

Parish of St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy
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Parish Priest: Fr Antony Chundelikkat
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Deacon: Rev Robert Shakesby
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Sunday 11th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10.00 am Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe No Mass
Tuesday 13th December	St Lucy 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Wednesday 14th December	St John of the Cross 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Thursday 15th December	of Advent 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Friday 16th December	of Advent 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass 1.30 pm Endsleigh School Christmas Carol Concert 7.00 pm Penitential Service
Saturday 17th December	of 17th December No Mass
Sunday 18th December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10.00 am Mass: People of the Parish Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

**Confessions are available before and after Mass,
or on request.**

Advent Wreath Candles

During each Sunday of the Advent Season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: **Hope, Love, Joy** and **Peace**, three purple candles and one pink candle.

On the Third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-coloured, candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the 'Shepherds Candle', and it represents joy.

The fourth and last candle, often called the 'Angels Candle', represents peace and is lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The Lighting of the Third Candle

These living flames will be for us a sign of joy, a light that burns brightly in the midst of all the tragedies of this world, as we announce the Good News of Salvation and try and put your love into practice in our daily lives.

**Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises,
ever close to your beloved people, we look forward with joy
to our Saviour's coming at Christmas,
and wait in hope for his return in glory at the end of time.
Lighten the burdens that weigh us down,
and prepare our hearts to greet the Lord,
that we may rejoice in his loving presence, now and forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NOTICES

I want to thank all our donors and all our parishioners for your generous support for our 'Boiler Appeal'. It was really an amazing support that we have received from all our parishioners. With Gift Aid we have nearly reached our target. Thanks again for your generous contributions.

Fr. Antony

Christmas Mass Times at St Anthony's

Saturday 24th December:

6.00 pm Carols

6.30 pm Solemn Vigil Mass

Sunday 25th December:

10.00 am Solemn Mass of Christmas Morning

Endsleigh Holy Child School Carol Concert

On Friday 16th December, at 1.30 pm, the Endsleigh School children will have their annual Carol Concert in St Anthony's Church. Everyone is welcome.

Advent Penitential Service

There will be a Service of Reconciliation on Friday 16th December at 7.00 pm in St Anthony's Church. It has been arranged as a Deanery service and there will be many priests available to hear confessions.

St Anthony's Annual Christmas Parish Raffle

Today, Sunday 11th December, is the last day to buy raffle tickets. The prizes will be distributed next Sunday, 18th December.

S.V.P. Children's Gifts Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who has donated a gift for children who are not likely to receive any gifts this Christmas. This week 54 presents were delivered to St Anthony's Primary School. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Wreathes

Jackie Williams has been busy making wreathes, crosses and hearts which are available to buy after Mass. The suggested cost is wreath: £10, heart: £15 and cross: £20. She will also be bringing more next Sunday, 18th December, so if anyone would like to order a particular shape or colour scheme please contact Jackie on 07855 378680. Jackie has kindly donated her time and all the materials, so all proceeds are going to the Boiler Fund.. (After Christmas, if you are parting with any decorations that could be recycled, Jackie would be very pleased to collect them for next year's wreathes, and any pot-planted trees.)

Books by Norah Hanson

Norah has some copies of her three poetry books: 'Love Letters and Children's Drawings', 'Under a Holderness Sky' and 'Sparks' available after Mass and all proceeds will go to the Boiler Fund.

St Anthony's Parish Christmas Card

Cards will be available soon. Thank you in advance for generous donations to the charity working in the Holy Land - EMBRACE-ME (Middle East)

CAFOD World Gifts

Give a gift of hope this Christmas

There is still time to buy an alternative Christmas gift from Cafod's World Gift Catalogue. Purchases help to share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Hospital Chaplain

If you, or someone you know, is in hospital and would like a visit from the Chaplain, please contact Deacon Bob directly on 470456. This also applies over the holiday period -

he will be visiting the hospital on Christmas Day.

Ukrainian Winter Appeal

Bishop Terry has written to ask if, during the Advent and Christmas season, our parish would consider supporting the Emergency Winter Appeal.

“Ukraine is facing one of the severest air attacks it has been subjected to since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. Peaceful Ukrainian cities have been hit with deadly missiles, civilians have been targeted, and infrastructure destroyed leaving many without the basic necessities including electricity, heating, and water. Millions have been displaced internally or forced to seek refugee status outside their homeland.

Ukrainians remain resilient, but they know a harsh winter is ahead. For that reason, Patriarch Sviatoslav, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, has launched a new Emergency Winter Appeal to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the frontlines and in recently liberated regions in East and South Ukraine which are suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis because of Russian occupation and bombardment.

The Emergency Winter Appeal will be run in partnership with Caritas Ukraine, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church parishes in East and South Ukraine, as well as local NGOs.

The cost of one food parcel, providing enough food for two people for a week will cost approximately £16. Each package will contain the basics (grains, flour, pasta, meat and fish, preserves, oil, canned vegetables, sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits etc.) It is hoped to raise £160,000 allowing 10,000 food parcels to be supplied to those most in need. I write to ask if during this Advent and Christmas season your parish would consider supporting the Emergency Winter Appeal. If you do wish to support this request in this season of good will to all people, please send donations to:

Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund

Account Number: 20927317

Sort Code: 20-92-60

or by cheque made payable to the Ukrainian Catholic Church referencing Winter Appeal in both cases.

Thank you”

Next World Youth Day

In August 2023, the Pope will meet young people in Lisbon for the next World Youth Day. It is hoped that a group from the Diocese will travel with Bishop Terry from 31st July - 7th August to join in this wonderful event. If anyone, aged 18 - 35 by August 2023, would like to go to Lisbon, please contact Fr Philip Cunnah to register your interest by email at: frphilip.cunnah@rcdmidd.org.uk, and to receive further details.

Ecumenical Service

The Service, which was planned for 29th November, has had to be postponed and now will be on Tuesday 24th January at 6.00 pm. This is a very suitable date as it falls during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prayer for those affected by the Pakistan Floods

O Lord, in the goodness of your constant love,
be with the people of Pakistan
as they face devastating floods.

At this time of great loss –
loss of lives, homes and crops –
may we be filled with your compassion
and moved to reach out in love.

As we stand alongside our sisters and brothers, we pray that
they may find consolation in their sorrow,
strength as they seek shelter and safety
and courage to carry on.

Forgive us, O Lord,
for our part in the climate crisis,
and inspire us all to play our part
in protecting the earth, our common home.

So that together we may build a world
that reflects your glory,
where hope drives out despair
and all things are made new.

Prayer for Ukraine

(Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Church)

God of peace,
your prophet Isaiah promised swords
would be turned into ploughshares,
and your Son's mother Mary
proclaimed the mighty would be put down
and the humble exalted.

Visit the people of Ukraine:
deliver them from fear, violence, attack,
injury, destruction and death;
and give them courage, solidarity,
and allies in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.

Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion.
Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict,
restore order, and pursue justice.

And make this moment of peril an occasion
for your Holy Spirit to show your world the cost of conflict,
and our dependence on one another.

In Christ our Lord who went to his death
because of our hatred,
and rose again
because our hatred is never stronger
than your indomitable love.

Amen.

Prayer sent by Missio