

Today, we entrust our families, and our whole Archdiocese, to the Holy Family of Nazareth. Thank you to parents, grandparents, extended family, and carers, for your patience and quiet sacrifices that bring the truths of the Holy Family to life. Thank you for your efforts to hand on our beautiful Catholic faith to your children. Thank you, too, to our young people for your witness. None of us should ever be ashamed of the Gospel. Christ never diminishes life, but enlarges it. Those who entrust themselves to him are never disappointed.

As we give thanks for the graces of this Jubilee Year – not least our wonderful celebration at Aylesford – we recall how we have journeyed together more consciously as ‘pilgrims into hope.’ This hope remains with us and needs to be shared more widely as we become an ever more missionary and evangelising Archdiocese. The Holy Family reminds us that mission begins in the heart, and in the home; it grows in parish life; and it is called to bear fruit in the world.

May the Lord Jesus, Our Blessed Lady, and St. Joseph, keep us united in love and steadfast in prayer as, in the coming year, we set ourselves to reach out to others with the love of Christ.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year,
and the assurance of my prayers and gratitude
Yours devotedly in Christ

✠ John Wilson
Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

PARISH EVENTS

- * **NEW YEARS EVE DANCE** comes up on the 31st of December 2025 from 8pm–1am, featuring live music by T & T, Raffle etc. It is a bring-your-own-food and drink event. Ticket £25. Please contact Karen Lobo @ 07801817231
- * **FUNDRAISING DANCE** organised by the Friends of Lodwar on Saturday 24th January 2026 from 7:30pm–11:30pm
Tickets £25 including food, licenses bar and Raffle, Contact Pauline, Teddy or Karen Lobo.
- * **VALENTINE DANCE** on Saturday 14th February, 7:30pm–11:30pm featuring live music by The Young Ones, licensed bar, food on sale by Anna and Raffle. Tickets £10. Now on sale

STANDING ORDERS AND ONLINE DONATIONS

Please would you seriously consider the option of setting up Standing Orders for your weekly donations to the parish. If you need help in setting this up, consult the Parish Office or your bank. Thanks so much for your understanding.



Mass Readings: **1st Reading:** Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; **Psalm:** 128(127)
2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21; **Gospel:** Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23.

FR AMBROSE AND FR FABIAN WISH EVERY PARISHIONER A MOST JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED 2026.

**ST CHAD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
5 WHITWORTH ROAD, SE25 6XN
Tel: 020 8653 2806**

Email: norwoodsouth@rcaos.org.uk **Website:** saintchads.org

Parish Clergy: Fr Ambrose Ohene C.S.Sp.

Fr Fabian Adindu C.S.Sp.

Parish Secretary: Karen Maria Dadson

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:30am–3:30pm

Hall enquiries: stchadshallbookings@gmail.com



WEEKLY PROGRAMMES (28TH DECEMBER 2025)

SUNDAY MASSES: VIGIL—6:30PM, 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM

DAILY MORNING MASSES: 9:30AM (MONDAY TO FRIDAY); 10AM (SATURDAY)

WEEKLY EVENING MASSES: WEDNESDAY MASS FOR THE SICK

& ADORATION: 7:30PM; FRIDAY EVENING MASS: 7:30PM

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: TUESDAY: 10AM–12NOON,

WEDNESDAY: AFTER EVENING MASS, SUNDAY: 4:30PM–6:00PM

CONFessions: BEFORE OR AFTER DAILY MASSES; 6PM-6:25PM (SATURDAYS)

ROSARY: EVERYDAY AFTER MORNING MASS (EXCEPT TUESDAY & SATURDAY)

BIBLE STUDIES: THURSDAY @ 7:30PM (GUILD ROOM)

DEVOTIONAL GROUPS

**MONDAY—CHARISMATICS (7:30 PM); WEDNESDAY—LEGION OF MARY (6:30 PM);
TUESDAY—DIVINE MERCY (7:30PM); THURSDAY—Padre Pio Prayer Group & Bible Study Group
SATURDAY (FORTNIGHTLY)—SVP (730PM ON ZOOM).**

Contact: presidentA190305@svp.org.uk 07305119836.

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Sick and Housebound: Venetia Green, Florence Otokito, Maria Alejandra Boero, Cherlez Philip, Henry Aboagye-Brobby, Beautilyn Awe, Uley Headlam, Clare Kedves, Robert Alexander, Ethan Moore, Avril Carver, Eucelle Cato, Trisha Griffen, Janetta Griffen, Fr Peter Ehimbilo CSSp, Brother Joseph Mbah CSSp.

Recently Deceased: Pius Aboh, Biodun Buhari, William Samuel, Pat White, Fr Patrick Gaffney CSSp, Adesina Adeleke, Francisca Mauta Nzyimi, Fr Amos Daboer, Charlotte Green, Alice Berkoh, Tom D'Arcy, Noel Collins, Thomas Michael, Rosario Santos, Mavis Woodbine, Catherine Okolo, Benjamin Kwame Anthony, Ademola Ademiluyi, Nigel Lewis, Simon De Souza, Grace Schembri, Yepaye Kobhawo, Gloria Scott, Fr Ray Blake.

