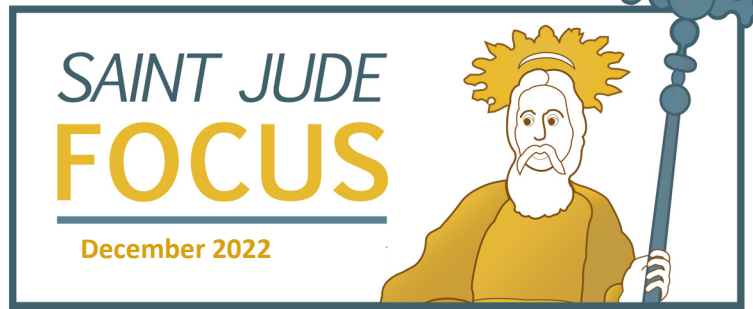




*News from the Shrine of Saint Jude*

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of *Saint Jude Focus* - updating the friends of Saint Jude on what is happening here in Faversham.

We have now entered the season of Advent, a time of preparation for intensifying our sense of desire for the touch of God. During Advent we become awakened and alert to the signs of this divine approach. This season helps us to welcome God anew in the birth of Christ at Christmas.

May we wish you all a very happy Christmas and wonderful new year.



## Christmas Post

We are sorry if this letter and its contents have been delayed by the Royal Mail strike action. Unfortunately we have no alternative and must send everything via the postal system.

The patron of postal workers is the Archangel Gabriel, let us pray that this will all get sorted soon. We hope that everything you wanted before Christmas has arrived on time.

The Saint Jude Shrine Office will be closed from 4pm on 22 December 2022 and will not reopen until Tuesday 3 January 2023.

The online shop will still be open ([www.stjudeshrine.co.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.co.uk)) for orders throughout the Christmas period, but items will be sent in January.



## Christmas Traditions

Each year a few days before Christmas, the Mayor of Glastonbury in Somerset, cuts sprays from the world-famous Glastonbury Thorn which is sent to the Monarch for the royal table on Christmas Day. The Thorn is a very famous tree in Christianity. It is said that Saint Joseph of Arimathea visited Glastonbury soon after the Crucifixion to bring Christianity to its people and to found the Abbey. He is said to have planted his thorn staff and it immediately rooted and flowered.

The boar's head was the favourite meal in England at Christmas for a long time. Later geese, capons, pheasant, bustards, swans, pickled oysters, and especially peacocks, were all equally popular and important. The turkey was a late arrival and by 1542, it appeared regularly on the English Christmas table.

Mince pies were often made with oval pastry crust which was said to represent the manger in which Christ was laid.

The Roman customs of decorating the house with ever-greens were embraced by the early Christians. It was always seen as unlucky to bring the tree in until Christmas Eve and the tree had to be taken down before Twelfth Night. Decorations could remain in churches until the end of the ecclesiastical Christmas season (Candlemas) but they too had to go before 2 February.

To learn more about other Christmas traditions, read our full article, here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/JudeChristmasTraditions>



## Let us pray...

Dear God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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