



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. WILLIAM OF YORK

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Deacon Amgad Gerges

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Mass Times

Saturdays 10.30am, 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sundays 9.30am, 11.30am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 9.30am

(Please note on Thursdays the church will be open for private prayer from 9.30am-10.00am except on Holydays of Obligations & special occasions)

Reconciliations - Saturdays 11-12 noon

Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1st & last Friday of the month after Mass & 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

1 DECEMBER 2024

Dear Parishioners

This weekend we begin the season of Advent, The Season of Advent has a double characteristic: it is a time of preparation for the great feast of Christmas in which we celebrate and remember the incarnation of Christ that is the first coming of the Son of God among us, and at the same time it is the time in which, through this celebration, our spirit is guided to the expectation of the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

This year we will be reading from the Gospel of Luke, which will help us to explore and demonstrate the healing of Christ among us that we all so desperately need now for our world. This hope of healing and renewal is the theme of the Jubilee year 2025 that Pope Francis will inaugurate soon with the opening of the doors of St Peter's basilica in Rome. Hope is one of the themes of the advent season.

Through our prayer, conversion and our works of mercy among us, let us be bearers of hope to our brothers and sisters. As Pope Francis says let us be instruments of healing and hope to a world suffering from the impacts of war, violence, the pandemic, the increased threats and devastating consequences of climate change.

God Bless

Fr Habte



TODAY'S READINGS - Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2,
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - The challenges of climate change and seeing the horrors of war in the news make it easy to relate to a Gospel about "nations in perplexity", fear and foreboding. But the advice is to straighten up and raise our heads and not to become overwhelmed by these harsh realities.

Ultimately it's a Gospel about not being overwhelmed by the things that weigh heavily, and not choosing behaviours that don't help us grow or look out for others. We are encouraged to keep our heads up and focus on building relationships that we can feel good about, and to generously reach out to others in need, near or far. None of us know when our health or other circumstances might suddenly change. Life and opportunities are precious.

Today as we start Advent, we are invited to deepen our faith in the love of Jesus who comes to redeem, to liberate and to help us stand tall, so that we too can be conscious of the needs of others and respond respectfully, so that everyone can stand with dignity.

MMcD

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT - Advent is a good time to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance, it is a time of conversion. The Coming Jubilee year 2025 also calls us to emphasise on God's mercy and forgiveness. We will be holding a parish Penitential service on Wednesday 18th December at 7:30pm. You can also receive the sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays 11:00pm- 12:00 noon, or any time during Advent by contacting Fr. Habte in advance.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 24

For pilgrims of hope - We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT WILL BE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please give generously! THANK YOU.



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS -

This weekend we baptised Matilda Alice Andreotti. Congratulations to Matilda and her parents Rachel and Matteo from all at St William of York and welcome Matilda to our parish family.

GIFT SUNDAY - As in previous years, we will be collecting gifts again this year to pass on to local charities for their Christmas appeals. Our gifts this year will go to the Salvation Army appeal and Christmas food items will be donated to the local food bank. **We will be collecting gifts at all masses over the weekend of 30 Nov - 1 December and during the following week until the weekend of 7-8 December.**



This year, we are asking for donations of New toys or gift vouchers for children and teenagers. Small Christmas food and other items - e.g., Christmas puddings, biscuits, chocolates, crackers. Many thanks

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY'

Our last Youth Group meeting of the year will be taking place on **Friday the 6th of December from 6-8pm.** We will be celebrating with a Christmas party so come and join us for an evening of fun and games. We may even sing a Christmas carol or two!



"ITALIAN CHRISTMAS GATHERING"

If you or your family are of Italian heritage come and join us on Saturday 7th December at Cafe York 7-10pm. Please bring a dish or drinks to share.
BUON NATALE



ART GROUP - PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

It's that time of year again and the Art Group is making preparations for Christmas. This year, we are filling the church with stars and we invite you to get creative with glitter, glue, stickers, paint and anything else you can think of to decorate our stars.



Please take a template from the narthex, decorate it and return it to us by **15th December at the latest.** Do not cut them out as we will do that before we hang them.

We look forward to receiving your beautiful stars and thank you for helping make our church so special this Christmas.

CREATIVE CHRISTMAS - A GALAXY OF STARS This year we are asking for stars – knitted, crocheted, fabric or any which way! There are patterns in the narthex or you can download a copy [HERE](#). If you would like to craft with a cup of tea and company come along to Café York after morning Mass on a Wednesday. There is yarn and fabric at the back of the church if you need it. Bring your completed stars and leave them in the narthex. Contact Maureen Swift for more details 0776 5428299.



DOMINIC BENTHAM'S STUDENTS' PIANO CONCERT
Dominic will be hosting a short concert in the church at **13.30 on Sunday 15th December**, for his piano students (mostly young children) to share pieces they have been working on! This will be a relaxed event with plenty of Christmas music, and parishioners are welcome to attend.



SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT
Everyone is warmly invited to joint this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery. (For details please see the poster on the notice board or download a copy [HERE](#))

EVENING PRAYER -A small group of parishioners say Evening Prayer together on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm over Zoom. We've been meeting and praying together since Easter 2020, when we couldn't meet together in church. The prayer lasts 15-20 minutes and we have a chat afterwards! If you'd like to come and join us, you can either click on the link or use the Meeting ID and password if you don't have the online newsletter.