KINDLY NOTE THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED UNTIL 7TH JANUARY 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (28/12/25) YEAR A

	6:30PM	RIP: Ainsley Carr
	8:30AM	RIP: Joao & Filipina Leitao
	10:30AM	Birthday: Margaret Humphrey
	6:00PM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER ST THOMAS of CANTERBURY	10:00AM	Thanksgiving to the Holy Family by the Luu Family
TUESDAY, 30TH DECEMBER	10:00AM	Holy Souls by the Luu Family & RIP: Tran Van Long
WEDNESDAY, 31ST DECEMBER ST SYLVESTER I	10:00AM	RIP: Vo Van Thuong
NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS	6:30PM	Thanksgiving to God for Bishop Elect Gerard Bradley
NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS	11:00PM	Thanksgiving for St Chad's Parish
THURSDAY, 1ST JANUARY MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER of GOD	8:30AM	RIP: Joao & Filipina Leitao Thanksgiving for the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
	10:30AM	Thanksgiving: Chikanele Onyealisi & Clement Lawson
FRIDAY, 2ND JANUARY STs BASIL the GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN	10:00AM	RIP: Dawn Shaw Birthday: Anastasia Akepu
SATURDAY, 3RD JANUARY THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	10:00AM	RIP: Long Van Tran
VIGIL MASS	6:30PM	RIP: Margaret & Samuel Charles and Shirley Samuel & Brothers

GOOD NEWS!

Pope Leo XIV has appointed our own Canon Gerard Bradley as an auxiliary bishop in Southwark Archdiocese. We all know Bishop-elect Gerard, until now the Episcopal Vicar in the South-West area of Southwark Archdiocese, as he has been so kindly supportive of St Chad's Parish in different ways like helping in the Confirmation sessions, celebrating the Confirmation Masses, helping to form our Parish Council, supporting the priests in various ways and generally being an angel to us. Indeed ever since the news broke last week everybody in the parish that we spoke with has been appreciative of what the Holy Father, Pope Leo, has done for us.

His consecration as Bishop will be on Monday the 2nd of February, 2026 (Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple) at St George's Cathedral. We gratefully thank God for Bishop-elect Gerard and we promise to keep him in our prayers always.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2025

TO THE CLERGY, CONSECRATED WOMEN AND MEN,

AND THE LAY FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
I extend to each of you, and to your families and loved ones, the peace and joy of this holy season of Christmas. Today, the Church places before us the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Lord Jesus, his mother Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. As the Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close, we embrace anew the hope born for us at Bethlehem. Jesus Christ – who lived and was crucified, rose again, and is alive – is the hope of the world. In Christ, the radiant hope of God's love and mercy shines into every heart and family. God encourages and comforts each of us according to our state of life: as husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, children and young people; as wider family members and single people; the elderly, the widowed, and as families who feel fragile, wounded, or incomplete. The Holy Family teaches that by remaining close to Christ, what is ordinary can, and does, become holy; that even our burdens and struggles are never without hope. Dear friends, whatever is happening in your family or personal life at the moment, receive the Good News: God sent his Son, the Lord Jesus, as hope for you. God is with you in Christ, and God loves you in Christ.

We know the Holy Family experienced upheaval and danger. They were refugees who fled to Egypt for safety, a reminder to us all to welcome those in need. Joseph kept faithful to what God had revealed, and Mary held everything in prayerful trust. (cf. Mt 2:13-23) When our own families face uncertainty, illness, grief, or broken relationships, we too need to hold fast in faith and prayer. The Holy Family stands close to the members of every home as, moment by moment, we trust that God is present, even when the way forward seems unclear.

Many families across our Archdiocese face heavy burdens: for example, the cost-of-living crisis, the pressures of work or study, sickness or disability. Added to these are the loneliness that grows behind closed doors and the grief that changes everything. The Church is a family of families. In Christ, there are no orphans. When one member of the family suffers, all share the burden; and when one rejoices, all share the joy. Our parishes, schools, and chaplaincies need to be places where people feel they belong and are known by name; where the struggling are welcomed, where wanderers know they can come home, where sinners find forgiveness.

In the mystery of Christmas, the love of God took flesh and dwelt amongst us. How can we work together, co-responsibly, to help make that love real? How can we reach out and accompany those in need in our community: the housebound, the elderly, the bereaved, the isolated, the family new to the parish, and the person who sits alone at Mass? How can we strengthen what is already good amongst us: food banks, winter night shelters, parish support groups, care for prisoners, and school outreach? How can we make room for people who are troubled: those living with mental strain, addiction, or an uncertain future? Our faith in action, our loving practical charity, will always be attentive to the person in need before us, seeing Christ in them, even when this is challenging.