



**THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS MORE, KIDLINGTON  
& ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN, WOODSTOCK**

<http://www.catholicparish.kidlingtonandwoodstock.uk>

**Parish Priest: Fr. (Dr) Prem Fernando**

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Part of the Arch Diocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity Number 234216

**Parish School:** Headteacher: Mrs. Breda Bowles Tel & Fax: 01865 373674

**Parish Safeguarding Reps.:** Sandra Lenagan (01993 812973)

**St Thomas More Parish Hall Contact:** Ian Drury, 01865 371086

**St Hugh's Church Hall Contact:** Ruth Fiddy, 01993 812860



**16th - 24th Dec'17      3rd Sunday in Advent - 'Gaudete Sunday'      Week 3**



**Karen Keene** - *We will deeply miss Karen giving so generously over many years to the parish. In my very few years in the parish, one thing I have noticed was her very inspiring presence, that can move & make things happen & the energy to suggest many creative things that the parish could do & even lead them. Karen as you know is involved in the choir, in the fund raising activity; even leading and initiating them such as the quiz evening, Taize prayers etc. I was told by the 'veterans' that she was a pioneer of the children's liturgy. She leaves a legacy behind to which we are greatly thankful & indeed would miss her. Let us hope & pray that she will always feel very welcomed & be at home here in this parish. Thank you Karen & we wish you all the very best.*

*We also pray that our parents in the school and in the parish will take the lead to be inspired by such dedicated service to the parish and so come forward to inspire and rejuvenate the parish. Indeed you would be a blessing as you would in turn be blessed!*

**3rd Sunday in Advent** - *It is! which is traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday' taken from the first two words of the Opening Antiphon as you would notice in your missalette. Do have a look and appreciate it. So there is a shift in the Advent liturgy from its sombre mood; prayer and penance to an essence of joy added. Here's why the liturgical 'Rose' colour that is introduced to the candle & the vestments. We have the candle but not yet the 'Rose' vestments. Probably we don't need them at all. But here's what we must not lose; the understanding of it and the spiritual journey we as a whole church here & everywhere, now, yesterday & tomorrow together shall make. I trust you will appreciate it, rather than just rubbish it saying; don't understand what is said, or its just a colour or its just another day, just another Advent, Christmas etc. I know you won't & its my corrupt imagination, I cannot help! Like me we all struggle to overcome our corrupt nature! 'Confession indeed a saving plank'! Ideal for this season!*

**Opening of 'St Hugh's Centre'** - *will take place, as mentioned previously in this newsletter, on the 28th of January at 3.30 pm. His Grace the Archbishop Bernard Longley and the Duke of Marlborough shall grace this occasion and it will be a great honour and blessing to this parish. I am sure you will give thanks for this day. Due to the health & safety regulations, only a limited number of invitations could be sent. But all those registered in the parish will receive a special thank you card as a souvenir. If you haven't received yours it is because you have not yet registered in the parish!! So please drop an email to Fr Prem, if not registered, to register with the parish and to claim yours!! Registration forms available on the website and at the entrances to the churches. A Joyful Advent! ~ Fr Prem*

**'Pastoral Letter' by the Archbishop will be read this weekend. Few copies at the porch**

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY FOR THE PREPARATION OF MASS** Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, come to us and renew us as we gather to celebrate this Sunday Mass. As we continue our pilgrimage of life, help us to become better Christians on earth so that we may rejoice with you for ever in Heaven.

To the Holy Trinity be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

## Parish Diary

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th—24th January** this year led by St Thomas more's. **Fellowship meal & talk, Wednesday 24th January 7pm** at the Baptist hall - Tickets on sale.
- **28th January 3.30 pm**, the blessing of St Hugh's Centre by the Archbishop and the opening of the Garden of Thank Giving by His Grace the Duke of Marlborough.
- **10th & 11th of March 2018 Pastoral visitations** of the parish by Bishop William Kenny - **Parish Assembly**
- **10th June 2018, Sunday First Holy Communion Mass 3.30pm**
- **17th June 2018, at 3.30pm Confirmation Mass with Bishop Kenney**

## Fund Raising Events

- ♦ **St Hugh's Monthly Lottery draw - 1st Sunday** of the month. All welcome.
- ♦ **4th Friday of the Month**—Soup lunch after Midday mass— Next 26th January
- ♦ **17th December**—Carol Service and Christmas Draw. 3pm

## **Christmas Carols & Masses** **(K) -Kidlington, (W) - Woodstock**

### **Christmas Eve**

- 7.00pm Carols
- 7.30pm Family Christmas Mass (W)
- 10.30pm Carols
- 11.00pm Christmas Night Mass (K)

### **Christmas Day**

- 8.00am Dawn Mass (K)
- 9.30am Early morning Mass (W)
- 11.00am Christmas morning Mass (K)

***Please note, change of Christmas Mass times***

### **St Hugh's Wish List - awaits your support!!**

The new list with the addition of chairs & tables are available. please pick your copy to give it a thought & a support!

