

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

Sunday 14th December - Third Sunday of Advent

(Sat) 17:00 - Holy Mass: Maggie & Christy Keane, RIP
8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Zbyszek Glowacki, RIP
10:00 - Holy Mass: Angelika Spirteri, RIP
11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

Monday 15th December - Blessed Anthony Grassi

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Bolek Danilowicz, RIP
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Peter Maunder, KHS, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Tuesday 16th December - Feria

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Donor's Intention
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Dom. Sebastian Wolff, OSB, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Wednesday 17th December - Feria

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/ Teresa Jonker, RIP
19:00 - Holy Mass: Edna Murray, RIP

Thursday 18th December - Feria

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/ Ewa Glowacka, Int
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Hayden Cotter, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Friday 19th December - Feria

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Joan & Ron Alderman, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Saturday 20th December - Our Lady's Saturday

08:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/ Maciej Glowacki, Int
16:30 - First Vespers
17:00 - Holy Mass: Joan Flaherty, RIP

Sunday 21st December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Ewa Glowacka, Int
10:00 - Holy Mass: Angelika Spiteri, RIP
11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

CONFESSION TIMES

Sundays: 15 minutes before and during all Masses
Weekdays: 7:15 to 7.30am ; 9:00 to 9:30am

Since the time of St. Philip Neri, the Fathers of the Oratory have made themselves available for Confessions during daily Mass. Outside of these set times, there is a Confessional Bell positioned in between the two Confessional Boxes in the Church. Ring to alert a Priest.

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.00- 9.30am
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm

HOLY ROSARY

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 5:30pm
Wednesday: 6:00pm

The community pray the Rosary daily for the intentions of the Parish, for those who are sick and have died recently. If you would like an intention added to the list please let one of the community know.



VENERATION OF THE RELIC OF ST. PHILIP NERI

Friday: After morning Masses

The veneration of the relic of St. Philip Neri is a long-standing Oratory custom. When we pray before his relic, we ask for his intercession and strength to live more faithfully as Catholics.

PRAYERS REQUESTED for the SICK

Please join the Cardiff Oratory Fathers and Brothers in praying daily for the sick and those who have care for them.

Dai Thomas, Sharon Gristock, Marilyn Maunder, Len Reece, Dooley, Sian Haffield, Dylan Barry, Dianna Ward, Mike Grant, Shirley O'Leary, Victoria Sweeney, A.& N Xavier Philips, Alun Edwards, Kevin Harris, Kate, Pauline Cook, Daniel Doran, Robert Matthews, Rita Taylor, John C. Keenan, Shirley Thomas, Neil B. Anne, Daniel, Sarah Caswell, Mary May Cassidy, Rosa Tannorella, Veronica Williams, Gary Britton, Clare Schwartz, Martin Flynn, Darren, Summer Hutchinson, Johnnie Doherty, Patricia Yarwood, Libby Conway, Elizabeth Conway, Summer Arnesen, Dianne, Laura, Jane, Lucy Iacobucci, Dorotka Sookanadenchetty, Jason Benedito, Gareth Bowen, Ann Henry, Sarah, Claire Hawkey, Danielle Camilleri, Jane Morris, Jonathan Bowen.

THIS WEEK'S VIGIL LAMPS

Please use the dedicated candle envelopes in church to make a donation for your vigil candle. If you would like to have one of the vigil lamps burn for a loved one's anniversary or for some special intention or in thanksgiving please use the candle envelopes or write the name on an envelope and drop it in the plate or the sacristy. For a donation of £4.50, to pay for the candle, your intention will be remembered by the whole Parish for one week.

- Blessed Sacrament: Dom Sebastian Wolff, OSB, RIP
- Sacred Heart: Daniel Rees, RIP
- Divine Mercy Chapel: Glowacki & Szczech Families
- The Lady Chapel: Fr Fabian Trevethick, C.O
- Chantry of Our Lady: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
- Our Lady of Pity: David Gallivan
- St Joseph:
- Our Lady of Walsingham: David Woolf & the Order of St. Lazarus

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 15th December

Tai Chi with Jeanette

11:00-12:30

Great for improving balance, breathing and for relaxation. Suitable for all ages.

Tuesday 16th December

A Catholic View of Western Philosophy

18:30-19:15

This month the class will focus on the works of the Greek philosopher Plato and how his thought shaped the early Church, in particular St. Augustine.

Wednesday 17th December

St. Alban's Primary School Carol Service

13:30-14:30

Come and join the pupils of our Primary School as they retell the story of Christmas with Carols.

Saturday 20th December

Parish Christmas Social

18:30-22:00

The Christmas Social is always a jolly occasion where there will be Carols, Pantomime Sketches and the Christmas raffle draw.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST. ALBAN'S

24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

16:30 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

17:00 HOLY MASS

23:30 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

00:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

08:00 HOLY MASS

10:00 HOLY MASS

11:15 HOLY MASS

16:00 VESPERS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Oratory Parish will be assembling Christmas Hampers for Families in need from those in our School and in the local community.

