

14 December 2025—Third Sunday of Advent (“*Gaudete*”)

Welcome to our services today

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Our annual Charity Carol Service in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice is this Wednesday (17th) at 7 pm. Your support would be most welcome!
Please note that Mass that evening is at the earlier time of 6 pm and will not be preceded by Exposition.

Walsingham Cell

The Walsingham Cell meets this Saturday (20th) for Mass at 11 am at Holy Trinity (Eucharistic Exposition from 10.30 am). All are welcome. It will not be followed by lunch on this occasion.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

Just a gentle reminder to those who have not yet signed up for the PGS, please do so and save your treasurer team time in the new year. If you were not in church recently we have a letter about it waiting for you today. Should you have any query about completing your application, please know that you can speak to a member of our treasurer team in confidence. Our acting treasurers Keith Blanchard, Allen Brown, Susan Brown and Tony Evans, with assistance from Stella Nettleton and Jan Reed, will be happy to help you.

Christmas Flowers

Donations towards the cost of Christmas flowers can be given to Joan Dimmick at All Saints and Diane Brown at Holy Trinity. Thank you.

‘Tea at Two’—*Christmas closure*

Tea at Two is taking a break over the Christmas/New Year period. We start again on Friday January 9th.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Those newly married: David & Donna Loveridge

The sick and infirm: June Anderton, Janet Dadson, Jane Lister, Paul Moore, Janet Murton, Roy & Jackie Phillips, Dave Powers, Mike Reed, Pat Rorison, Shirley Whiteley, Graham, Jack & Rosemary, Kirk & Karen, Neville, Pam, Phil

The recently departed & their families:

Lewis Ansell, Bishop David Wilcox

Anniversary of death: Bill Cudd

THIS WEEK

• All events at Holy Trinity—*unless shown otherwise* •
Weekday Readings: Week 3 of Advent

Monday

12.30 pm: Rehearsal for evening carol service
5.30 pm: Bohunt School Carol Service

Wednesday *O Sapientia*

6.00 pm: Mass (**Note time. No Exposition.**)
Psalm R. *In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.*

7.00 pm: Charity Carol Service

Thursday *O Adonai*

9.00 am: Hawley Preschool Christmas Service
11.00 am: Bible Study Group

Friday *O Radix Jesse*

11.00 am: Mass (10.30: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)
Psalm R. *My lips are filled with your praise, with your glory all the day long.*

2.30 pm: Christmas service—*Camberley Woods*

Saturday *O Clavis David*

11.00 am: Walsingham Cell Mass
(10.30: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament)
Psalm R. *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

Next Sunday—*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9.15 am: Mass with hymns—*All Saints*
11.00 am: Sung Mass

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00 pm: Christmas Crib Service
—*A service for all the family*
11.30 pm: Midnight Mass *Celebrant and Preacher: The Bishop of Richborough*
—*Traditional Christmas celebration*

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am: Sung Mass (**Please note time**)

‘Together’

The Christmas issue of ‘Together’, the regular free paper of the C of E’s Catholic societies, is available now in both our churches.

Weekly news sheet

Please send any items for inclusion on the sheet to Fr William by the end of Wednesday each week.

Sunday 14th Dec. 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
Gospel: Matt. 11: 2 – 11



Rejoice! This is the cry of the Church today. John's disciples turn to Jesus, as their master is in prison, hoping that all they have believed in is not lost. Jesus's reply is not simply a record of human achievement but is rich in biblical echoes. We know from Old Testament scriptures that Jesus is fulfilling all that God wishes for His creation. The Baptist was the messenger who prepared the way. 'Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'. Let us remember the call to humility and may we respond in faith, 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

Collect for today

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Advent Traditions: Rose

The Third Sunday of Advent is often known by the Latin name 'Gaudete', translated as 'Rejoice'. It is a Sunday on which we briefly step out of the penitential feel of Advent and rejoice that God will send us a Saviour who will free us from the chains of our sins. As a sign of this, the colour of the vestments lightens. The colour may sometimes look pink, but the correct name for the colour is rose. This colour reminds us that we are looking forward with joy and hope to the Nativity of the one whose coming is the fulcrum of all human history, and the source of the world's salvation.

Living the Word: James 5: 7 – 10

James devotes much of his letter to practical Christian living and his treatment of the theme of judgement is very helpful for our Christian discipleship. There is a command, 'Be patient', not just because it is a virtue but because there is an end point – the Lord will return. We are to look to that end and live in the light of that end. We must be attentive to God and aware of the world in which we live. We are not to be grumblers and criticisers of others. This is because God is looking on! He sees and knows. This is the meaning of the words: 'The judge is standing at the door'. This judgement is about compassion and is experienced with sorrow because God longs that our speech praises others, looks for their good, and entrusts final judgement to Him. The return of the Lord is to be desired and longed for because it will mean an end to suffering and evil. Day by day, we are to entrust ourselves to his merciful love and care.