



**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, 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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

**22 December 2024**

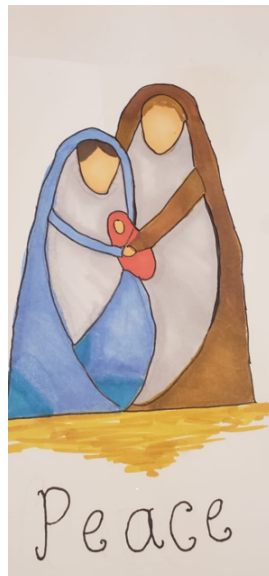
**CHRISTMAS DAY (C)**

**25 December 2024**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)**

**29 December 2024**

Dear Parishioners



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025**

**Thank you for all your support, good wishes, cards and gifts.**

**May the new born Jesus bless and protect you today and always.**

This year like last year the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas come in close proximity, This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. The story of the angle's announcement to both Mary and Joseph brings our advent journey closer to the feast of the nativity, the coming of our Lord Jesus among us. In the story of Mary and Joseph we see the four themes of Advent, we see a story of hope, peace, joy, and love facilitated by their humble and faithful acceptance.

Reflecting on the themes or messages of Advent, helps us to make an effort to live a life available to God and be messengers of these themes, a future where love and hope flourish and peace prevails as we trust that God is indeed with us. The church calls us to focus on these themes particularly, the theme of Hope and peace as we are preparing to inaugurate the Jubilee year of Hope.

The past few years have been particularly difficult for the people of the world, we have been going from one crisis to another, we have been witnessing the suffering of human beings because of War and its effects, often feeling hopeless and helpless, in despair, almost giving up on hope. Christmas is the time to reawaken that hope that sleeps within us, to make room for joy again. The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus is a fulfillment of God's promise of salvation for us, therefore it teaches us not to give up but to deepen our faith in God and the virtue of hope.

Thank you for being messengers hope, peace, joy, and love during the year by your precious presence in the community, your contribution to its life, for bringing joy and Hope through your Christian charity throughout the year to many people in our country and around the world.

May Christ the prince of peace, light for the world, bring true peace into your homes and our world, may it reach in abundance to those who most need consolation and hope.

Thank you for your commitment to support the many ministries and groups within our parish throughout the year and in this special season of Christmas, Altar Servers, Sacristans and Catechists, parents and children who came to lead, and read at our Christmas Family and all our Christmas Masses; to our Music Group; Musicians, greeters, Stewards, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist; the art group and all who worked hard in collaboration with the art group, those who help decorate the Church for Christmas, those who organised the Carol Service; (both the school and the parish) those who came to clean the church, arrange flowers and the Crib. All who support the parish through their good will and prayer. Your support and commitment to our parish keeps it to be lively and enables us to fulfil its mission.

Fr Habte

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT READINGS -

Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee” were the words of the angel Gabriel, when asking Mary to become the mother of God. Mary’s unequivocal “yes” was a response founded on complete love and trust in God. Then, learning that Elizabeth was pregnant, Mary *hurried* to help her elderly cousin. Elizabeth’s greeting gives us the second sentence of our prayer to Mary, “Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.” Elizabeth said these words when, filled with the Holy Spirit, she venerated the mother of God, after John inside her had jumped for joy at the sound of Mary’s voice. Mary was the new ark of the new covenant, filled with the real presence of God, replacing the original ark of the covenant with which Moses had led the People of Israel. The words are a gift from God that we use to honour Mary whenever we say or sing “Hail Mary” or “Ave Maria” and, remembering Mary’s eagerness to help others (she *hurried* to Elizabeth), we can humbly ask her to pray for us, as we struggle to imitate her, in letting the love of God rule our lives.

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**PARISH CAROL SERVICE** - Our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22 December at 4.00pm followed by refreshments in the school hall. **Come and enjoy this great celebration.**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES** - Please take a Christmas card so that you and your family have the Mass times at hand over the Christmas season

Tuesday	24 December	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas
Tuesday	24 December	Midnight	Midnight Mass of Christmas (live-streamed)
Wednesday	25 December	9.30am	Family Mass of Christmas
Wednesday	25 December	11.30am	Christmas Mass with Carols (live-streamed)

- The Christmas Day 9.30am Mass will be specifically dedicated for families . Children will be involved in leading and animating the liturgy.
- If there is any parishioner in need of transportation to Church for Christmas Masses, please let Fr Habte or Mary in the office know.

