



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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Safeguarding:- Carol Kinch 07710 324683



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

Friday 8th & 15th December after Mass & 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

10 December 2023

Dear Parishioners

We progress into the second week of Advent, which is a period of preparation for the Nativity of Christ at Christmas; A time characterised by the most intense prayer, Advent challenges us to slow our pace, to try to create our peaceful and quiet moment, so that we listen to the voice of the Lord and the world around us, which needs love and understanding. John the Baptist makes his entrance into the world, and ask us to prepare the way, we too must prepare the path of the Lord, since a path leads to our hearts. May we hear God's love and concern for us as we listen for God's voice in prayer.

May our attentive listening during Advent help us to be instruments of peace, forgiveness, love and healing.

God Bless

Fr Habte



TODAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - Our Gospel encourages us to prepare a way to let Jesus into our lives. The rich imagery in this Sunday's readings highlight many wonderful aspects of our Lord and God. A God who loves us as we are, who consoles us, forgives us and seeks us out, giving us time to change. A shepherd who holds us close and wants no one to be lost. This advent we are encouraged to invite God's love in and to see other people through Jesus' loving eyes. Having baptised people with water, John the Baptist explains that the baptism Jesus brings, immerses us in God's Spirit of love.

Our war-torn, unjust world is crying out for us to show love and to recognise when we need forgiveness. Our advent preparations might include listening more when we encounter different opinions. Preparing a way might mean looking for good intentions when we feel tempted to judge.

If we are losing sight of God and others, our challenge is to create a little space for reconnecting with the glorious generosity of our God. MMcD

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16.24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

FR GREGORY has now been discharged from hospital and is doing well back at Coloma Court. If anybody wishes to send Fr Gregory a letter or Christmas card the address is Coloma Court Care Home, Layhams Road, Bromley, BR4 9QJ

GIFT SUNDAY -

We will continue to collect gifts at all masses on 9-10 December. This year, we are asking for donations of toys or gift vouchers for children and teenagers, Small Christmas food and other items - e.g., Christmas puddings, biscuits, chocolates, crackers. The gifts will be delivered to the Charities on Monday 11 December. Thank you for your generosity.



GIFT BOXES FOR CHRISTMAS - Please return your decorated gift boxes this weekend.. Do not cut them out as we will do that before we hang them up. It is always a joy to see your work, thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us and for making our church a place of joy at Christmas. The Art Group

HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS - Please leave your completed hearts in the basket in the Narthex by Saturday 16th December. Thank you

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Please take a Christmas card so that you and your family have the Mass times at hand over the Christmas season or download a copy here [CHRISTMAS CARD](#)

- Please note there will not be a vigil Mass on Christmas eve
- There will be three masses over Christmas: (Sunday) 11.30pm Carols leading into Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Day 9.30am & 11.30am
- The Christmas Day 9.30am Mass will be specifically dedicated for families. Children will be involved in leading and animating the liturgy.
- Midnight Mass and 11.30am Mass on Christmas day will be live streamed on our parish Facebook page www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

If there is any parishioner in need of transportation to Church for Midnight or Christmas Day Masses. please let Mary in the office or Fr Habte know.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO FR HABTE

The offering at all Christmas Masses is your personal offering to Fr Habte.

Fr Habte thanks you in anticipation for your generosity.

Please use the red envelopes provided and Gift Aid where possible as the parish will benefit. Offerings may also be given via the Contactless device in the Narthex or via the secure link on our webpage <https://donate.myдона.com/st-william-of-york-rc-church> 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. Many thanks

ADVENT PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - We will have Eucharistic Adoration after the Friday morning Mass on 15th December and at our Penitential Service on Wednesday December 20th at 7:30pm. It is a good way to make our confession before Christmas, if you can't make it on this day, please come to the weekly Saturday Confession times or please book the date and time with Fr Habte.

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT WILL BE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

ADVENT LEAFLET - Please take an leaflet from the Narthex or click here [Advent Leaflet](#). Advent is a busy time for all of us at church at home and work. Keep the leaflet handy so you know what we'll be doing together in our Church and Parish Community.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE - Our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm followed by refreshments in the school hall. Come and enjoy this great celebration for everyone.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER - We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

CAFOD Online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Sign up [HERE](#) for daily reflections straight to your inbox

ADVENT REFLECTIONS - Why not try to make space for spiritual reflection this advent. Southwark Diocese Spirituality Commission will send a brief daily reflection to your own email! It is focused on the readings of the day, short and relevant to daily life! Sign up at <https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>

CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE - WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM The annual Cathedral Carol Service, led by Archbishop John Wilson will take place on **Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm** at St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 7HY. All are welcome so please invite family and friends to join in the service.

SOUTH EAST PASTORAL AREA, CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East warmly invites you to the Christmas Carol Service of the South East Pastoral Area, Archdiocese of Southwark on **Sunday 17th December 2023 Gaudete Sunday at 7.30pm** at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill 11 Trent Road, London, SW2 5BJ. See poster. All are welcome.

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL - If you are new to the parish or may have missed the planned giving appeal talks in Sept and October, please pick up a copy of the leaflet in the Narthex or download a copy here [Pledge Form](#) and [Volunteer Form](#) We will be so grateful to receive your assistance which will make a big difference to our parish. Please complete and post forms through the presbytery letter box and we will be in contact with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to discuss with Fr Habte or email Mary at the parish office.

