meet Him in Bethlehem and in every path and part of your life. Ultimately, He opens heaven's gate for you. So what is there not to be joyful about? Don't let anyone or anything take your joy away.

My prayer for you as Christmas comes near is that you will know afresh the sheer joy and exhilaration of knowing Jesus and receiving Him into your life again. There is no greater thing.

God Bless you always.

Fr Chris

## Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

## Contact us:

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[www.saintlawrences.org.uk](http://www.saintlawrences.org.uk)

020 8890 2367  
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**Parish Priest:** Fr Chris Vipers

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Fortunato Pantisano

**Parish Sisters:** Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

**Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Bridget Brinkley

**Parish Secretary:** Florie Fernandes

## CHRISTMAS

### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

For the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve all children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity – angel, shepherd, wise man, even an ox, ass or sheep! Please could children also prepare a birthday card for Jesus and bring it with them to the Family Mass. They will be asked to place it by the crib during the Offertory. This Mass is primarily for families and children.

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

For this year we are starting an extra Mass at 8.30pm – The Vigil Mass.

If you are planning on attending and are an Altar Server, Reader or Eucharistic Minister please put your name on the list in the sacristy.

### CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS OR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

If you would like a lift to and from the Church for the Midnight Mass which will start at 11pm (Carols at 10.30pm) or the 9am, 11am on Christmas Day, please leave your name, address and phone number at the Parish Office. We also need drivers for this. If you could offer a place in your car to someone who would not otherwise be able to get to Church at Christmas please let us have your name and number and an indication of how many places you can offer.

### POLISH CONFESSIONS

Confessions (Spowiedz) in Polish will take place on Thursday 19th December from 6.30-8.30pm.

## SACRAMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Daisy Louise Lenkiewicz, Archie James Abreu, Tiara Adema Jisii and Adepuju Ariel Simisola Soboyejo who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

## PARISH NOTICES

### UCM

The UCM will meet on Monday 16th December for their Christmas Party 7pm for 7.30pm. The Committee look forward to a happy evening with members and invited guests.

### AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The next Mass led by the African Community will take place on **Sunday 22nd December** at 2pm. There will also be a Special Vigil Mass led by the African Community on **Tuesday 31st December** starting at 10.30pm.

### SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The Parish's annual Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Party will take place on **Sunday 12th January** from 12noon to 4pm. Please put your name down on the lists in the porch if you would like to come or if you can help. Details from Philomena Franklin.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you all for your generosity....*

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

£209.82 was collected for Christmas Flowers last weekend.

### RAFA BAND CONCERT

Another excellent and superb evening of entertainment by the RAFA Band and well attended by parishioners and others. The total from sales of tickets was over £600.

### KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA;

Parishioners will remember that in June of this year many of you sponsored one of our members (Peter McCaffrey) to do a Sponsored Walk for "Life Hounslow". The total Sponsorship from Feltham Parish came to £492.50. Parishioners will be pleased to know that the 11 local Councils of the Knights of St Columba raised a total of £4,228.25 which was presented to Life Hounslow at our Presentation Evening on Saturday November 23rd at Hanwell. Council 514 of the Knights of St Columba would like to thank Feltham Parishioners for their wonderful support.

## ADVENT WORKSHOP

£26.00 was collected from the entrance fee for the De Paul Trust for the homeless.

## CAFOD FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

A sum of £38.03 was raised at the Coffee Morning last Friday.

## LIFE COFFEE MORNING

A big "thank you" to all who help in any way at the Mince Pie sale held last Sunday. A total of £335 was raised for the "Life Pregnancy Centre in Hounslow. Annie Burke

## PILGRIMAGES 2014

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE - MALTA

There are only 50 seats available on this pilgrimage. If you have not already done so, please return your booking forms as soon as possible as places on the pilgrimage are being filled very quickly. The cost of the pilgrimage is £667. A deposit of £200 is required with the booking form plus £29 if you require travel insurance. If you have any queries please speak to Fr Chris or Florie in the Parish Office.

