

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, 6th December, 2024**Second Sunday of Advent****Dear Parishioners**

There is an interesting story about Swami Vivekananda, the famous Hindu hermit-philosopher. He was a key figure in the introduction of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. On one occasion he was invited to a conference in America and was asked to explain the difference between Hinduism and Christianity. Here is his classical explanation. "God of Christians came in search of man and we Hindus go in search of God. To have a God-experience." In the Advent season, there are many ways in which we can welcome the coming Lord. We can experience him through the religious practices, liturgy, in the community and in other people. St John the Baptist encourages us to prepare a highway for our God in our hearts by repentance, resulting in renewal of life. Let's make the most of this season and don't miss the opportunity to make the smooth way for the Lord by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Monday 16th December at 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes church. The Lord is near.

Fr Sebastian**Mass Times this Week: Sat 7th – Sun 15th December, 2024**

Day/Feast Day	Time	Church	Intention
Saturday 7 th <i>St. Ambrose</i>	5.30pm 6pm	<i>Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes</i> Our Lady of Lourdes	Eve Hands, RIP
Sunday 8 th <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes <i>Reconciliation at Holy Name</i> Holy Name	Martin Green, RIP People of the Parish
Monday 9 th <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	HOLY SOULS
Tuesday 10 th	9.30am 10-12am	Holy Name <i>Adoration at Holy Name</i>	Mary Lavelle RIP
Wednesday 11 th	9.30-10am	<i>Adoration & Rosary at OLOL</i>	
Thursday 12 th	9.30am	Holy Name	Stanley Neill, RIP
Friday 13 th <i>St. Lucy</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	
Saturday 14 th <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	5.30pm 6pm	<i>Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes</i> Our Lady of Lourdes	
Sunday 15 th <i>Third Gaudete Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes <i>Reconciliation at Holy Name</i> Holy Name	C.J. Kim, RIP Ken Sale RIP Michael O'Sullivan Ints

ADVENT 2nd COLLECTIONS

During Advent we will have a 2nd collection at the weekends for the following causes and charities:

1st December – REFUGEES – Elmbridge CAN

8th December – LOCAL HOMELESSNESS – Rentstart, KCAH, Molesey Night Shelter

15th December – UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN – KidsOut

22nd December – LOCAL FOOD BANKS – East Elmbridge Foodbank

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER – an Hour of Grace

This Sunday December 8th - an Hour of Grace commencing 10.30am in the Lady Chapel at Holy Name Esher. In anticipation of the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday 9th December this year, there will be a special hour of prayer this Sunday. This hour was promised by The Blessed Virgin Mary that whatever a person asked Her for during this Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the will of the Eternal Father. Please distribute this message to as many people as you can and ask them to join us. The specific prayers that we will follow will be provided for you and there will be times of silent contemplation for private prayer. Remember to pray for your country during this hour, for the sick and housebound in our parish, for the end to abortion and assisted dying, for peace and an end to war, for the Diocesan Pastoral plan and the future of our Parish... Please help the Blessed Virgin Mary to fulfill Her Mission well ... that all souls be drawn to God and that Jesus will be loved in every heart. This is the Perpetual song of her Heart. Let it also be ours.

KNITTED CHOCOLATE ORANGE COVERS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!

Our knitting group have made some great covers for chocolate oranges and will sell them after both Holy Name masses on Sunday. All proceeds to Cafod

CAROL SINGING IN LOCAL CARE HOMES – Saturday 14th December

Please help bring some festive cheer to the elderly and frail in our area by joining our carol singing group on **14th December**. We will meet at Thames View care home (formerly the Home of Compassion), 58 High Street, Thames Ditton KT7 0TT at **2pm** and then divide into smaller groups to visit other homes. Any questions please contact Marie Miller (hoskins_marie@hotmail.com).

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. Starts this Sunday 8th December.

SOCIAL

SCHOOL OF JOY QUIZ – Thank you.

Thank you to all who cooked, attended, supported. The event raised £1,072.69

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP – Saturday 7th December 10.30-12.30 – at both churches

Thank you to everyone who has booked to come along to one of these workshops. We look forward to seeing you on 7th. Bookings have now closed and materials ordered. All proceeds donated to Elmbridge CAN.

FESTIVE TEAS – Sunday 8th December at OLOL

The Festive Teas are taking place on Sunday 8th December in the Gillespie Hall. Can you provide any of the following: a cake, mince pies, a platter of sandwiches, a bottle of Baileys, a lift for someone to and from the event. All offers gratefully received. Please contact Katie Cooper curlykatie66@gmail.com or 07775 711593.

CHRISTMAS SOUP LUNCH AT HOLY NAME – Thursday 19th December

Mass will be at midday at Holy Name that day and a soup lunch with festivities, cheese, cakes, wine, Baileys will follow in the parish rooms. All are welcome. Email info@holyfamilyelmbridge.church to book a place. Donations will cover costs and any surplus will go to charity.

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

Songbirds and friends Christmas concert Friday 20 Dec 7pm Tickets now on Sale . Please contact adults £10 u21s£5. Contact Karen@haizelden.com or 07921089755 for tickets.

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.**

EARTHLY VOICES Christmas Concert at Holy Name – Thursday 12th December at 8pm

Tickets £10/children free. Includes Mulled wine and Mince Pies, (no extra mince pies for spotting two parishioners in the choir) Retiring collection for Cobham Food Bank. Carols, Readings and Christmas favourites. CASH at the door or via website <https://www.earthlyvoices.org.uk/box-office-contact>

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

COME AND SEE - RCIA

This course has now started but anyone wishing to join us on a Thursday evening at Holy Name, you are most welcome. For further information please see <https://holyfamilyembridge.church/become-a-catholic/>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP AT OLOL BREAKING UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

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

CHURCH SHOP – CHRISTMAS SUPPLIES

We have Christmas cards, advent candles, rosary beads, Children's Christmas books, chocolate advent calendars, diaries (Holy Name only) In the church shops. Please support charity by purchasing these. Access via Alice at OLOL, Diana at Holy Name or ask in the church office

YOUTH

NEXT PARISH YOUTH GROUP – Friday 13th December at Holy Name at 7pm

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!

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

Monday 16 th December	7.00pm	Advent Reconciliation Service	OLOL
CHRISTMAS EVE	4pm	Mass	OLOL
	6pm	Mass	Holy Name
	11pm	Midnight Mass (carols 10.45pm)	Holy Name
CHRISTMAS DAY	9am	Mass	Holy Name
	11am	Mass	OLOL

Friday morning 9.30am Masses at OLOL 6th, 13th & 20th December – Rorate masses

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