The parcels will be assembled on
Monday 22nd December

Could we all bring some items and place them in the basket at the back of the church.

May God reward you.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Every year we encourage people to bring Poinsettia's to St. Alban's to help decorate the church and the crib scenes. The Poinsettia's are usually left in memory of our loved ones.

If you wish to bring your own please leave them by the sacristy or give them to a member of the community.



ST. ALBAN'S CHRISTMAS

HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale from this weekend (6th/7th December) for the annual Hamper Raffle.

£1 a strip.





DATES FOR THE DIARY

January

St. Joseph Vaz Curry Night

Saturday 17th starting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

To celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph Vaz, Oratorian and Apostle to Sri Lanka, we are holding a Curry and Bingo night. Tickets will be available after Christmas.

February

Murder Mystery Dinner: A Royal Encounter

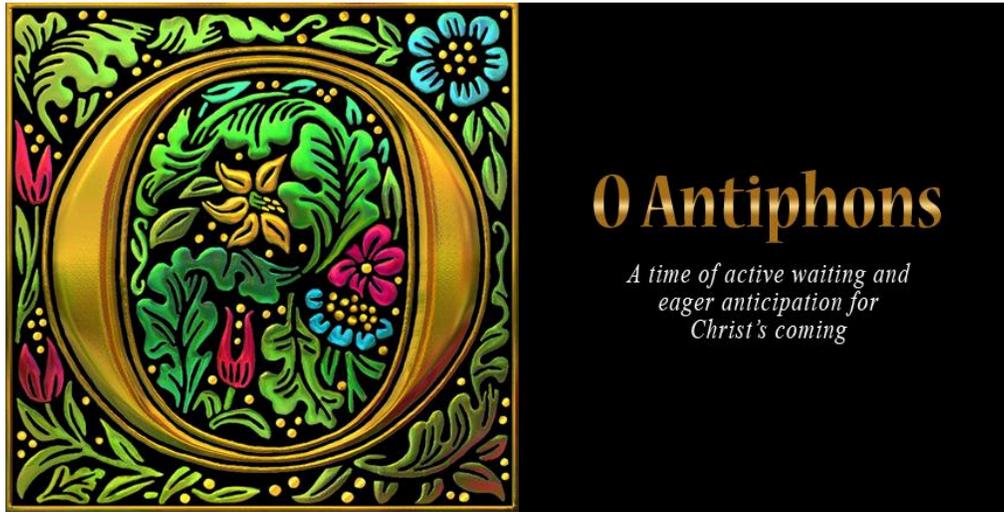
Saturday 17 starting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

Another who dunnit! This time Kings and Queens will be attending to enjoy an evening of fine dining and intrigue. Tickets will be available after Christmas.

Fr Sebastian writes:

For this Third in Advent I would like to draw your attention to a beautiful act of worship, the Rorate Caeli Mass – a traditional Advent devotion wherein the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn. In many instances families and individuals travel an hour or more, rising and arriving very early for this uniquely moving celebration of the Eucharist. The dawning of the day recalls the meaning of Advent and the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. The Mass takes its title, Rorate Caeli, from the first words of the Introit, which are from Isaiah 45:8: “Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.” “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.” The altar on which the Rorate Mass is offered is lit only by candlelight. Being a votive Mass in Our Lady's honour, white vestments are worn instead of Advent violet. In the dimly lit sanctuary, priests and faithful prepare to welcome Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the faith-filled "yes" of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ. The readings and prayers of this Mass foretell the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel, and call on all to raise the gates of their hearts and their societies to let Christ the King enter; asking for the grace to receive eternal life by the merits of the Incarnation and saving Resurrection of Our Lord. Just as the sun's glow through the East end windows warms the chilly church, so too, Christ's presence transforms us when we allow Him to share His life with us: “let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour”. There will be Rorate Masses on the 17th, 18th, 22nd, & 23rd at 7:30am.





The “O” Antiphons, have been a part of the Church’s liturgy since at least the eighth century, are a profound expression of Advent theology. They are chanted during Vespers from December 17th to the 23rd, accompanying the Magnificat, and each begins with the exclamatory “O,” addressing Christ with a distinct biblical title. The antiphons are remarkable for their theological depth as they link the promises of the Old Testament with their realization in Christ, highlighting His divine wisdom, royal lineage, and role as Saviour of all peoples. Each antiphon invites meditation on a particular aspect of the Messiah’s identity.

A defining feature of the “O” Antiphons is the repeated imperative “Come!” (*Veni*), a cry of yearning that resonates on multiple levels. It expresses the believer’s personal desire for Christ, the Church’s collective anticipation of salvation, and the eschatological hope of His ultimate coming. In this way, the antiphons transform Advent into a liturgical and devotional journey, drawing the faithful into a rhythm of waiting and expectation.

Beyond their liturgical function, the “O” Antiphons have shaped Christian hymnody and devotion. They inspired the well-known hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and provide a framework for meditating on Christ’s identity and the fulfillment of Scripture.