**Thank you!**

**Christmas Offerings for your priest:** I shall write reluctantly about it, ideally not! But we are in a not so perfect world & so sometimes it becomes inevitable, not to cross the barrier of decency. Pardon me if I have, but you know now I write not without pain. The Christmas offerings to your priest, especially to a Catholic priest, are paying your dues, giving him what is just and right for his services, and not giving in 'charity'. As you may know, the Catholic priests do not take a salary, they put it into the running of the parish. Instead they are given an allowance as shown in the parish accounts given every year without failing.

They rely and depend on your generosity for the services you receive. There are just only two occasions to do so besides the stole fees for the services he renders; such as the mass stipends, funerals and weddings etc. which for us are spars. Those two occasions are the Christmas and Easter collections. I am sure you would be generous as you would always be to any priest.

This time since it is a weekend, one might want to think that the Sunday evening collection too is for the parish. But I wouldn't mind, if the parish wishes to have it all you may take it all for the parish. Normally the Christmas eve and Christmas day collections are for your priest, in a way paying his dues. I am sure you would be generous with the services I have provided even under strained & difficult circumstances. I am sure it is awfully fallen short of expectation. I thank you for been appreciative of the little I have done still.

**There are Christmas offering's envelops printed in red at the entrances & exits to the churches, and or even on the benches. Please do collect one for your own contribution as you wish or you could just make your own to the normal collection bags during the Christmas masses.**

### Parish Christmas Draw Tickets

**Books of the parish Christmas draw are available from the church porch.**



Please support the parish by buying and taking some home and selling to family and friends.

**The draw will take place at the Carol Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm.**

**Please return stubs and money ASAP** to the sacristy, or through the Presbytery inner door in an envelope marked 'Christmas Draw'.

**Donations of prizes would be much appreciated.**

**MISSIO:** Dear Red Box Holders; Kindly collect your brown envelope, containing Mission TODAY calendar for 2018, from the Church porch. Please return to Church by 10th December, as I have to submit the annual audit before Christmas. Many thanks again for your continued support of the Mission Work in 2017. ~**Mary Laina**

## **Please email your news item to Fr Prem by Thursday**

*This Newsletter is for the parishioners and friends of the parish. It is for private circulation. Feel free to take it with you and share it with others especially the sick and the homebound.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**

Charles Newland, Catherine Elford (McCann), Baby David Ruth, Jane Lemon, Lisa Crisp, Eileen Groom, Mark Selwood, Rebecca Lambert, William Hayes, Derek and Ella Osborne, Kit Murphy, Mary Couchman, Tina & Ray Hazell, Anne Howard, Sue Rugman, Fr Donald Cahill, June O'Leary, Tracy Richards, Bridget Spark, Jean Neale, Margaret Clancy, Pat Hornsby, Ambrose Hargreaves, Lord John Kerr, Pauline Lilley, Mona & Jimmy Doherty, Christopher Browne, Joan Knatt, Zoe Kamen, Pat Barfield, Amanda Ellington, Carmina, Rosa Liggins, Joyce Franklin, Cliff and Sheila Cooper, Fr Chris Greaney, Geoff Boorman, Vinca Boorman

**(Kindly keep us updated to remove names from the sick list as and when required)**

**AND FOR ALL THOSE WHOSE DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR DURING THIS TIME**

John Dorrington, Violet Hollis, Joseph Lavery, Patricia Stenning, William Hayes, Desmond Woolmer, Elsie Mould, Albert Bennett, Cleaver Clappeton, Olive Simons, Herbert Coleman, Faith Hawkins, Jean Grant, Lilian Borucki,

**THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED PARISHIONERS & KNOWN TO THE PARISH**

Requiem of **Kathleen Moira d'Ambrumenil** will be at St Thomas More's on Thursday 21st December at 3.30 pm with burial at Ascott on the 22nd December  
Funeral service of **Mrs Jennifer Warren** will take place on the 28th of December 12 noon at St Mary's Kidlington

**May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen**



*Last Sundays Collections: STM: £308.35 , Last week's retiring collection for poor parishes £129.49 Christmas Flower collection STM £150.70, STH £92.12 Thank you.*

**CTK Announcements ~ CTK reps Kate & Marika**

- volunteers needed to help the Food Bank, handing out here in Kidlington, packing up for other areas covered by the Bank in North Oxfordshire, and maybe drivers to take the stuff to some of the destinations. The Bank is open on Fridays from 10 to 1pm at Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street, and all are welcome.
- Glebe House Community Ecumenical Service, 10 December, 3 -4 pm
- Carol Singing: 16 December outside the Co-Op: 20 minutes at 10 am, 11 am, and 12 noon. ALL WELCOME to sing or just listen, coffee courtesy of the Co-op.

