

WELCOME TO



Holy Cross & St Patrick Parish



Served by the Society of the Divine Saviour – The Salvatorians

Parish Priest: Father Fortunatus Banzi, SDS Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Floribert Mulikita SDS
Deacons: Rev. Oluwole Alayo & Rev. Anthony Wentworth

The Priests House & Chapel, 1a Conway Road, Plumstead, SE18 1AQ

St Patrick's Church, Hector Street, Plumstead, SE18 1QT

Tel: 020 3722 7573, Email: plumstead@rcaos.org.uk

St Patrick's Primary School, Griffin Road, Plumstead, SE18 7QG Tel: 0208 854 3881 www.stpatrickprimary.org.uk

Head Teacher: Miss Mary Murphy

Archdiocese of Southwark is a Registered Charity: 1173050

Holy Cross, 27 The Slade, Plumstead Common, SE18 2NB

www.stpatricksholycross.org.uk

Salvatorian Trustees Registered Charity No 231410

Parish Office: Tuesday & Wednesday – 9.00 to 3pm. Thursday 9.00 to 2.30pm

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR A Ps3 14th December, 2025 (Pg88)

This Sunday is **Gaudete Sunday**, the Latin word for “rejoice” and takes its name from the opening antiphon: ‘*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice, indeed, the Lord is near.*’ Thus, as we come closer to the feast of Christmas, the Church encourages us to rejoice because God is about to fulfil his promise to us. However, this does not mean we have come to the end of our preparation for this season of Advent. Instead, it is a way of urging us to be more focused and courageous. It is also a way of assuring us that our preparations shall soon be rewarded.

Today, all our readings exhort us to be happy and joyful as we wait for the Lord’s coming. The Gospel of today expresses this topic of rejoicing at the imminent coming of the Lord. John the Baptist’s disciples ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come. ‘*Look around you*’, they are told. ‘*The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the Good News is proclaimed to the poor and happy are those who believe.*’ These events really are a cause for rejoicing; the Lord has come and is working miracles among us; our salvation is at hand. Let us praise God on this **Gaudete Sunday**. Let us thank Him for all he has done for us. We rejoice that, through the coming of his Son Jesus, we have been saved. We do what we can to imitate his life, to follow his Gospel of love. We join together to celebrate the Eucharist, sharing the bread that is His body and the wine that is His blood. We take seriously his plea to the Father: ‘*May they be one, Father, even as you and I are one.*’

CONFessions *St Patrick*: Saturday after 10.00 Mass
Holy Cross: Saturday before 5.30pm Mass

There will be no EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT until further notice

<i>Holy Cross</i>	<i>Mass intentions</i>	<i>St. Patrick</i>
17.30 Tony Callan RIP anniversary	Sat. 13 th December THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr 10.00 Herbert & Florence Perera RIP AND Thomas & Seetus Perera RIP
8.45 Anna de Cristoforo RIP	Sun. 14 th December THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	10.15 Birthday thanksgiving Elizabeth Euro 18.00 Welfare of Paddy Cullen
10.00 Johnny Dalton RIP anniversary	Mon. 15 th December FERIA	9.00 Christy Costelloe 80 th birthday
NO MASS	Tues. 16 th December FERIA	NO MASS
10.00 Wellbeing & recovery of Alice Downey	Wed. 17 th December FERIA	9.00 Souls of Purgatory
10.00 Wellbeing & recovery of Patrick Campbell	Thur. 18 th December FERIA	9.00 Lisa and Paul wedding day blessings
10.00 Happy Birthday Mary Mulholland	Fri. 19 th December FERIA	9.00 Chandrakant Herbert Perera RIP 1 st anniversary AND Willo Bailey RIP
17.30 Anthony & Mona Pinto RIP	Sat. 20 th December FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT	10.00 Mary-Jane's intentions
8.45 Robert William Gordon RIP AND Tina Holmes RIP anniversaries	Sun. 21 st December FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT	10.15 Vera Pollock RIP anniversary 18.00 John Wishart RIP and family