**Thank you to all the children from our school that designed the beautiful Christmas cards this year.**

**CHRISTMAS CLEANING OF THE CHURCH** - We will clean the church on **Monday 23rd December after the morning 9:30am Mass.** Please come at 10.00am to help clean the church. Thank you

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - Flowers will be arranged for Christmas on **Monday 23rd December after the morning 9:30am Mass.**

All flower arrangers are invited to join. If you would like to donate towards Christmas Flowers, please post an envelope through the presbytery door or donate via the Dona contactless machine. Thank you.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO THOSE ABLE TO TRAVEL AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS**

We send our best wishes to those parishioners who are travelling to be with family and friends, and those who will not be able to be with us on Christmas Day. May you have a great time.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT FOR THE HOMELESS**

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO FR HABTE**

The offering at all Christmas Masses is your personal offering to Fr Habte. Please use the red envelopes provided and Gift Aid where possible as the parish will benefit. Please [Donate here](#) or via the QR Code or via the Contactless device in the Narthex or directly to our parish bank account details below:-



NatWest Bank, Sort Code 60-50-01, Account number 79124437

Account name RCAS Forest Hill, Ref - Your surname/Gift Aid no/Christmas Offering

If you will be away at Christmas, please use the red envelope and put it through the letter box of the presbytery whenever you can. Fr Habte thanks you in anticipation for your generosity. Many thanks

**OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER**

This year, we shall be collecting for the work of the Catholic Children's society, supporting disadvantaged children and families in need within our schools and parishes in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can be.

**STEWARDS NEEDED FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES** – It would be greatly appreciated if Parishioners assist with stewarding during this busy festive season. Thank you

Vigil Mass at 6pm, - Tuesday 24 Dec

Midnight Mass - 9.30 and 11.30 Masses – Wednesday 25 Dec

## ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE -

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain “we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world”. This, Archbishop John said, “is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It’s a story of hope



triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It’s God’s love story towards our world and each one of us”. Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, “is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us – me and you – to do. To stay with Him in prayer”.

## JUBILEE OF HOPE: Holy Door opens on 24 December

Only a few days remain until the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican, marking the beginning of the Holy Year 2025.

The Jubilee offers a special moment for plenary indulgence, conversion, and grace to rekindle hope in the daily journey of life and the proclamation of the Gospel.



Follow the opening of the Holy Door on December 24 at 7:00 PM (Rome time) and all events of the Holy Year 2025 with Vatican News and Vatican Radio via our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook Live](#).

“Hope does not disappoint.” Source: [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)

## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2025

For The Right To An Education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the family unit and the family of Jesus: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

### Prayer:

**Father, help us to live as the Holy Family,  
united in respect and love.**

**Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.**

**Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



### THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY READINGS -

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52

**THE HOLY FAMILY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - It is every parent's nightmare to lose their child while outside of the home and the parent will naturally search everywhere for them, including quite obscure places in order to be reunited with their child. When Mary and Joseph eventually find Jesus they naturally try to reason with him and explain how worried they have been. Jesus' response though is rather uncaring and doesn't show any understanding of the anxiety Mary and Joseph felt. However, as far as Jesus is concerned it is more important for him to spend time with the religious scholars and theologians gaining in wisdom for his future ministry. Sometimes we may have to make hard decisions and put our faith first, even if it means making difficult choices which other people may criticise. LBr

**NEW YEARS DAY** our Mass honouring the Mother of God, will be On Wednesday 1 January 2025 at 10.30 am.

**THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** will be celebrated on the weekend of January 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord falls on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD READINGS-

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12



**Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of**

**Joseph Thomas RIP**

(grandfather of Gemma Scott & John Lohan)

**Milton Olwa Okello RIP**

(nephew of Ojok Okello)

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

### **MASS ATTENDEES**

30/1 December - 383 7/8 December - 317 14/15 December - 269

### **PARISH DIARY**

Sunday 22 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments	Church School Hall
Monday 23 Dec 10am	Christmas Cleaning	Church
Monday 23 Dec 10am	Christmas Flower Arranging	Church
Thursday 9 Jan 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Friday 10 Jan 6pm-8pm	Youth Group Meeting	Upper Hall
Saturday 11 Jan 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church
Sunday 12 Jan 3pm	Reconciliation Session 4 Parents Meeting	Church School
Tuesday 14 Jan 7.45pm	RCIA -Journey in Faith The Creed	Lower Hall
Saturday 18 Jan 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
Sunday 19 Jan 9.30am	Thanksgiving Mass	Church
Sunday 19 Jan 5pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction	Church
Sunday 19 Jan 6pm	Confirmation Session 1	Church

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction**

We will have no exposition on the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on the First Friday of January. We will resume on the last Friday of January

**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.

**2025 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY** - Please use the link below to access the 2025 Southwark directory which includes the Diocesan Calendar, Parishes, Mass times, Priests, Schools, Societies, Holy Days of Obligation and other useful information. [2025 Southwark Directory](#)

**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

**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT** Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery. Please see the poster on the notice board.

