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Parish Priest - Fr Sebastian Paul

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Newsletter 28th November, 2025 First Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners

As we enter the beautiful but busy days leading up to Christmas, it's easy to feel swept along by the flurry of tasks and plans. Yet this season gently invites us to slow down, breathe, and truly attend to one another and to the communities that sustain us. What a delight it is to see the joyful flurry of pre-Christmas activities featured in our newsletter—from craft fairs and concerts to festive soup lunches—each one reminding us that preparing for Christ's coming is as much about gathering, sharing, and caring as it is about getting things done. May we make space for stillness, gratitude, and the simple grace of being present with each other.

Marie-Anne Chidiac

Mass Times this Week: Sat 29th November to Sun 7th December, 2025

<i>Day/Feast Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Saturday 29 th	5.00pm 5.30pm	Our Lady of Lourdes - Reconciliation Our Lady of Lourdes	People of the Parish
Sunday 30 th <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes <i>Holy Name - Reconciliation</i> Holy Name	David Sutterby, RIP William Bloomfield, RIP Holy Souls
Monday 1 st December	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Fr. Derek Lance, RIP
Tuesday 2 nd	9.30am 10am-11.30am	Holy Name <i>Holy Name- Adoration</i>	Mary Jessica Leahy, RIP
Wednesday 3 rd <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes - Adoration & Rosary	
Thursday 4 th	9.30am	Holy Name	Ann Feltham, RIP
Friday 5 th	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Kathleen McMillan Intentions
Saturday 6 th	5.00pm 5.30pm	Our Lady of Lourdes - Reconciliation Our Lady of Lourdes	Francis Raphael Baker RIP
Sunday 7 th <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes <i>Holy Name - Reconciliation</i> Holy Name	Private Intentions People of the Parish Fina Leon RIP

NEW PARISH OF WEYBRIDGE

Please find here the document outlining the new Parish of Weybridge which gives information on changes and plans. Paper copies are available in the Narthex/porch.

<https://hollyfamilylmbridge.church/app/uploads/2025/11/Weybridge-Parish-Information-1.pdf>

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

Congratulations to the following families who will be welcomed into the Church this Sunday at OLOL: Amiri-Garroussi, Bartly, Blackford, Cockbill, Harris, Olivieri, Riach-Butler, Stanley

ADVENT

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

During Advent we will have some 2nd collections. You will see the Giving Trees in both churches and children will be invited to bring a gift tag and a gift next weekend (7th/8th December) See details under the Youth section below. The second collection that weekend will be for Kingston Advocacy, founded by Helen Clarke who was the founder and her funeral was held this week at Holy Name

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE – Wednesday 10th December 7pm at Holy Name

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

	Holy Name	OLOL
Christmas Eve 24th	6pm Mass	4pm Family Service
		11pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 25th	9am Mass	11am Mass
Friday 26th		<i>No 9.30am Mass on 26th</i>
Saturday 27th		<i>No 5.30pm Mass 27th</i>
Sunday 28th	9am	11am
	<i>No 6pm Mass on 28th</i>	

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 Friday 19th December.**

SOCIAL

SCHOOL OF JOY QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday 29th November at Holy Name

We look forward to seeing all those who have signed up for the quiz this weekend. 7pm meet for a 7.30pm start. We have two seats left if anyone would like to come last minute please email esher@abdiocese.org.uk by lunchtime Friday!

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS – Saturday 6th December, 10.30-12.30 at Holy Name

Cost £45 including all materials mulled wine and mince pies! Proceeds will go towards charity. To book a place please email mariakwei72@gmail.com Places are limited

FESTIVE TEAS – 7th December 3-5pm at OLOL

Request please for 1) food donations – sandwiches, cakes, mince pies, biscuits, sausage rolls, Baileys. 2) Raffle prizes. Please contact Liz Smith elizabethsmith@btinternet.com

OLOL CHRISTMAS SOUP LUNCH - Wednesday 10th December, 12pm at OLOL

A delicious selection of homemade soups with bread and cheese and more. Come along and bring a friend.

HOLY NAME FESTIVE SOUP LUNCH – Thursday 11th December at Holy Name

Mass will be at 11.30am 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 esher@abdiocese.org.uk to book a place. Donations will cover costs and any surplus will go to charity.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE LOCAL CARE HOMES – Sunday 14th December – please join us!

Please come along and bring some festive joy to care home residents in our area! Music can often be enjoyed by people with dementia and other neurological conditions in a way that other communications can't and our visits are always much appreciated. We will meet at 2.45 for a 3pm start at Thames View care home, 58 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0TT & then divide into groups to visit 6 other homes in the area. The more the merrier so please ask friends & family too. All ages welcome. It helps to know numbers in advance so please let Marie Miller know if you will join - hoskins_marie@hotmail.com / 07949 883990

SONGBIRDS CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Thursday 18th December 7pm at OLOL

Tickets £10/under 21s £5. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Contact karen@haizelden.com 07921 089755. Proceeds to Momentum

BEREAVEMENT MEETING - Please note that there will be no Bereavement Meeting at OLOL on Thursday 4th December. We will resume in the new year and will provide an update on that at a later date

YOUTH

Parish Youth Advent Charity Appeal.

