

Church of the Holy Name

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**Our Lady of Lourdes**

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Parish Priest - Fr Sebastian Paul

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Newsletter Friday 20th December, 2024**Fourth Sunday of Advent****Dear Parishioners**

We are only a few days away from Christmas. We have been busy with preparing for the festive season, decorating our houses, buying gifts and sending Christmas cards to family and friends. Let us not forget what is the reason for the season, though. On Tuesday evening the churches will resound with the call "O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant". Let us not forget to respond to this call and come to our parish church to give praise to the newly born King. We will sing the carols, watch the Nativity play and celebrate with our families at home afterwards. Let us remember that the best way of welcoming Jesus is - an act of quiet prayer and meditation. "O come, let us adore Him" is the best possible piece of advice given to us by the heavenly throng. I wish you a happy Christmas, that this special time is filled with joy shared with the people you love. May it be also an opportunity to adore God who revealed his might and love in the birth of his Son in Bethlehem.

Fr Sebastian**Mass Times this Week: Sat 21st – Sun 29th December, 2024**

<i>Day/Feast Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Saturday 21 st	5.30pm 6pm	Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes Our Lady of Lourdes	Thomas & Ann Boardman, RIP
Sunday 22 nd <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes Reconciliation at Holy Name Holy Name	David Bysouth, RIP Hilary Riddle RIP People of the Parish
Monday 23 rd	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Tony Partland RIP
Tuesday, 24 th	4pm 6pm 10.45pm 11pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Holy Name - Carols Holy Name - Mass of Christmas Night	Jeff McCormick, RIP Lystra Hitchings, RIP The Lee Family RIP
Wednesday 25 th <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	9am 11am	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes	
Thursday 26 th <i>St. Stephen</i>	NO MASS		
Friday 27 th <i>St. John</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	
Saturday 28 th <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	5.30pm 6pm	Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes Our Lady of Lourdes	People of the Parish
Sunday 29 th <i>The Holy Family</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes Reconciliation at Holy Name Holy Name	

SAD NEWS

We are sad to report that Hilary Riddle, longstanding parishioner at OLOL, passed away last week. Funeral details will be announced in January

HELP NEEDED IN THE OLOL OFFICE

We are looking for an OLOL Coordinator with good IT skills to join the Parish of Esher and Thames Ditton team. Ideally this will be Mon, Wed, Fri mornings. The full job description will be advertised in a few weeks but will entail being on hand for volunteers and parishioners on these mornings, manning phones and emails, sacramental admin, managing the online calendar, general oversight of premises etc. If you are interested or can volunteer on these mornings on a temporary basis please email info@holymfamilyelbridge.church

ALPHA COURSE - Class of 2024

Last Tuesday marked the final session of our Alpha Course Class of 2024, and what an incredible journey it has been! The Alpha team want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the office team and the many kind-hearted individuals who supported us—whether by preparing delicious meals, baking cakes, or generously providing biscuits and chocolates. Your contributions have made this experience truly special, and we cannot thank you enough. A special thank you goes to all the participants who joined us, bringing open minds, warmth, and insight, as well as their commitment to see the journey through by attending regularly despite the demands of daily life—especially for those with young families. They've been truly unforgettable. We wish you every blessing as you continue to nurture your (for some) newfound faith or rekindle the flame that once burned brightly.



Spread the word—Alpha is set to restart in September 2025! Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Christmas,

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERINGS ARE YOUR PERSONAL GIFT TO FR SEBASTIAN. Priests have no salary, therefore their personal income is derived from your contributions at Christmas and Easter and for mass intentions. GiftAid envelopes are available in the church porches for your Christmas gift. Thank you.

NEW WIFI FOR CONTACTLESS MACHINES

We are trying out a new wifi system in both church entrances in the hope that parishioners will not have continuing issues with the machines. Hopefully from this weekend this will fix the connection issues

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – East Elmbridge Foodbank

The final 2nd collection of Advent will be this weekend for East Elmbridge Foodbank

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS AT HOLY NAME

As per tradition at Holy Name church, we will be remembering loved ones at this special time of year by decorating the Church with poinsettias at Christmas. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia plant to be displayed in the Church, please collect a form in the church porch for your personal dedication. Each plant costs just £8. **Deadline is Sunday 22nd December.**

SONGBIRDS & FRIENDS CHARITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Friday 20 December 7pm at OLOL

THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT. We look forward to seeing all who have purchased their tickets for the Songbirds and Friends Christmas Concert at 7pm OLOL Hall on 20 December 2024 All proceeds will go to the charity Elmbridge CAN

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE - 4pm at OLOL

if your child would like to take part in the nativity and would like to be a shepherd, sheep or angel please come

in your own costume. Fr Sebastian will let you know when to meet the Junior church leaders at the back of the church to take part in the nativity. No rehearsal needed everyone welcome!

100 CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS

The final draw of 2024 was done this week – double amounts in December! Congratulations to our winners
1st prize Christopher Harrison, 2nd prize Rosemary Cleary, 3rd prize Bernadette Lenane

100 CLUB 2025

As we begin a new year, we hope all existing members of the 100 Club will renew and welcome any new members. Forms (for new members only) will be available in the church narthex/porch or can be downloaded from our website here <https://holyfamilylbridge.church/app/uploads/2024/12/100-Club-NEW-Membership-Form-2025.pdf> If you had a number last year, no need to complete a form but please organise payment and let us know by email. This is a great way to give to charity but also to have the chance to win a prize yourself!

