

**CHRISTMAS POSTERS:** There are Christmas posters available at the back of the church to put up in your windows.

**THIEF:** Unfortunately, a thief has stolen some money and gifts twice from the Presbytery which is depressingly sad at this time of year. So, **be vigilant** with your own belongings and make sure you take up your handbag to receive Communion.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** We are trying to start the SVP again and so we are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining the SVP, then contact Martina or myself.

**VOLUNTEERS:** I am still looking for volunteers for a **Maintenance Team, a Sacristan for the week, Eucharistic Ministers** to bring Communion to the sick, Young Readers, Catechists, and new members for the Parish Council.

**GIFT AID – VERY IMPORTANT:** Very soon we are going to order new gift aid envelopes. To prevent waste, we ask that you complete a gift aid form, which we have left at the back of the church, with the number that you are using please. If your circumstances have changed then please let us know. Many of you joined the gift aid scheme a long time ago when the forms were not uploaded to the computer system. This is a good time to review the forms as it is now a requirement for us to upload the forms to the system. Some people have set up standing orders, which is fantastic, and we still need your gift aid number so we can update our system.

**CARITAS NEWHAM DEANERY:** In the coming weeks and months, we are looking for anyone who could volunteer as advisers within the parish on Social, Economic and Housing issues. We are looking to establish a Caritas Newham Deanery who could help with a variety of issues within the parish and Borough. This could include advice for people made homeless or threatened with eviction. Advice about benefits from the DWP. Legal Advice. Someone who works or once worked in any of these fields would be ideal. Maybe someone who is now retired.

**VACANCY:** Ursuline Preparatory School Ilford, from 1 May 2025 or sooner. Director of Learning and Teaching, Pay Scale £36,413-£53,994 pa plus Management Allowance £2,500 pa. Year 5 Class Teacher, Pay Scale £36,413-£48,532 pa

Closing date: Midday, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Early applications are encouraged and interviews may take place on a rolling basis. For further details and application forms please visit: [https://www.urspsi.org.uk/school\\_careers.asp](https://www.urspsi.org.uk/school_careers.asp). Alternatively, please contact us directly on 020 8518 4050.

Counters' Rota					
Date	23/12/2024	30/12/2024	6/1/2025	13/1/2025	20/1/2025
Group	St Matthew	St Mark	St Luke	St Matthew	St Mark

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£261.50</b>
<b>Loose plate</b>	<b>£443.25</b>
<b>Standing order</b>	<b>£357.12</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1061.87</b>



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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – (C), CHRISTMAS DAY, AND SUNDAY OF THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Very Peaceful and Prosperous New Year! I would also like to thank everybody who has worked so hard by volunteering their time and effort to keep St Stephen's church running smoothly. I cannot do without the kind help the volunteers have shown me; whether they are Sacristans, Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers (a particular thank you for those who bring Communion to the Sick), Catechists, Readers, Counters, Cleaners, Altar Dresser, Ushers, Repository staff, Altar Servers, Maintenance workers, Flower Arrangers, Newsletter Arranger, Website designer and anyone who has given up their time for the greater glory of God. Furthermore, I want to thank the people of the parish who have generously contributed to the Building Fund, Christmas Flowers, Crib Collection, Second Collections, and any other collections. I have only been here for a short while, but the warm reception I have received, and I continue to receive, is a sign of God's love through the people. Thank you one and all! God-willing, I hope and pray that over the new year of 2025, this community will go from strength to strength, growing in God's love to become the apple of His eye. God bless you and all your families!

Your brother in Christ

Fr Tony Grant

**ADVENT OFFERINGS:** The Collections at the Christmas Masses will be the Advent Offerings for Fr Tony Grant. Without these offerings at Christmas and Easter, Fr Tony would not be able to afford to take a holiday and pay for other things which the diocese does not cover, like car insurance. Many thanks for your contributions.

**CHRISTMAS CRIB:** There will be baskets placed in front of the altar for the Crib Collection. So, if you want to donate, then please put donations in the baskets. Remember that all the proceeds from the Crib Collection will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**NO MASSES:** There will be no Masses on the following days: **30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> January.**

(See back for the rest of notices)

<b>Mass Times and Intentions at St. Stephen's Church, Manor Park</b>	
<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	
4.30-5.30 p.m.	Confessions
6.00 p.m.	Mass. David Nicholas Graves RIP & Joseph Thevarajah RIP
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year C (Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers)</b>
9.00 a.m.	Damien Lewis RIP
11.00 a.m.	Joseph Jakaj
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent – 23 December</b>
9.15 a.m.	Mass
10 – 11 a.m.	Confessions
6-7 p.m.	Confessions
<b>Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent – 24 December</b>
6.30 p.m.	Children's Mass. The Children of the Parish. Intentions.
8.00 p.m.	Carol Service
9.30 p.m.	Vigil ('Midnight') Mass. The People of the Parish.
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Solemnity</b>
9.00 a.m.	Rebecca Lozano England Birthday special intention
11.00 a.m.	Colin & Philo Davids RIP
<b>Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR Feast</b>
10.00 a.m.	Intention for our Altar Servers and their families.
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>ST JOHN, Ap, Ev Feast</b>
10.00 a.m.	
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm Feast</b>
10.00 a.m.	Unborn Children.
4.30-5.30 p.m.	<b>No confessions</b>
6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass. The People of the Parish. Intentions.
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Feast</b>
9.00 a.m.	Martin Seaman RIP
11.00 a.m.	Maurice D'Rosario RIP & Veronica's deceased relatives RIP

<b>Mass Times and Intentions at St. Stephen's Church, Manor Park</b>	
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	
10 am	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm Feast</b>
6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass. The People of the Parish
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Feast</b>
9.00 a.m.	Martin Seaman RIP
11.00 a.m.	Maurice D'Rosario RIP & Veronica's deceased relatives RIP
<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tue 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (C) (The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord) Solemnity</b>
10.00 a.m.	Holy Trinity
<b>Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>
	<b>No Confessions</b>
6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass. The People of the Parish.
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C) Solemnity</b>
9.00 a.m.	
11.00 a.m.	Martin Seaman RIP

#### **Prayer List**

John Oruche, Veronica Ojuri, Margaret, Chris, Loreen Phillips, Kathleen Phillips, Baby Simon Elliott, Clemence Sanderson, Kathleen Kavanagh, Mary Jane Ememe, Jay Agnes, Teresa & Patrick Moran.