

MASS INTENTIONS 23rd–31st December 2023

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	(vigil) Agatha Brown
Sunday 24th December 2023—Forth Sunday of Advent B (Day of Prayer 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	6.30pm 9.30pm to 11.15am 11.30pm Midnight	People of the Parish Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Carol Singing Michael & Matilda Harrick & Leslie Dench RIP
Christmas Day Monday 25th Holy Day of Obligation	8.30am 10.00am 12 Noon	George & Rose Browne RIP Monica Chikezie/Nwosu & Family Intentions Josephine Family Thanksgiving
Tuesday 26th Feria St Stephen, The First Martyr	7.45am	No Mass
	10.30am	Glen Embley RIP
	8.00pm	St Anthony’s Novena
Wednesday 27th St John, Ap, Evangelist	7.45am	No Mass
	11.30am	Kathy & James Driver RIP Ashwan Shah RIP
	12.45pm	Gathering in St Clare’s Hall after Mass Please bring along food to share
Thursday 28th The Holy Innocents	7.45am	No Mass
	10.30am	Dennis Castellás & Lily MacFarlaine Helen Virginia Charles RIP Sherly Gomez
Friday 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	7.45am	No Mass
	10.30am	Dulcie Castellás Lily Georgia Cunningham Intentions
Saturday 30th Feria Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas	10.30am	Marie Carvalho RIP Annie Fernandes RIP
	6.30pm	(Vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 31st December 2023 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	8.30am 10.00am 12 Noon 3.00pm 7.30pm MIDNIGHT	Anne & Johnson Thanksgiving Gloria Tucker Thanksgiving Anne Akotibe Thanksgiving Spanish Mass Sunday Mass and prayers for New Year Mass in Tamil—this is pre-booked ONLY

ST ANTONY’S CHURCH FOREST GATE
Fourth Sunday of Advent B - 24th December 2023
The Nativity of the Lord—25th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-16: The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 89: A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading – Romans 16:25-27: Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:26-38: The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Midnight

First Reading - Isaiah 9:1-6: To those in darkness, a child will be born who will have dominion over the earth.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 96: Sing a new song to the Lord.

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14: God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-14: Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem as the angel appears to the shepherds.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass During the Day

First Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10: God's salvation is announced to the world.

Responsorial Psalm- Psalm 98:1-6: A prayer of praise for God's salvation.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6: God now speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel Reading - John 1:1-18: John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Feast of St John - Wednesday December 27th

Dear friends, as every year, on **December 27** we the brothers celebrate the patron saint of our religious community, St John the Beloved. Join us in prayer that day for

Mass at 11:30am followed by a bite to eat up in St Clare’s Hall.

Please bring some food to share. We hope you can join us.

Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092

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

Email: forestgate@brcdt.org, Website: www.stantonyforestgate.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 or 07807348223.

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

Registrations will close on 6th January 2024.

We will not be accepting any applications after this date.

The next Baptismal Preparation Course

Will be on Saturday 13th January 2024 and begins at 12.00 Noon promptly. Parents who wish to have their children Baptised must attend the Baptismal Preparation course. You will be asked to provide a copy of your Baptismal certificate and also your Godparents Baptismal Certificate which must include details of Confirmation.

Certificates of Catholic Practice—Fr John will be issuing appointment times to meet with parents applying to a Catholic School in next week's newsletter.

Newham Deanery Day of Recollection: 'The New Year: Praying for Peace with Our Lady' to be held at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Upton Park E13 9BF, on **Saturday 30 December 2023, beginning with Mass at 9.15am** and ending with Benediction at 3pm. Father Stewart Foster will give the reflections. Please bring a packed lunch.

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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
- Payment direct into the parish bank account using online banking
- **QR Codes available around the church**
- **Contactless using QR Codes located around the Church**

On behalf of the brothers of St John and all here at St Antony's wishing you a Holy and Peaceful Christmas

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS—Christmas Offering collections at Christmas Masses are your personal gift to the priests of the parish envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you as always for your generosity.

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

Family Christmas Blessings

Blessing of the Crib – the Christmas Manger

+ God of every nation and people, from the beginning of creation, you have shown us your love. When our need for a Saviour was great, you sent your Son Jesus to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look on this Manger: may it remind us of the Humble Birth of Jesus our Saviour and raise our thoughts and prayers to Him who is God-with-us and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

Blessing for the Christmas Table

+ God our Father, bless our Christmas table and all those who are gathered here as your family. We pray this Christmas time for the love and peace of your Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We pray specially for a share in Your love, peace and unity for each person here and for all those who are unable to be present and those who have passed on. Renew the bonds once again that unite us together in You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Christmas Candle Blessing

+ Let it remind us of Christ, the Light of the World. As it shines in our homes, let us remember the poor and homeless and let our hearts open to all in need. Bless all who are in trouble and let them know your care through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Joseph. Amen

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