

*MASS INTENTIONS 16th –24th December 2023*

Saturday 16th	6.30pm	(vigil) Pauline Reay RIP
Sunday 17th December 2023—Third Sunday of Advent B  Gaudete Sunday	8.30am 10.00am 12 Noon 3.00pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	People of the Parish Segrid Ayers Jnr RIP Mario Pinto Spanish Mass Solemn Holy Hour Mass
Monday 18th Feria	7.45am	Anne Maughan RIP
	10.00am	Kathleen O’ Dowd Intentions Josephine Devassy Intentions
Tuesday 19th Feria  St Antony’s School Mass	7.45am  10.00am  8.00pm	John Tan RIP  Owen & Christopher Intentions Luis Arecio De Mello RIP  St Anthony’s Novena
Wednesday 20th Feria	7.45am  10.00am	Tom Mongan Timmy RIP Helen Virginia Charles RIP  Requiem Antoine Anzie
Thursday 21st Feria	7.45am  10.00am	Emelda Sebaratnam Intentions  Sandra John Seamus, Mary & Family Intentions
Friday 22nd Feria	7.45am  10.00am	Justin & Jerome Thanksgiving  Segrid Ayers Jnr RIP
Saturday 23rd—Feria	10.00am  10am-1pm  6.30pm	Jerry Bliss RIP  Confessions  (Vigil) Agatha Brown
Sunday 24th December 2023—Forth Sunday of Advent B Expectant Mothers	8.30am 10.00am 12 Noon 3.00pm	People of the Parish Brian & Jean Briggs Bill, Joan & Mark Bennett RIP Spanish Mass
The Nativity of the Lord  Children’s Christmas Mass	Christmas Eve  6.30pm 9.30pm to 11.15am 11.30pm Midnight	Christmas Season  People of the Parish Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Carol Singing Michael & Matilda Harrick & Leslie Dench RIP

We pray for the SICK of our Parish, Families & Friends– and all at home or in hospital, and all who care for our sick.

**ST ANTONY’S CHURCH FOREST GATE**  
**Third Sunday of Advent B - 17th December 2023**

**Our First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11*: The Lord’s salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed. The **Responsorial Psalm** is Mary’s Magnificat from *Luke 1:46-50,53-54*: Mary sings praise to God. This week’s **Second Reading** is from *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always. Today’s **Gospel Reading** is *John 1:6-8,19-28*: John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

This Sunday’s Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. The Gospel of John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. St John the Baptist announces that the Saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John’s response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our Saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus’ presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means “rejoice,” is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday’s Mass. This theme is echoed in today’s readings, especially in the second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

**Christmas Organ Concert**

German organ player, Matthias Mueller will be giving a Christmas organ Concert, today Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. He will also play some pieces during the time of Holy Hour before Mass and during the Mass.

**Blessing of the Bambinelli (Baby Jesus)**

Today, during all the masses we will be having the **traditional Blessing of the Bambinelli**. If you would like the baby Jesus that you will be putting in your crib at your home blessed, please present them for blessing when the priest will bless the statues.

Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092

Address: 56 St Antony’s Road, Forest Gate E.7. 9QB,

Email: [forestgate@brcdt.org](mailto:forestgate@brcdt.org), Website: [www.stantonysforestgate.com](http://www.stantonysforestgate.com)

Parish Administrator: Marie Browne Tel: 020 8472 0433 :

Parish Youth Co-ordinator: Catherine Wallis-Hughes Tele: 07807348223.

St Antony’s School: -T.020 8552 3670

## Registration for Confirmation in 2024

Applications are now being accepted for teenagers who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at the parish in 2024. The application form is available at this link: <https://stantonys.churchsuite.com/forms/djmh98dt>



Or by scanning this QR code:

Candidates must have a date of birth between 20th May 2006 and 18th May 2010.

Please note, you must have the applicant's baptismal certificate ready to upload as part of the application process.

The deposit payment of £80 will be due in January at the first parents' meeting.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact Catherine Wallis-Hughes on [stantonysyouthproject@gmail.com](mailto:stantonysyouthproject@gmail.com) or 07807348223.

Please text/WhatsApp or leave a message rather than calling, if possible.

**Registrations will close on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**We will not be accepting any applications after this date.**

### **THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN**

Every Friday morning after the 10am Mass a dedicated team of volunteers clean the church. Can you spare any time on **Friday 22nd December after the 10am Mass** to help clean the church in preparation for Christmas.

Please come along if you can help. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**—Christmas Offerings are your personal gifts to the priests of the parish envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you.

**CRIB OFFERINGS**—All proceeds from the Crib collection will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**Certificates of Catholic Practice**—Fr John will be issuing appointments times for parents applying to a Catholic School early in the New Year, more details to follow.

**Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092**

**Thank you for your continued support**

- **online donations link:** <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/saop>
- **Donations can be made parish web-site** [www.stantonysforestgate.com](http://www.stantonysforestgate.com)
- Payment direct into the parish bank account using online banking
- **QR Codes available around the church**
- **Contactless using QR Codes located around the Church**

## 2023 Parish Dates for Advent and Christmas

<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Blessing of the Baminelli at all Masses <b>5:30pm</b> Organ concert by Austrian musician Matthias Mueller
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1:30pm</b> St Antony's School Christmas Concert
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Confessions 10:30am to 1pm</b>
<b>Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 4th Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Usual Sunday morning Masses</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Children's Christmas Mass <b>9:30pm to 11:15pm</b> - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>11:30pm</b> Carol Singing <b>Midnight Mass</b>
<b>Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day</b>	<b>Usual Sunday morning Mass Times</b> <b>THERE WILL BE NO 7.30PM MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> - St Stephen's Day</b>	<b>No 7.45am Mass</b> <b>10:30am</b> St Stephen's Day Mass (Altar Servers Mass)
<b>Wednesday Dec 27<sup>th</sup> - St John</b>	<b>No 7.45am Mass</b> <b>11:30am</b> Mass for the Feast of St John <b>12:45</b> Gathering in St Clare's Hall (please bring along food to share)
<b>December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	There will be no daily 7:45am mass, with one <b>daily mass at 10:30am</b>
<b>Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> - Feast of the Holy Family</b>	<b>Usual Sunday Mass Times</b> <b>7:30pm</b> Mass will be a Mass with the Sunday readings and prayers for New Year <b>Midnight</b> mass in Tamil
<b>Monday January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10:30am</b> mass
<b>Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Back to usual daily mass times</b>

**Antoine Anzie RIP** – please pray for the repose of the soul of Antoine Anzie who died recently his Requiem Mass will be in St Antony's Church on Wednesday 20th December at 10am. Please pray for his family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him may he rest in peace. Amen.