



**THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST. WILLIAM OF YORK**

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

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**Mass Times**

Saturdays 10.30am, 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sundays 9.30am, 11.30am Monday - Friday 9.30am Mass

**Reconciliations** - Saturdays 11-12 noon

**Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

1st & 4th Fridays of the month after Mass & 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)  
7 May 2023**

*Alleluia, Alleluia Christ is Risen*

**Fr Patrick Aikens RIP 1937-2023**

It is with great sadness that we received the news this week that Fr Patrick died unexpectedly at his home in Dublin at the age of 86.

Fr Patrick was born in Dublin in 1937, and after a professional career with Rank Xerox, trained for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark at All Hallows College, and was ordained priest in 1969. His first assignment was to the team of clergy at St George's Cathedral, where he became Master of Music.

In the Autumn of 1978, he arrived in Forest Hill as assistant priest to Fr Jack Pledger. Due to the parish priest's ill-health, he was appointed vicar coadjutor within a few years, and after Fr Jack's death in 1983, he was appointed to succeed him as parish priest – an unusual move in those days. He retired to his hometown of Dublin in 2008, after thirty years' ministry in this Parish.

Fr Patrick had a profound impact on the life of our parish and of so many people who experienced his ministry. He was passionate about involving as many people as possible in every aspect of parish life, and there was a huge expansion of all sorts of

groups in the parish. His belief in the Conciliar teaching that the liturgy, and particularly the eucharist, were both the source and summit of Christian life, led him to encourage parishioners to understand the liturgy and improve participation in it. He encouraged the formation of the art group, a new music group at a second Sunday Mass, congregational singing, and initiated the Family Mass. Catechesis for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation was brought from the school into the parish, and 'Instruction' made way for 'Journey in Faith', all with the resultant increase in the number of parish catechists. Organisation, training and rotas for servers, readers and extraordinary ministers of holy communion followed. Wider groups included the founding a youth club, the justice and peace group and humouring the parish drama group.

Masterminding the re-ordering of the Church was a major milestone in Fr Patrick's ministry, creating the halls, meeting room and facilities which a busy parish desperately needed. The re-ordered interior of the Church not only brought members of the community closer to the altar, but the community involvement in the building work brought us closer together as a community.

Fr Patrick articulated and lived a consistent and clear vision of a loving, supportive and welcoming community, sharing its resources and living in the love of Christ. He was much inspired by the life and work of the Taizé community in France, which he visited most years and to which he introduced many parishioners, including a parish pilgrimage in 1986. He was an enabler, opening doors for so many people and having a profound effect on the faith journeys of many people in the parish.

He had a remarkable pastoral sensitivity, and many recall how he was able to communicate an understanding of a person's troubles by means of a simple gesture. He left an indelible mark on our parish community which we echo every Maundy Thursday as we read together the Prayer of Dedication which he composed for us.

Dear Parishioners

***Fr Patrick's funeral is to take place at Glasnevin Crematorium, Dublin on Monday 8 May at 2.30pm. We have not been notified if the funeral will be live-streamed, if a link is received we will notify parishioners.***

Fr Patrick's family have asked that instead of flowers any donations can be made to Concern a charity that addresses specific causes of extreme poverty in communities and which Fr Patrick was keen to support: <https://www.concern.net/donate>

*We will be having Evening Prayer/Vespers in our church on Sunday 7 May at 7.30pm and the church will remain open until 8.30pm for private prayer.*

*We will be celebrating a memorial Mass in memory and celebration of Fr Patrick's life here at SWOY on a date to be confirmed soon, followed by refreshments in the school hall. We will have a display of some photographs that reflect his time in our parish, if you have any photographs to share please let us know, and we will display them together with the ones from our parish archives.*

Mass cards and letters for Fr Patrick's family may be handed to Fr Habte or posted through the presbytery door and we will forward them collectively.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

**Fr Patrick Aikens RIP**

**Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him,  
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen**

Fr Habte

### **TODAY'S READINGS -**

Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus – but in the strength of his Spirit – his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the

marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity. *What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of Christ?*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS -**

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21

Please continue to pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

**Roy Raphael RIP**

*Funeral to take place at St William of York on Friday 19 May at 11.00am*

**Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him,  
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen**

### **FIRST EUCHARIST 2023**

This year's First Eucharist will be celebrated with families at the weekend Masses on May 13 & 14. On Saturday 13th at 2:00pm and on Sunday 14th at our 9:30am and 11.30am Masses.