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Please note – notices for the Parish Newsletter, with Father's prior permission, should be sent to the Parish Office by Wednesday at 12 noon (by email, 'phone or printed copy). We will do our best to include items, but cannot always guarantee this.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Offertory **6th December £846.10**

The Christmas collection is your offering for the clergy of the parish. If you are a Gift Aid member, please use the dated Christmas envelope in your box. Donations can also be made by cheque to RCAS PLUMSTEAD, banker's order with the reference CHRISTMAS, or using the contactless machine at the back of church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 14th December 4 – 6pm

**Wesley Hall Methodist Church,
Timbercroft Lane SE18 2SB**

CHRISTMAS MINGLE 25

in aid of Cancer Research UK

Christmas crafts, carols & songs, games & quiz, refreshments

READERS	<i>St Patrick</i>
14th December: 10.15	A Sakole/P Fadonugbo
21st December: 10.15	Guides/Brownies
	<i>Holy Cross</i>
13th Dec: 17.30	Mike
20th Dec: 17.30	Brian
	14th Dec: 8.45
	Sheila
	21st Dec: 8.45
	Jason

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn for the Byrne family
RIP at Holy Cross and Francis Euba & George
Phillings AND Anne César RIP *birthday
remembrance* at St Patrick.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY St Patrick *children under 10 years*
14th December – Mary/Laura; Olivia & Ebinehitas

Guides (girls aged 10 – 14) **Brownies (girls aged 7 – 10)** **Mondays 6 – 7.30pm**
For more information on joining please contact:
Tatavanga – 07921500555 Natasha – 07941967414

Please pray for those who are unwell: Margaret Ollin, Pat Cullen, Christopher Nnabike, Yolanda Perera, Norma Barrett, Bridie Maguire, Loretta, Sophie & Pablo Picola, Hana Gjelaj, Bob Kapp, Philomena Flaherty, Jo O'Connell, Dave Kent, Mary Mulholland, Maura Nagle, Chris Britto, Eileen McPadden, Nuala McGovern, Aurora Miranda, Charles, Sarah, Sven & Lloyd, Jimmy Gjelaj, Pressie Fernandez, Betty O'Donoghue, Louise Perera, Marianne Ali, Trevor Brown, John McPartlin, Sarah Young & family, Irene D'Souza, Alex Pollock, Kevin Murphy, Susannah Brown, John Colacco, Henry Agbadamusi, Dave Orrel, Stephen Brown, Erin Johnston, Maureen Cunney, Eddie White, **for those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ellen Hall, Billy Yellop, Josie Davis, Declan Mulholland, James Hurley, Mary Walsh, Tamara Heywood, Jennie Kent, Winston Recardo, Matthew Proctor, Fr Bert White, Ellen Herlock



USED POSTAGE STAMPS
in aid of the London Air Ambulance

Please save any stamps from letters you receive – after Christmas, there will be a box at the back of church to collect your used stamps for charity.

During December, Christmas cards and gifts will be on sale in the Repository. We are encouraged to send a religious card to friends and relatives to witness to our faith and remind people what Christmas is really about.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns red to remind us that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Sanctuary Lamp intentions can be requested for many reasons – remembering loved ones, thanksgiving, get well wishes, birthdays/special occasions. The list is now available at the back of church

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT

This is how we are reaching out to our neighbours in need:

***GREENWICH FODBANK.** Tinned & packet foods, toiletries, nappies can be brought to church at any time. **We will continue to have our monthly collection of food every fourth Sunday of the month (Youth Sunday). PLEASE NOTE: Christmas treats should be brought by Sunday 14th December.**

*** Christ the King 6th Form Christmas Toy appeal,**
NEW toys and gifts can be left in the box at the
back of church LAST COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Thank you

Archbishop John's Advent 2025 reflection. This Advent, Archbishop John is calling us to reflect on the "astonishing truth" that the "Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us". In a video reflection, Archbishop John said that: "to say God is with us is not poetry but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven". You can watch his full reflection at rcaos.org.uk/advent2025.

Account details: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER
BANK
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