O Sapientia (O Wisdom) – Christ as divine wisdom, who orders all things (Proverbs 8).

O Adonai (O Lord) – Christ as the Lord and lawgiver, calling Israel out of bondage (Exodus 3:14–15).

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) – Christ as the Davidic root, fulfilling the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 11.

O Clavis David (O Key of David) – Christ as the one who opens and closes the gates of salvation (Isaiah 22:22).

O Oriens (O Dayspring) – Christ as the light that comes from on high (Malachi 4:2).

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) – Christ as ruler and Savior of all peoples (Isaiah 9:6).

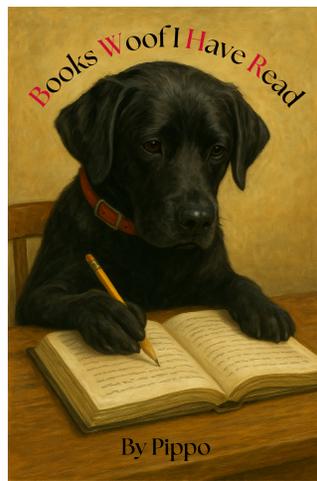
O Emmanuel (O God with Us) – Christ as God dwelling with His people (Isaiah 7:14).

LESSONS AND CAROLS 2025

Thank you to all who came for last night's Lessons and Carols. We thank the Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia for presiding, and for the attendance of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, the deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, the Master and Members of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus, Cllr Huw Thomas, and to all the parishioners who came to prepare for the great feast of Christmas. The choir accompanied the service and sang beautifully the various hymns including some familiar Carols and some arranged pieces. The reception in the hall was standing room only, thank you to the social committee for helping organise the refreshments.



The Festival Lessons and Carols was recorded, we hope to release what was recorded as soon as it is ready.



This week I read,

'Killers of the King: The Men Who Dared to Execute Charles I', by Charles Spencer.

The earlier chapters of this book follow a well-trodden path: the defeat, trial and execution of Charles I; the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell; and the restoration of Charles II in 1660. Where this book is different, however, and where it became more compelling, is in tracing the lives (and fates) of the 80 or so men who were involved in the trial and execution of Charles I in January 1649.

The story of these men is fascinating in many respects. What struck me most was how difficult most of them found it to escape retribution when Charles II returned from his wanderings. Many fled far and wide, but the reach of the new king was considerable. Many countries (such as France) were naturally hostile to the regicides for reasons of ideology and family ties. Other countries, such as the Netherlands, were less hostile in principle; but trading interests caused them to give in to the demands of the new English government, which it was not in their interests to alienate. Even neutral, democratic, and puritanical Switzerland was unsafe, because the Royalists simply sent assassins to track down and murder the regicides wherever they found them.

Some of the regicides found their way to the American colonies, where it was easier for them to fit in among the English-speaking population. Even there, they could not rest, however, partly because these were territories ruled (ultimately), by Charles II and partly because it was not beyond the king's agents to cross the Atlantic in search of vengeance. Two men in particular ended up living in the wilds until the king's agents got too close and they had to find somewhere else to hide. The fate of those who were tried for treason was about as horrendous as the law could imagine. Having been dragged through the streets of London on a sledge, they were hanged before being cut down still alive. Then the executioner castrated them and disembowelled them with a hot iron. Eventually, their lifeless heads were placed on spikes and their quartered bodies sent to the four corners of the kingdom.

I think the reason I enjoyed this book so much was because, rather than focusing upon events, as most histories do, it focuses instead upon the human story of the individual regicides. Whether that is enough for one to feel sympathy for them is a different question; but, eventually, the public began to tire of the bloodshed, and the dignity with which many went to meet their grisly end ran the risk of making martyrs of them. Accordingly, it became clear that the government needed to draw a line under the whole episode and move on. Yet, however history judges these men, their story is still well worth reading.



Of your charity
Please pray for the soul of

Mrs Jennifer Casey

Requiem Mass on Monday 22nd
December at 11am

Eternal Rest grant unto her
O lord and let perpetual light
shine upon her.

Jesus Mercy + Mary Help

ORDO

Ad Usam



CONGREGATIONIS
ORATORII
CARDIFFENSE

Anno Domini 2026

The new ordo for the year has been produced for the parish.

It contains the various feast days throughout the year.

The start of each month contains the names of those have died,
their anniversaries, and also a brief reflection.

The Ordo costs £10.

This year, our parish is introducing a new program from Dynamic Catholic called Blessed. It is a catechetical series created for children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Registration for next year's classes is on at the moment, please speak to Maggie or Theresa for information.

Mama Mia Evening



at



6th February 2026

£60.00 including themed meal and 'Mama Mia' entertainment

BE TRANSFORMED BACK TO THE GREEK ISLAND

Tickets information or bookings to: frsebastian@cardifforatory.co.uk



Another great event organised by the
Charitable Events Committee of the
Worshipful Livery Company of Wales.



Funding Welsh Young People's
Aspiration: Making a Nation
of Endless Possibilities.