### **ONLINE WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES - CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE**

From today, every parishioner, as well as catechists, teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit:

<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>

**PARISH OFFICE** - The Parish Office will close from Thursday 26th December and reopen on Monday 6th January 25. The answer phone will be switched on and messages will be responded to. In an emergency, please come to the presbytery and if no answer at the door, please leave a written message. Thank you

**This newsletter is for two weekends. Please do not destroy it too soon!  
Our next newsletter will be issued for the Epiphany of the Lord on  
Sunday 6 January 2025.**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

**Day of prayer for Expectant Mothers**

**Saturday 21 December**

**18:00** Renate Betson RIP

**Sunday 22 December 2024**

**09:30** For the Parishioners

**11:30** Joe & Maureen Reynolds RIP Anniversary

**Monday 23 December 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Mercy Ibini Birthday Blessings

**Tuesday 24 December 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Thomas Shine (Foundation Mass)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ( C )**

**First Christmas Mass of the Nativity**

**Tuesday 24 December 2024**

**18:00** Peter Hann RIP 5th Anniversary

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Wednesday 25 December 2024**

**Midnight** For the Parishioners **(live-streamed)**

**09:30 Family Mass**

Peter Healy RIP

**11:30** Anthony Warner RIP & John Warner RIP **(live-streamed)**

**Thursday 26 December 2024 - St. Stephen, the first Martyr**

**10:30** Deceased Priests of the Parish (Foundation Mass)

**Friday 27 December 2024 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

**10:30** Ernest Levey (Foundation Mass)

**Saturday 28 December 2024 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**10:30** Peggy Walsh (Foundation Mass)

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)**

**Saturday 28 December**

**18:00** Peter Coffey RIP

**Sunday 29 December 2024**

**09:30** Christine Kitchen RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](https://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)**

**Saturday 28 December**

**18:00** Peter Coffey RIP

**Sunday 29 December 2024**

**09:30** Christine Kitchen RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners

**Monday 30 December 2024 - Feria of Christmas Time**

**10:30** Ashley Blaize RIP

**Tuesday 31 December 2024 - Feria of Christmas Time**

**10:30** Yvonne Owokade Birthday Thanksgiving

**Wednesday 1 January 2025 - MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (live-streamed)**

**10:30** Maureen O'Reilly RIP 10th Anniversary

**Thursday 2 January 2025 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

**10:30** Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

**Friday 3 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time**

**10:30** Cassle McGlynn RIP

**Saturday 4 January 2025 - The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese**

**10:30** Anne Orieso Thanksgiving to God

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)**

**Saturday 4 January 2025**

**18:00** Renate Betson

**Sunday 5 January 2025**

**09:30** Bridie Costello RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners (live-streamed)

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](https://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)

# Southwark Archdiocese Rosary Prayer Project

## *What it's all about*

An intercessory prayer initiative - part of the 'prayer symphony' preparing for Jubilee 2025 and the 60th anniversary of Southwark becoming an Archdiocese.

The idea is simple - hundreds of people across the Archdiocese praying regularly for the priests and parishes in their Deanery (i.e. local group of parishes).

## *How you can take part - it's easy!*

By praying a decade of the Rosary for a different local parish and its priests each day, at a time to suit you:

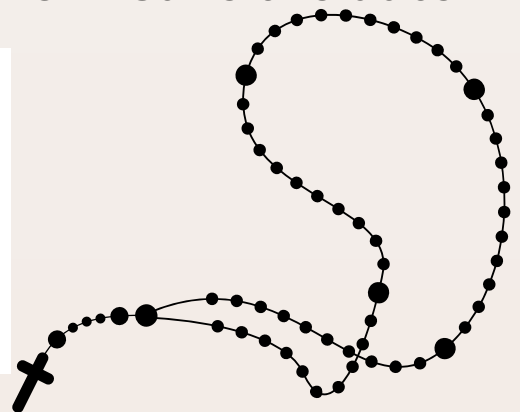
**Either WhatsApp:** join the Lewisham Deanery WhatsApp Group to unite with others - QR code below  
**Or offline:** on your own or in a group - see leaflet or email southwarkrenewal@gmail.com

## *What it's leading up to*

The prayer will continue right up to the Southwark in-person Jubilee celebration at Aylesford Priory on **Pentecost Saturday 7th June 2025 - Save the date!**

*Scan to join the  
Lewisham Deanery  
WhatsApp Group:*  
**jubilee 2025**

Lewisham Deanery  
WhatsApp group



## ***POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 2025***

### ***JANUARY -***

**For The Right To An Education** - Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

### ***FEBRUARY -***

**For Vocations To The Priesthood And Religious Life.**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

### ***MARCH***

**For Families In Crisis** - Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

### ***APRIL -***

**For The Use Of New Technologies** - Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### ***MAY -***

**For Working Conditions**

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

### ***JUNE -***

**That The World Might Grow In Compassion**

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.