[SWOY Evening Prayer](#) Meeting ID: 813 9177 6863 Password: 061154

STEWARDS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES - In order to plan and arrange the Christmas Masses once again this year we need the help of stewards. The more stewards we have the easier it is during this busy festive season. Please contact Mary if you will be able to assist. foresthill@rcaos.org.uk or 020 8690 4540 Thank you

SCAM MESSAGES - Parishioners should take extra care due to a recent surge in scam emails impersonating parish priests, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards for the priest. This is a SCAM. Don't be caught. Report any such scams to Fr Habte or Mary in the Parish Office.

MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW MEDUPIN - I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Habte and the entire parish community for the incredible support you've shown me throughout my artistic journey. From my first exhibition at Forest Hill Library to the one held in the Church Upper Hall earlier this year in April, your encouragement has been a true blessing.

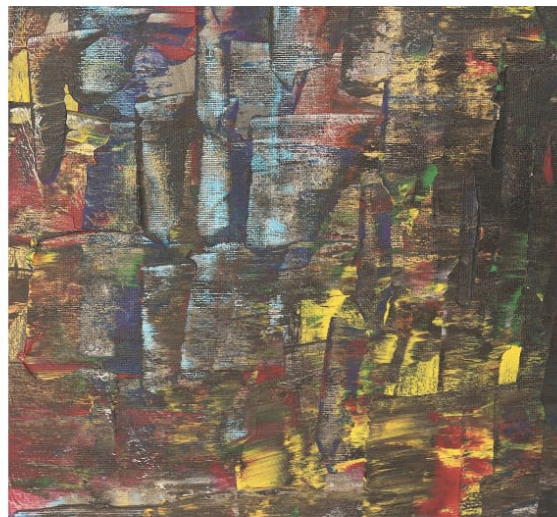
I am thrilled to share some exciting news! My next exhibition will open on Saturday 7th December 2024 at the Canvas and Cream Restaurant and Art Gallery, located at 18 London Road, Forest Hill, SE23 3HF, London, United Kingdom. This exhibition will run through the festive season, concluding on 3rd January 2025.

As part of this event, I am delighted to invite you to a special "Meet the Artist" session on Thursday 12th December from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, where we can connect, and I can share more about the inspirations behind my work.

The purpose of this email is to share an update on my painting journey and extend a warm invitation to members of the parish who may be interested in exploring my latest creations since the last exhibition.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support, and I hope to see you there!

ARTXADE EXHIBITION



 MEET THE ARTIST

CANVAS & CREAM
18 LONDON RD, FOREST HILL, SE23 3HF

THUR, 12 DEC | 7PM - 9PM

Peter Julien, now in his second year of formation for the Permanent Diaconate, received the Minor Order of Lector on Saturday, 23rd November, from Archbishop John Wilson at Southwark Cathedral.

This important milestone symbolises Peter's deepening commitment and service to the Church and its mission. As a Lector, Peter embraces the responsibility of studying, internalising, and proclaiming God's Word in liturgical celebrations, as well as in his daily life and ministry.

Let us continue to pray for Peter and his family



Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

Phyllis George RIP

(Funeral at St William of York on 17th December at 11.30am)

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

MASS ATTENDEES

9/10 November - 312 16/17 November - 317 23/24 November - 234

PARISH DIARY

Sat 30 Nov & 1 Dec to Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec	Gift Sunday donations	Church
Sunday 1 Dec 3pm	Reconciliation Session 3	Church
Wednesday 4 Dec 10am	Christmas Stars & Tea	Cafe York
Thursday 5 Dec 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Friday 6 Dec 6pm-8pm	Youth Group Christmas Party	Upper Hall
Saturday 7 Dec 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church
Saturday 7 Dec 7pm	Italian Gathering	Cafe York
Sunday 8 Dec 12.30pm to 2.30pm	Christmas Fair	SWOY School
Sunday 15 Dec 1.30pm	Dominic Bentham's Students' Piano Concert	Church
Sunday 15 Dec 5pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	Church
Wednesday 18 Dec 7.30pm	Parish Penitential Service with visiting priests	Church
Sunday 22 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments	Church School Hall

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 30 November

18:00 John Warner RIP

Sunday 1 December 2024

09:30 Family Mass

Igbo Community at St William of York

11:30 For the Parishioners (live-streamed)

Monday 2 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Ashley Blaize RIP

Tuesday 3 December 2024 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Day of prayer for Migrants

09:30 John Ryan RIP

Wednesday 4 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Richard Gallagher RIP (live-streamed)

Thursday 5 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Private Prayer

Friday 6 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Peter Healy RIP

Saturday 7 December 2024 - St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

10:30 Anne Orieso Personal Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 7 December

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 8 December 2024

09:30 Thanks to Our Lady

11:30 Robbie Sharp RIP

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

Sunday 8th December

ST WILLIAM
OF YORK SCHOOL



CHRISTMAS



Fair



12.30pm-2.30pm



FREE
VISIT TO
SANTA'S
GROTTO
PLUS A
GIFT!

**HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS FOOD AND SNACKS | MULLED WINE
HOT CHOCOLATE | GAMING ROOM | TOY TOMBOLA | CHRISTMAS MARKET
SECRET ROOM | CRAFTING | CHRISTMAS GAMES**



ARCHDIOCESE *of*
SOUTHWARK

You're cordially invited to the

**South East
NINE LESSONS &**

**CAROL
SERVICE**

Sunday, Dec 15, 2024 | 7:00 PM

**At Sacred Heart Church Camberwell
(2, Knatcbull Road - SE5 9QS)**



Come and enjoy a spiritually uplifting evening of lessons and carols in preparation for Christmas on this Gaudete Sunday.

RSVP

**Canon Victor Darlington
evse@rcaos.org.uk**