**CTK - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—led this year by St Thomas More, Kidlington.**

- opening service on the **Thursday 18th January** - St Thomas More 12.00 - 12.30
- Fellowship meal & talk, **Wednesday 24th January** 7pm at the Baptist hall. Speaker Dr. Gemma Simmonds CJ - entry by tickets, book yours
- Closing service - **Thursday 25th January**, St Thomas More 12.00 - 12.30 ~ **CTK reps. Kate & Marika**

**Secret Santa Presents for Children at the Christmas trees** - Last year we started having some secret presents left under our Christmas trees for children to pick up after their Christmas mass. If you think this is a good idea we can continue this year too. Please mark the age group for the secret Santa present you place under the tree. I would ask the parents to supervise please.

I have just forwarded £300 to our **mission in Swaziland** as an Advent Contribution. Reading the Students letters, at this time of year they are looking forward to the next years learning, some to progress and some to retake this years failures.

Zanele writes: Hi friends I hope that you are well and doing fine in life. I am a female who completed school but couldn't continue with my studies for tertiary because I failed some subjects in form 5. Thank you so much for paying for my school fees with the help of Sister Helen I am asking you once again to assist me financially next year. I would like to re-write the subjects which I failed so that I pass them and then be able to be accepted in a varsity or college. I would like to study accounting. May grace and peace from God be upon your lives at all times. May he also bless you abundantly and enlarge your territory. With love Zanele.  
~ **Sheila Cooper**

**MODERN DAY SLAVERY SURVEY**

Bishop Patrick Lynch (Chair of the Bishops' Conference Office for Migration Policy) brings to our attention a survey about Modern Slavery that has been developed in partnership with researchers at the Centre for the Study of Modern Slavery, St Mary's University. You are invited to take part in the survey and encourage others too such as safeguarding leads, justice and peace groups, teachers <https://stmarys.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/informational-survey-2017-modern-slavery> and the password is Bakhita. The survey is also accessible on the Centre website: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/centres/modern-slavery/overview.aspx?filtered=1>

**ST THOMAS MORE, KIDLINGTON**

**3rd Sunday in Advent**



**Week 3**

<b>SATURDAY</b> 16th Dec	<b>Sunday</b> <b>VIGIL MASS</b>	6.00 pm	John Hogan	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28
<b>SUNDAY</b> 17th Dec	<b>3rd Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b>	11.00 am	RIP Joao de Ponte	
<b>MONDAY</b> 18th Dec	Advent Feria	-	-	Jere 23:5-8, Ps 71 Matthew 1:18-24
<b>TUESDAY</b> 19th Dec	Advent Feria	12.00 noon	Blessing upon Marie Therese Westone	Judges 13:2 -25,Ps 70 Luke 1:5-25
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 20th Dec	Advent Feria	12.00 Noon <b>- 1.00</b>	<b>Mass at Woodstock</b> - <b>Adoration</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14,Ps 23 Luke 1:26-38
<b>THURSDAY</b> 21st Dec	Advent Feria	3.30 pm	Requiem for <b>Mrs Kathleen Moira</b> <b>d'Ambrumenil</b>	Song of Songs 2:8-14, Ps 32, Luke 1:39-45
<b>FRIDAY</b> 22nd Dec	Advent Feria	12.00 Noon - 1.00	Kathleen Geary (RIP) - <b>Adoration</b>	1 Samuel 1:24-28 Res.1 Samuel 2 Luke 1:46-56
<b>SATURDAY</b> 23rd Dec	<b>Sunday</b> <b>VIGIL MASS</b>	6.00 pm	7th Death Anni. Lilian Borucki	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-16, Ps 89 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24th Dec	<b>4th Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b>	11.00 am	Expectant Mothers	

**ST HUGH'S, WOODSTOCK (Morning Prayer daily at 11.30)**

<b>SUNDAY</b> 17th Dec	<b>3rd Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b>	9.30 am	Ahern & Harty Family	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION</b> Saturdays 5-5.30 pm</p> <p><b>BAPTISMS &amp; MARRIAGES</b> by appointment with Fr Prem</p> <p>Please make sure you attend the parish regularly to ask for Sacraments.</p> <p><i>Kindly make sure you are registered with the parish</i></p>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 20th Dec	Advent Feria	12.00 Noon <b>- 1.00</b>	Felix Walsh  <b>Adoration</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24th Dec	<b>4th Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b>	9.30 am	Holy Souls	

**Scripture Study Group Monday, 15th January 1.30 pm.** Come join us to read a scripture passage, and then to reflect and pray together. Contact Eileen Perkins on 01865 374129. Next on the 12th February, 12th March ....**All are most welcome.**

*'Tea/ Coffee - chit chat' at the Pub / Hall after 9.30 and 11 Masses. Stop by for a sip!*