Congratulations to all our first communicants their Parents/sponsors and thanks to our catechists.

### **VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on Tuesday 9th May at 7pm entitled The Good Shepherd Calls where different presenters will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join us by registering for this event in advance by using following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84411111111?pwd=ZU9kdUprDMtH9wKUQ777ddSSjLBucMtsONT#registration>

## **POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY**

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

## **PROPOSED CHANGE TO THURSDAY MORNING MASS WEF JULY 2023**

All priests are strongly encouraged by the Archbishop to take a day off each week. This arrangement worked well when Fr Gregory was in the parish, he gladly celebrated Mass on Thursday mornings, however, since his departure it has become increasingly difficult for me to take a full day off and most weeks it has become a half-day.

Therefore, starting in July 23, I propose we do not have morning Mass on Thursdays, excluding holy days of obligation and special occasions and the church will be open for private prayer instead from 9.30am to 10.00am.

For parishioners wishing to attend Mass on Thursdays, please consider going to a neighbouring parish.

If anybody wishes to discuss these proposals, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you

Fr Habte

## **LEWISHAM DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

Dates: 18 to 22 September 2023 Cost: £555

Contact Fr Antony [WhatsApp: 07460371711 or  
catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk]

## PARISH DIARY

Sunday 7 May 6pm	Confirmation 8th Session	Church
Sunday 7 May 7.30pm	Evening Prayer followed by Private Prayer	Church
Thursday 11 May 8pm	Choir Practice	Church
Friday 12 May 9am-12pm	Baby & Toddler Group	Cafe York
Saturday 13 May 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church

### BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS

Please note Mass on Bank Holiday Mondays 8 & 29 May will be at 10.30am

### NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Please note on the following Sundays we will come together as a community with the Celebration of the Liturgy at 10.30am ( one Sunday Mass on these dates) :-

28 May 23 - Pentecost Sunday                      11 June 23 - Parish International Day

### MASS ATTENDEES

15/16 Apr - 234      22/23 Apr - 272      29/30 Apr - 271

## FINANCES

### APRIL 2023

The monthly Offertory Collection - £1,827.80

Donations for Holy Places - £226.54

Donations for Peters Pence - £221.00

Donations for Lenten Alms -£280.80

Donations for Easter Offering - £3,759.66

Donations for St George's Cathedral Maintenance Fund - £192.49

Donations for Priests Training Fund - £193.51

Donations for the Parish Crisis Fund - £195.61

From monthly standing orders we collected - £4,335.00

Thank you for your continued support

Please gift aid where possible

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

**Saturday 6 May 2023**

**18:00** Antonio Ostacchini RIP

**Sunday 7 May 2023**

**09:30** For the Parishioners

**11:30** Julia Bentham & Family Wellbeing **(live-streamed)**

**Bank Holiday Monday 8 May 2023 - Feria**

**10:30** Joshua Benn Birthday Thanksgiving

**Tuesday 9 May 2023 - Feria**

**Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse**

**09:30** Mary Magdalene Orieso RIP

**Wednesday 10 May 2023 - Feria**

**09:30** John Cooper RIP **(live-streamed)**

**Thursday 11 May 2023 - Feria**

**09:30** Mauro Dereani

**Friday 12 May 2023 - Feria**

**09:30** Patrick Maguire RIP

**Saturday 13 May 2023- Feria**

**10:30** Holy Souls

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

**Saturday 13 May 2023**

**14:00** **First Eucharist Mass** **(live-streamed)**

For the Parishioners

**18:00** Kathleen Garvey RIP

**Sunday 14 May 2023**

**09:30** **First Eucharist Mass** **(live-streamed)**

Daphne Goddard

**11:30** **First Eucharist Mass** **(live-streamed)**

Fr Patrick Aikens RIP

Please access the live streaming by visiting: [www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)