



21st December 2025 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Welcome to Saint Laurence.

Activity packs and children's service books are available from the back of church.

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
21 st December	Sung Parish Mass & Nativity	9.30 am
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30 pm
Monday	Organ Teaching	11.00am
22 nd	Organ Teaching	4.30 pm
December		
Wednesday	Crib Service	3.00 pm
24 th	Crib Service	5.00pm
December	Midnight Mass	11.15pm
Christmas Eve		
Thursday	Said Mass	8.00 am
25 th	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
December		
Christmas Day		
Next Sunday	NB No 8am Mass	
28 th	Said Parish Mass	9.30 am
December	NB No Evensong	
<i>The Holy Innocents</i>		

Mass readings next Sunday: Jeremiah 31.15-17, 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Saturday Pathsweepers: Coffee

Please let Revd Susannah or Deborah Masterson know of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit, or housebound and wanting to receive the sacrament at home – or if you would appreciate a conversation or visit for any reason.

NOTICES

Today all are invited to share cake and wine after the 9.30am Mass in celebration of Carole Billings' significant birthday.

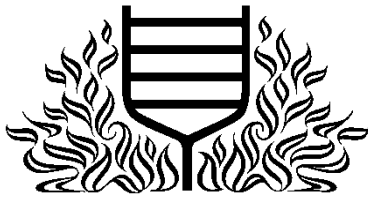
Today at 6.30pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - Telling the story of Christmas in words and music with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Setting up for the Crib Services - Help is needed please at 9.30am on Tuesday 23rd December to bring chairs across to the church. If you are able to assist, please speak to Chris Mowat or Susannah.

Changes to usual services: Please note there will not be an 11am Mass on Christmas Eve, the only service on Sunday 28th Dec will be a 9.30am Said Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents, and there will not be an 11am Mass on 31st Dec. The normal pattern of services resumes on Sunday 4th January when we celebrate Epiphany.

Carole's Quiz - Carole Billings has kindly produced another quiz to keep us busy over Christmas! Copies are £1 and can be purchased from the sidespeople or from Carole. All proceeds will go to the Church Building Improvements Project.

Please consult notice boards under the tower and in the porch for other notices and further information



AT THE MASS

21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Introit

75 Long ago, prophets knew

Setting

Mass of Saint Anne - Macmillan

Collect of the Day

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. **Amen.**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again 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."

Advent Wreath Prayers - Advent 4

Cantor - Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,

Full - merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever!

Verse - Your light has shone in our darkened world

through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;

grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image

and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,

Cantor - who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Full - Blessed be God forever.

Matthew 1:18-end

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.

Nativity Play Carols Please see separate sheet



Offertory hymn	313 For Mary, mother of our Lord
Anthem	O Radiant Dawn – Text: The Promise of his Glory Music: Malcolm Archer
Communion hymn	Virgin born, we bow before thee
Final hymn	47 People, look East
Organ Voluntary	Hark the Glad Sound! – Andrew Wright.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer request forms are available at the back of church. Please use them if you wish us to pray for someone.

Sunday: Pam Chapman, Keith Sharp, Josie Milford, Steve Martin, Vicki Hobbs, David Goddard, Fr. Gareth Bowen, Ricky Schrembri, Mary Ann Madden, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria Marie Tyler, David Lewin.

Wednesday: Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens.

Additional Prayers: All those receiving Home Communion.

Recently departed: Charles Osmond, Nige Fergusson, Steven Long, Nova Metcalfe, David Lewin.

Anniversaries of the departed: Helen Iddenden-Smith, Claire Easton, Shirley Gunary, Bill Gunary, Emma Jennings, Doreen Mulley, Betty Woodroffe, Ron Charters, Doreen Cardy, Donald Carter, Penny Went, Ken Groves, Phyllis Spilling.

DONATIONS

A cash collection will be taken during Sunday morning services for church funds, which support our mission and ministry including the upkeep of this historic site. If you do not carry cash, we also have a card machine located by the main door which can be used before or after the service.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation - either via the machine or (for cash) using the envelope available in the pew. This means that your donation will be worth more to the church but at no extra cost to you.

If you would like information about joining our Planned Giving scheme, leaflets are available from the back of church.

Thank you - whatever you feel disposed to give will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Donation envelopes are available at the back of church

Crisis, 66 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LT
Registered charity number 1082947
Registered company number 4024938



EASYFUNDRAISING

The church is registered (as St Laurence Church, Upminster) on easyfundraising.org.uk - if you register an account, select the church as a cause and download the web browser extension then every time you spend money on many retail websites and have activated the extension, a percentage of your spend will be donated to St Laurence at no cost to you. The individual amounts are small but every little adds up - please help us via this route if you can.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP.....

If you would like to know about sponsorship, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church or speak to Jean and Cheryl (Churchwardens), Susannah (Rector) or Verity (Parish Administrator).

CONTACTS

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Director of Music Nigel Lockwood

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Parish Office Verity Helby

01708 220696 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Open: Tue.8.30-5.30pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 8-12.30am.

Hall Bookings Becky Perchard

07341 434798 halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk

Planned Giving treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk

Website www.upminsterparish.co.uk

Address St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB

Welcome to the Parish Church of Upminster. If we have not met you before, do introduce yourself. If you wish, give these details to one of the officials.

Name

Telephone

**Revd Susannah sends a weekly email about services, news and events.
Please email her if you would like to receive her emails.**