



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December / Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Date	Time	Intentions	
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SFA 6.30 pm SP	Margaret Rees, RIP Phyllis Davis Powell, RIP	St Nicholas
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00 am SFA 11.00 am SP 5.15 pm SFA	Deceased members Wills Family Private Intention John James McErlean, RIP	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SP 9.30 am SFA	Word & Communion Word & Communion	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SFA	Word & Communion	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SP 7.30 pm SFA	People of the Parishes Word & Communion	
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SFA	Word & Communion	
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am SP 9.30 am SFA	Stuart Williams RIP Word & Communion	
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>7.00 am SFA</b> 6.30 pm SP	Julie Cameron Intentions Anne Beale intentions	<b>Candlelight Mass (Rorate Caeli Mass)</b>
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00 am SFA 11.00 am SP 5.15 pm SFA	Philomena Tong, RIP Julie McNeil RIP Mary Doherty, RIP	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)</b>
<b>Confessions</b>	<b>Saturdays:</b> 10.00-10.30am (SFA) & 5.45 – 6.15 pm (SP)		
<b>Adoration</b>	<b>Wednesdays:</b> 7-7.30 pm (SFA) <b>Fridays:</b> 10-10.30am(SFA), 10-10.30am (SP), 7-8pm (SP)		
<b>Rosary</b>	30 minutes before weekday Masses		

\*SFA (St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shefford), \*SP (St. Peter's Church, Biggleswade)

SVP St Francis & St Peter's: Contact SVP on 07526 753986 or email [PresidentE140104@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentE140104@svp.org.uk)

### Anniversaries in December

Wilhelm Luecke (2000), David Burton (2001), Derek Dalton (2001), Teresa Flora Blackall (2001), Charles Hill (2001), Christine Mary Watson (2001), Gordon Revels (2002), Mary Youngson (2003), Susan Fisk (2003), Leonard Joseph Brice (2003), Sharon Rosemary Hunt (2004), William John (2005), Winifred Farr (2006), Frederick William (2006), Petros Geizanauskas (2007), Barbara Buckland (2007), Gremacolta Ruggiero (2010), Joan Wiles (2010), Kwisyn Maternowski (2010), Anne Kernahan (2010), Michael Hall (2010), Margaret Durman (2011), Margaret Staff (2011), Maurice Cahill (2011), Baby Hope Robinson (2012), Lawrence S. Lewis (2012), Stuart Leonard (2012), Carmel Williams (2013), Janice Ann Gander (2013), Mary Doherty (2014), Michael Scanlan (2016), Robert Hayden (2016), Shaun Dempsey (2016), Stella Cowley (2020), Ian Murden (2020), Janet Manning Sister Margaret (2022)

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord... May they rest in peace. Amen.**

## PARISH NOTICES

### **A Big Thanks**

Eileen Arrowsmith expresses her gratitude and says BIG THANKS to all who were part of the Requiem Mass for her late husband Peter Arrowsmith. Eileen commented that it was marvellous how many people were there.

### **UCM Annual Advent Candle Service at St. Francis**

UCM group is holding its annual Advent Candle Service after morning Mass on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. This will be followed by food, refreshments and fellowship raffle towards Keech Cottage Hospice. While this is a UCM event, all parishioners are most welcome to attend.

### **Parking at St Peter's**

Good News!!! Now we have a few more extra parking spaces ready for use behind the parish office. A big thanks to Gerry who has really worked hard to get them ready to be used.

### **Bike and Hike**

A big thanks from Ann Hampshire: We raised £785 for which I thank all those who participated, especially our children.

Without the sponsors, we couldn't do this, so once again our parishioners did St Peter's proud. Also a big thanks to all those who helped to man the porch to welcome those taking part and to offer refreshments. Thanks everyone.

