

Welcome to our services today

21 December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



SAID EUCHARIST, 8am, Presided by Revd Martin King

PARISH COMMUNION, 9.15am, Presided by Revd Richard Syms

Followed by refreshments and chat in the Hall.

For part of this service during term time, young people are invited to join our age-appropriate activities led by our parent volunteers:

Groups for ages up to Year 5 meets in the Hall

Years 5 to 7 in the Parish Room

Years 8+ in the Cellar (access is thru the Parish Room)

There are various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel available for younger children.

Hymns: 231(*omit * verses*), 26, 241, 244

Choir: Willan Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Magnificat from the First Service - Moore

Readings: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25

This week we pray for all who live and work in Howardsgate, Howard Centre, Howard House, Denmark House and Windsor House.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE, 6pm

Presided by Revd Canon Jenny Gray

*Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 63: 7-9; Hebrews 2: 10-18;
Matthew 2: 13-23*

Parish Office (mornings Wed – Fri): 01707 694191

admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

This Church is currently in vacancy.

Enquiries on Baptisms, Funerals, etc. to be directed to: Parish Administrator, c/o Parish Office

St Francis of Assisi, (CoE) Church Road, WGC, AL8 6QJ Reg. Charity No: 112984

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Wed 24 Dec Crib Service with Christingles, 5pm
Midnight Mass, 11pm

Thur 25 Dec Christmas Family Communion, 10am

Sun 28 Dec Parish Communion, 9.15am,
(Presided by The Right Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring,
Bishop of Hertford)

THANK YOU!

Everyone who so kindly donated mince pies, oranges, sweets for our additional seasonal services.

All faithful team church members, young and old and their tireless team leaders for so willingly and cheerfully serving in our church in your various roles especially in our period of vacancy.

All volunteers and friends you introduce to church with our outreach activities and fundraisers – every person matters.

Our church thrives through volunteers. Can you help?

- Last call! The Flower Team would be very grateful for contributions towards the Christmas Day flowers. Please label 'Flowers' on your cash donations and pass it to the Parish Office asap.
- Volunteers for 2026's rota of serving Saturday concert refreshments. Please sign up on the main noticeboard.

Updates:

- No 8am Said Eucharist on 28 December.
- No Tuesday Said Eucharist on 23 nor 30 December.
- No Wednesday Said Eucharist and Coffee for All on 24 December. Service resumes on 31 December. (With thanks to Sally and her team of helpers, coffee is served afterwards too.)
- Wednesday ToddlerTime playgroup re-opens on 7 January.
- Thursday Lunches re-opens on 8 January.
- Parish Office closes on 24 December and re-opens on Friday, 2 January.

21 December 2025
4th Sunday of Advent

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 7: 10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1: 18-25

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, 'which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Next Readings:

Christmas Eve (Midnight Mass @23:00): Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12; John 1: 1-14

Christmas Day (Family Communion @10:00): Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 8-20
Sunday, 28 Dec: Isaiah 63: 7-9; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23