### LOURDES 2014

We will be travelling by coach next year to join the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July. Full details will be available after Christmas.

### ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA AND FATIMA

If you have taken a brochure and booking form for this Ecumenical Pilgrimage in September and would like to come please return your booking form and deposit to Fr Chris at the presbytery, or if you have sent your form direct to Pax Travel please let Fr Chris know.

## OTHER

### CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

Our retiring collection this weekend 14/15<sup>th</sup> December will be for CRISIS. For more information about this charity please check the following link <http://community.crisis.org.uk/xmasappeal>.

### CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This beautiful service organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service will be held in Church on **this Sunday** at 3pm. All are invited along to remember our departed loved ones at this special time of year and to light a candle for them, as well as joining in our favourite carols. Seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards.

### AN OPEN AIR PASSION PLAY IN STAINES – EASTER 2014

Churches Together have a thrilling opportunity; to declare Christ's trial, death and resurrection in a vivid, open-air play that will be both a stunning visual spectacle and an arresting and thought-provoking drama. We will stage our drama in the Memorial Gardens in Staines, in the open air, on **Easter Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014**. There will be two performances, at midday and 2.30, each running for about 90 minutes. The original concept calls for a biblically faithful re-telling of the Easter story to a high professional standard. We will need a cast of around 60 people and a team of perhaps 60 more to make costumes, construct sets, work the public address, steward the site, counsel the cast, crew and audience and pray for the blessing of God. Please see noticeboard for further details. Call John Miller on 01784 441882 or go to [www.spelthornetransformation.org](http://www.spelthornetransformation.org) or e-mail: [passionplay@spelthornetransformation.org](mailto:passionplay@spelthornetransformation.org)

## REST IN PEACE

### PETER BOYLE RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Boyle RIP who passed away last weekend. His Funeral Mass will take place here on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.00pm. Please keep in your prayers his children and all the family who mourn him.

### HAZEL COSTELLO RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Hazel Costello RIP who passed away last weekend. Please keep in your prayers her family and all who mourn her. Her Funeral details will be announced soon.

## Mass intentions and other services this week:

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b> St John of the Cross	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	<b>12.00</b>	<b>Nigel Owen RIP</b>
	12.45	Baptisms of Daisy Louise Lenkiewicz, Archie James Abreu, Tiara Adema Jisii and Adepeju Ariel Simisola Soboyejo
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Margaret O'Sullivan RIP</b>
<b>+ Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b> 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<b>09.00</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Valancy De Souza in Thanksgiving</b>
	<b>13.00</b>	<b>Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)</b>
	15.00	Carol Service of Remembrance – Lodge Brothers
	<b>18.00</b>	<b>For the intentions of Karl &amp; Erika</b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b> Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Evelyn Clancy RIP (Anniversary)</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b> Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Mary &amp; Gabriel D'Souza in Thanksgiving</b>
	10.00	Novena to Our Lady
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b> Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Thanksgiving to Parishioners for prayers for Baby Anthony</b>
	<b>14.00</b>	<b>FUNERAL MASS – PETER BOYLE RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b> Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Niegl Owen RIP</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b> Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Matthew Rodrigues RIP (Anniversary)</b>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b> Advent Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	<b>12.00</b>	<b>Esther Kusi-Appiah RIP</b>
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Deceased members of the O'Hanlon Family RIP</b>
<b>+ Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Brendan Ryan RIP</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Faustina Mendoza in Thanksgiving</b>
	<b>13.00</b>	<b>Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)</b>
	<b>14.00</b>	<b>Mass led by the African Community</b>
	<b>18.00</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### Sanctuary Lamp: Emmanuela Danladi in Thanksgiving

### Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

7-8 Dec: Envelopes £1074.54, Loose £787.59, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2282.13

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