And a big thanks from Carmel to our bikers and hikers Fr Prasad, Ian Cousins, Jacqui Wilkinson and Adam Bates. They collected £807 between them. I would also like to thank my helpers for manning the church to welcome our visitors on the day. Thank you so much for all your hard work and of course to our parishioners for sponsoring them.

### **RORATE CAELI MASS (Candlelight Mass) – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**

This winter, we will hold a special Advent Candlelight Mass commonly known as Rorate Caeli on Saturday, **13<sup>th</sup> December at 7am at St. Francis Church, Shefford.**

A Rorate Caeli Mass is traditionally celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.

Mass begins in darkness before sunrise, with only candles lighting the church to remind us of a world in darkness and sin that is anticipating the coming of the "Light of the World." As Mass progresses, the church becomes brighter until the risen sun fills it with the light of day.

### **24 Hour Adoration (9am 20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 9am 21<sup>st</sup> Dec) with an opportunity to make Confessions**

We will have a 24 hour adoration at St. Francis Church, Shefford beginning with the Holy Mass from 9am on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December and ending with the Benediction and Holy Mass at 9am on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December.

I kindly request all of you to spend some time in adoration.

Please register your names either as individuals or as a family or as a group so that all 24 hours are covered.

Please make use of this opportunity to make a good confession in preparation for Christmas.

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Cathedral – 12 noon, 8<sup>th</sup> December**

You are warmly invited to the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our diocesan Co-patron, with a Midday Mass at the Cathedral on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **SP & SFA Youth Ministry**

We joyfully announce our **First Youth Mass** and the official launch of our Youth Ministry. This celebration is a beautiful sign of hope and renewal for our community.

We warmly invite all our youth and their families to join us at Mass, followed by a social gathering.

Bless this new mission entrusted to our youth.

Date: Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

Time: 11 am

Place: St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shefford

We would like this Mass to be animated by our youth. If you're interested in helping with reading/music/altar serving and/or general preparation for the Mass, we'd love to meet with you at St Peter's, Biggleswade on Monday **15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.**

For more information, please contact Shirly Aloysius at [pr@st-peters.uk](mailto:pr@st-peters.uk) or Fiona Whitehead at [fimansford@gmail.com](mailto:fimansford@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Giving Tree Appeal**

Christmas is a joyful season when families and friends spend time together enjoying food, friendship and good times. Please help us to give gifts to those who are less fortunate than ourselves so that they may share in the spirit of Christmas. We invite you to take labels from the giving trees at St Peter's and St Francis and return gifts to the box in the entrance foyer. It would be extremely helpful if all donations can be put in the boxes by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December to allow time for SVP members to deliver the gifts to recipients before Christmas.

### **Meet and Chat at St. Peter's**

St Peter's Parish Hall is open to everyone from Monday, from 10-12pm each Monday until the end of March.

We invite everyone to join us, we are not calling this venture "Warm Spaces," but a chance to come in for a chat and a hot drink. Looking forward to meeting you.

### **Online Advent Retreat: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm**

Disrupted by Grace, week 3, Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Fr Matt Blake who will continue exploring Jesus' more disreputable ancestors. Fr Matt Blake, a Discalced Carmelite priest, will be unpacking the story of Ruth for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives. Find out more information and register <https://northamptondiocese.org/grace/>

### **LUX Youth Residential Weekend**

Our diocesan residential weekend for young people in school years 7–13 will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Kings Park Centre, Northampton. Packed with workshops, drama, music, worship, Mass, games, and time with friends, this year's theme is *Belong*. The cost is £110. For more information or to book, visit [nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/](http://nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/) or email [NYMO@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:NYMO@northamptondiocese.com).

### **Wave of Hope**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has released an excellent Advent resource entitled *Wave of Hope*. More here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wave-of-hope/>

	<b>St. Francis</b>	<b>St. Peter's</b>
<b>Collections of 29/30 Nov</b>	£355.60	£275.31
<b>Standing Orders</b>	£130	£420
<b>Second Collections</b>	-	-