A DAY WITH MARY - SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 10:00am to 5:30pm at St. George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 7HY. Please visit www adaywithmary.org

FINANCES

NOVEMBER 2023

The monthly Offertory Collection - £1,827.96
Donations for Archbishop's Appeal Fund - £306.54
Donations for Catholic Youth Service - £199.61
Donations for Holy Souls - £621.64
Donations for Parish Crisis Fund - £178.47

From monthly standing orders/bank transfers we collected - £4,981.00

Thank you for your continued support
Please Gift Aid where possible

HOLY SOULS MASSES

Thank you for offering Masses for Holy Souls to be celebrated for the faithful departed. These Masses will be celebrated over the next year.

MASS ATTENDEES

18/19 November - 292 25/26 November - 293 2/3 December -375

PARISH DIARY

Sat 9 & Sun 10 Dec	Gift Sunday donations	Church
Wed 13 Dec 10am	Hearts for Christmas	Cafe York
Thurs 14 Dec 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Fri 15 Dec 9.30-12pm	Mother's & Toddlers	Cafe York
Sat 16 Dec 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church
Sun 17 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by refreshments	Church School hall
Wed 20 Dec 7.30pm	Penitential Service & Eucharistic Adoration	Church



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday 9 December 2023

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 10 December 2023

09:30 Tony Frisoli RIP

11:30 Joe & Maureen Reynolds RIP

Monday 11 December 2023 - Feria

09:30 Nancy Willis RIP

11:45 Funeral of Onyeamaechi Ndubishi RIP

Tuesday 12 December 2023 - Feria

09:30 Margaret Mary Acquah

Wednesday 13 December 2023 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

10:30 Funeral of Ronald Bottone RIP

Thursday 14 December 2023 - St. John of the Cross

09:30 Private Prayer

Friday 15 December 2023 - Feria

09:30 Fr James Hayes (FM)

Saturday 16 December 2023 - Feria

10:30 Mother Antoinette de la Casa (FM)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Gaudete Sunday

Saturday 16 December 2023

18:00 Fr John Pledger (FM)

Sunday 17 December 2023

09:30 For the Parishioners

11:30 Herrientta Ighabedua RIP

(FM) Foundation Mass

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HOUSING JUSTICE, CARITAS SOUTHWARK

is hosting an online information session **on 13 December 2023, 7.30-8.30 PM** for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this QR code to register for the event. Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you.
caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk



Hosting with Housing Justice



Do you have a spare room that you could offer to a homeless asylum-seeker, refugee or other migrant in need?

Housing Justice works with hosts to provide temporary accommodation for London's destitute asylum-seekers, refugees and other forced migrants while they resolve their immigration status.

**Find out more here or scan the QR code below:
<https://housingjustice.org.uk/donate-now-or-get-involved/become-a-host>**



In Partnership with Housing Justice Caritas Southwark is hosting an online information session on 13 December 2023, 7.30-8.30 PM for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this other QR code to register for the event. Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you.



Caritas
SOUTHWARK



www.lcsb.uk

An Invitation from the Lay Community of St Benedict

CONVERSATION AS CONVERSION TO THE OTHER



A TALK BY AUSTEN IVEREIGH

How can we be a listening church?

Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis and theologian who was present at the Rome synod assembly of October 2023, will share insights on what 'Conversation in the Spirit' can teach a divided Church and fractured humanity.

Thursday 14th December 8pm

Part of the LCSB Advent Programme

Register using the link below!

<https://www.lcsb.uk/advent>



St William of York
Catholic Primary School

Brockley Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PS

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Lynch Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Mayers

Starting School in September 2024?

Come and visit our lovely small school!

Visits and tours by appointment!

Email: admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk

Telephone: 020 8690 2842

Please contact the school office for more information.

Experienced, and enthusiastic teaching staff. Forest School sessions.

Lovely children, parents, staff and school community!

One form entry, small, friendly and inclusive.

Only one class in each year group.

We know every child, and family, by name!

We celebrate and develop your child's unique gifts and talents.



Ofsted (Oct 2022) - GOOD
with 4 out of 5 OUTSTANDING areas.

Quality of Education	GOOD
Leadership & Management	OUTSTANDING
Personal Development	OUTSTANDING
Behaviour & Attitudes	OUTSTANDING

Wraparound care available from our Breakfast Club and After School Club Provider

We are a Catholic primary school.

However, we accept Non-Catholic children, and ALL religions are welcome!

We celebrate diversity and are an inclusive and welcoming school!



CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

*Led by Archbishop John Wilson
With the combined Cathedral Choirs, joined by
the children of the Southwark Singing Programme*



St George's
Cathedral
SOUTHWARK

For contact details and
travel directions visit:
www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk

Wednesday 13 December 2023 - 7.30pm

St George's Cathedral is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East
warmly invites you to the:

Christmas Carol Service

Of the South East Pastoral Area, Archdiocese of Southwark

for all the
Parishes in the deaneries of Bexley; Bromley; Camberwell; Greenwich; Lambeth and Lewisham



Date:

Sunday 17th December 2023

Gaudete Sunday

Time:

7.30pm

Gathering from 7pm

Clergy to vest in Cassock & Surplice or Alb & Stole from 7.15pm

Venue:

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill
11 Trent Road, London, SW2 5BJ

Theme:

Peace on Earth

Principal Celebrant:

The Right Reverend Philip Moger
Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark

