

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
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Third Sunday of Advent (A) 15th December 2019

THIS WEEKEND We continue Advent and prepare for the Great Advent Days that will lead us to Christmas Eve and have our collection for the Christmas flowers. We also have the draw for our Christmas Raffle and thank all who have organised and worked on this. We also congratulate and pray for Holy Family Parish, South Maidstone, as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary as a Parish. Please also collect your 'St. Nicholas' gift - a 2020 Parish Diary.

ADVENT SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK There is Mothers Prayer Group on Monday, the Pre-School have their Nativity Service on Tuesday, and the school have their Church services on Wednesday. There is also the end-of-term Advent Mass in school, the Advent Adult Penitential service with Adoration on Friday, and the children's Christmas workshop on Friday - please support all these events.

NEXT WEEKEND We celebrate the final weekend of Advent and make our final preparations to receive Jesus and his new light and strength this Christmas, and we will also have a second opportunity to contribute to our 'St. Nicholas Charity Collection' with a retiring collection.

ADORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD There will be Adoration on 20th December with Advent Penitential with Fr. Peter from 7.30pm. Please feel free to join the Adoration team for a quiet time of meditation with your own thoughts any Friday between 6pm and 8pm. If you would like to join the team and you need a lift, please let the Parish office know and we will be able to help. There will be no Adoration evening on Friday 27th December, but we will be there on Friday 3rd January 2020.

Let us continue to help each other in this Advent to open our hearts to the Lord and the strength and life he wants to bring us in our lives and challenges this Christmas. Fr. Peter

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Advent - St. John of the Cross)	14	5pm	Barbara Tucker RIP (Corette Family)
SUNDAY Third Sunday of Advent (A)	15	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Advent Liturgy) Christine Griffin RIP (Anniv.) Mother Bernadette Gastor Lufor and Marie Alix & Marie Claude Terriere
MONDAY (Advent)	16	9.30am	Communion Service
TUESDAY (Advent Day 1)	17	9.30am 11am	The Parishioners Pre-School Nativity Service in Church
WEDNESDAY (Advent Day 2)	18	9.30am 1.30pm & 6pm	Mary Goldsmith (Welfare) School Christmas Services in Church
THURSDAY (Advent Day 3)	19	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Advent Day 4)	20	9.30am 7.30pm	Advent end-of-term Mass in School Adult Advent Penitential Service in Church with ADORATION
SATURDAY (Advent Day 5)	21	2.30pm 5pm	Baptism - Oscar Moon Molly & Simon Maher RIP (Alice, Margaret & Maureen)
SUNDAY (Advent Day 6) Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)	22	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Advent Liturgy) Annie Griffin RIP The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Saturday 21st December

Children 4.15pm to 4.30pm Adults 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Baby Giorgio Gangemi; Nicholas Powell; Terry Barton; Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Sarah Content; May Piddock; Baby Callie; Peter and Dee Avery; Colin Povey; Reece Reynolds; Fr. Tony Collins; David Formosa; Pauline O'Toole; Caroline Walker; Baby April Hayes; Sheila Koster; Jrena Beard; Eileen Calkin; Daphne Filmer; Mary Wilmot; Fr. Denis Lynch O.Carm; Dan Smith; Paul Head; John Langton; Natalie Walker; Fiona Evans; Billy Jones; Lawrence Jordan; Jacky Seeds; carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: Ewa Wszolek; Dagmar Müller; Tony Fullwood; Christopher Haskins; Monica Unter; Margaret Mansfield; Keith Osborne; Dave Stapley; Josie Keen; Paul Horsfall; also Michael Gladden; Edward Torre (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas More Fulford; Anna Black; George Wellard; Christine Griffin; Vanda Poil; Francis O'Reilly; Jack Tuite; Barbara Corbett; Robert O'Shea; Victor Cox; James Styles; William Turner; Alfred Mifsud; Lewis Thomas; Joan Leader; Dennis Parker; Francis Flanagan; Emmanuel Murto; Annie Griffin; Laurence O'Connor; Margaret Hopgood; Molly Maher.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 15	10am	Children's Advent Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 16	7.30pm	Mothers Prayer Group in Church Porch
TUESDAY 17	1.30pm	School Dress Rehearsal in Church
SATURDAY 21	10-11am	Children's Christmas Workshop in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
SUNDAY 22	10am	Children's Advent Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your Offerings which amounted to £349.81. (Standing Orders average £355 per week). The second collection for St. Nicholas Welfare raised £194.23. ***Donations for flowers and welfare may be "gift aided" so please use one of your spare envelopes and mark accordingly. If you are presently not a gift aid donor and would like to gift aid your donation please use one of the white envelopes at the back of the church - again please mark "flowers" or "welfare".***

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Many thanks to everyone who donated items, bought tickets and helped to organise. We raised £410 - thank you.

MANY THANKS for the anonymous and generous donation of board games received from a parishioner which will help us greatly with our welfare fund this Christmas - and our prayers for the donor.

SECURITY Anyone going into the Church alone must notify the Parish Office **even if they have their own Church key** and lock themselves in for safety reasons. They must also notify the Office when they leave.

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP The next meeting will be on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Church Porch. If you would be interested in attending please contact Steph Blackburn on 07977 458970 or email steph@bbits.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND 2020 CALENDARS Please support the Church by buying our cards and calendars. We work an honesty box system. Please put money in the box marked "Cards" in the porch near where you get your tea. Many thanks.

MISSIO CALENDARS Please feel free to take a Missio Calendar from the back of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Taking part in Advent. ***(We have taken down photos of last year's first communicants and they will be left on the table in the porch for parents to collect.)***

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS For safeguarding reasons all children under 10 must be escorted to the toilet during Mass. Could we also remind parishioners that the doors inside Church must be accessible at all times and that prams or other items must not block them. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING ***Please could all Groups note that the Big Clean will take place on Friday 20th December.***

CHURCH FLOWERS Dee's group week beginning 20th December. (If anyone has any greenery for Christmas flowers please bring to Church from Thursday 19th December.) ***All flower arrangers to meet on Monday 23rd December for Christmas Flowers.***

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO HENRY MASON who has raised £126.04 for our Parish through making and selling 'Bookmarks' - and a similar amount for (1) our School and (2) the homeless. Well done Henry, and thank you!

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Third Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 35:1-6 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11)

Cherish the gift

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself ... entrusted yourselves ... to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