Once again, we're partnering with **KidsOut, the Giving Tree**. This fantastic initiative helps provide Christmas gifts for children who fled domestic abuse and live in refuge. If you can, please take a gift tag from one of the trees in the Narthex, buy a new gift and bring it back with the gift tag attached. All donations are greatly appreciated and **due back by the 7th of December**. It's a great opportunity for young people to get involved in meaningful acts of kindness and make this Advent a little brighter for others. For more information visit <https://kidsout.org.uk/the-giving-tree/guidance/>

Youth Advent Weekend!

Join us for **Youth Advent Weekend** on **Sunday, December 7th**! We'll gather at:

9:00 AM Mass at Holy Name

11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL)

During the Mass, our young parishioners will bring up their Giving Tree and/ or KAG donations for a special blessing, and afterwards, everyone is invited to enjoy treats, crafts, and festive Christmas goodies. Let's come together to celebrate the season and spread the joy of Advent.

CONFIRMATION 2026

Registration forms for 2026 Confirmation preparation are now available on our website here

<https://holyfamilymbridge.church/confirmation-online-form/> The preparation is for school year 8 and begins on 6th January – each Tuesday evening at OLOL. We would like applications ideally by 12th December.

RCIA 2026

Our "Come and See" evenings, learning more about the Catholic faith with a view to being received into the Church begin in January on a Thursday evening at Holy Name church. For more information see our website <https://holyfamilymbridge.church/become-a-catholic/>

NEW SCRABBLE CLUB STARTING IN DECEMBER– Tuesday afternoons fortnightly at Holy Name

All are welcome to join our new Scrabble Club which will take place at Holy Name on a Tuesday afternoon 2-4pm. The first one will be on Tuesday 2nd December, then on 16th. If you are interested or would like more information or would like transport please contact Sarah Ford 07704 957612

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

Please see below the link to Universalis which has current weekend readings. This can always be found on the front page of our website too <https://www.universalis.com/Europe.England.Arundel/mass.htm>

OCTOBER OFFERINGS

Standing Orders £12,144; Offertory cash £2,428.49; Offertory contactless £1,210; Soups £60; Cafod Fast Day £948.30; Catholic Education £135; Home Mission Sunday £20; Prisoners Sunday £138.30 World Mission £317.90

REGULAR EVENTS at Holy Name and Our Lady of Lourdes (LOL)		
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. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353668161?pwd=MmRxbHUwNW9kS0F3dTRxNldYSjJQT09	Weekly - Mondays at 8pm on Zoom	
Playgroup and Café: A cuppa and a chance to catch up with friends every Friday. Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers too.	Weekly – Mondays & Fridays 9-10.30am	LOL
Sew 'N So's: Complete your craft projects with a warm welcome, friendly chat and suggestions about anything you are “stuck” on.	Call: Jo W on 020 8224 3705	LOL
Fun Fridays: A youth club for primary aged children and their families. Activities are geared at KS2 with crafts, games, snacks, and a prize draw. It's a great opportunity to hang out with friends after school and enjoy seasonal themed activities.	5 Fridays term time – 3:30pm - 5 Look out in newsletter for next one	LOL
Parish Youth Group: For students in school years 7–13 (ages 13 and above) The Parish Youth Group offers a welcoming and supportive environment for young people to grow in their faith, build friendships, and enjoy time together in a relaxed setting. Held every other Friday in the Parish Rooms with pizza, games and fellowship at Holy Name Church, Esher.	Every other Friday (see newsletter)	Holy Name
Faith In Action Awards Programme – Our Parish award programme for those in Secondary School, supporting our candidates through their faith journey this year. Please see updates in the newsletter.	4 Reflection Dates: November 1 st , January 3 rd , others TBD	LOL
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	LOL
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, Wednesday 9.30am Monthly: 1st Saturday 9.30am 1st Monday 7.30pm (weekly during May & October)	Holy Name LOL Holy Name LOL
Bereavement Coffee Morning: Anyone enduring the pain and loss of bereavement is welcome to attend this caring, supportive gathering. Please check newsletter for next dates	Monthly (alternate venues) 1 st Tuesdays at 10am 1 st Thursdays at 7pm	Holy N LOL
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	LOL
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).	LOL
Parish Soups: A delicious selection of homemade soups served with bread and cheese. Come along and bring a friend!	Monthly - 2nd Wednesdays at 12pm	LOL
Taizé Evening: A short service of meditative and reflective prayer, combining periods of silence, readings from Scripture, and Taizé music based on Psalm.	Monthly - 7pm See newsletter for dates	Holy Name
Esher Catenians: open to all practising Catholic men looking for a local, national and international social network Follow us on FB https://www.facebook.com/groups/726607333082252/	Monthly – generally 2 nd Tuesdays at 7:00pm for 7:30pm E: Andrew_burton33@aol.com	Various including Surbiton Golf Club, The Angel T