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORM SIGNING – Saturday 4th January 10-11am at OLOL

If you would like Fr Sebastian to sign your school forms for local catholic primary schools he will be available to do so at OLOL on Saturday 4th January 10-11am and to chat to child and parent

BIBLE STUDY GROUP AT OLOL BREAKING UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

Dates will be send out to the group in due course.

NO ADORATION AT HOLY NAME UNTIL 7th JAN

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – Service at OLOL on Sunday, 19th January at 4pm

There will be a service in the church followed by tea in the Hall/café. Christians from the local Dittons churches will be invited. We hope as many of our parishioners will come along also.

YOUTH

NEXT PARISH YOUTH GROUP – Date tbc for January

Our Youth group is really fun and relaxed and takes place every other Friday at the Holy Name Church, Esher in the Parish Rooms. It's a great opportunity to learn more about your faith, to enjoy friendship, share pizza, play games and spend some time in prayer. For more info please contact the Parish Office. We look forward to seeing you!

NEXT FUN FRIDAY - January 10th 3.30pm at OLOL

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Both these preparation programmes start in January. All parents have been emailed details but there will be a meeting for all parents on the evening Tuesday 7th January:

Confirmation at Holy Name

First Holy Communion at OLOL

NEW STUDY HUB AT OLOL ON SUNDAY EVENINGS

Are you in Year 11+ and working towards exams? The renovated cafe at OLOL will be open with volunteers on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm. It offers a quiet, warm distraction -free space for focused study to support that well-being feeling for the week ahead.

NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS

Standing Orders £12,113; Offertory Cash £2,274.73; Offertory Contactless £1,614

Second collections Oct/Nov: Arundel Cathedral £245; Cafod Harvest £915.50; Prisoners Sunday £303.70; Retired priests £852.70; World Mission £171

CHRISTMAS 2024 SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE	4pm	Mass with Nativity for children	OLOL
	6pm	Mass	Holy Name
	11pm	Midnight Mass (carols 10.45pm)	Holy Name
CHRISTMAS DAY	9am	Mass	Holy Name
	11am	Mass	OLOL

REGULAR EVENTS at Holy Name and Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL)

Divine Mercy Chaplet: All welcome to pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord encouraged St. Faustina to say.	Weekly - Sundays after 9am Mass in the Lady Chapel	Holy Name
TakeTime Meditations: A calm, compassionate space to meet God with the opportunity to explore your faith with others.	Weekly - Mondays at 8pm on Zoom	Email parish office for Zoom link
Playgroup and Café: A cuppa and a chance to catch up with friends every Friday. Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers too.	Weekly - Fridays 9-10.30am	OLOL
Sew 'N So's: Complete your craft projects with a warm welcome, friendly chat and suggestions about anything you are "stuck" on.	Weekly - Fridays 11am-1pm Ring Jo W on 020 8224 3705	OLOL
Fun Fridays: A youth club for all primary school aged children and their families. It takes place the first Friday of every month (term time) from 3:30 to 5pm in the church hall at OLOL. Games, crafts, snacks, and prizes. It's a great opportunity to hang out with friends after school and enjoy seasonal themed activities.	Monthly – 3.30pm Look out in newsletter for next one	OLOL
Parish Youth Group: For all those in school years 7-13 (ages 13 +) Our Youth group is really fun and relaxed and takes place every other Friday at the Holy Name Church, Esher in the Parish Rooms. It's a great opportunity to learn more about your faith, to enjoy friendship, share pizza, play games and spend some time in prayer. For more information contact the parish office	Every other Friday (see newsletter	Holy Name
Drinks and games after Saturday and Sunday evening Masses: come along after the 6pm Mass to meet fellow parishioners	Monthly – first weekend of the month	OLOL
Rosary: All welcome, especially anyone who would like to learn the Rosary or anyone who needs a refresher in a peaceful environment.	Weekly - Friday 7pm Monthly - 1st Saturdays at 9.30am First Monday of the month 7.30pm (weekly during May & October) Weekly Wednesday 9.30am	Holy Name Holy Name OLOL OLOL
Bereavement Coffee Morning: Anyone enduring the pain and loss of bereavement is welcome to attend this caring, supportive gathering.	Monthly - 1st Tuesdays at 10am	Holy Name
Grandparents and Elderly Group: Open to all grandparents and elderly in the parish. Come along for a chat and a cuppa.	Monthly - 3rd Tuesdays at 10.15am	OLOL
Bible reading group: Come along for coffee, prayer and discussion: Have you ever thought about what you read in the Bible? Is it true? In what ways is it true? Is it a myth? Who says so? A small group who meet regularly to read and pray the bible together. Informative, useful, and fun	Fortnightly – Wednesdays at 10am Call: John Merrigan (07949 913487).	OLOL
Parish Soups: A delicious selection of homemade soups served with bread and cheese. Come along and bring a friend!	Monthly - 2nd Wednesdays at 12pm	OLOL
Taizé Evening: A short service of meditative and reflective prayer, combining periods of silence, readings from Scripture, and Taizé music based on Psalm.	Monthly - Thursdays at 7pm See newsletter for dates	Holy Name
Esher Catenians: open to all practising Catholic men looking for a local, national and international social network	Monthly – generally 2 nd Tuesdays at 7:00pm for 7:30pm Email: Andrew_burton33@aol.com	Various, including Surbiton Golf Club, The Angel, TD