



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

8 DECEMBER 2024

Dear Parishioners

In this second Sunday of Advent we hear from John the Baptist who lived in the desert and preached repentance and forgiveness of sins to the people of God. As a way of preparing the way for the one who was going to come after him, he called people to prepare the way.

John the Baptist speaks to us today, to hear this same voice and to imitate him, in both responding the call of repentance but also in being the voice of truth, to practice justice, love and humility.

We are therefore clothed with a great responsibility because if on the one hand we are called to gather witnesses of faith around us, we must also be capable of witnessing.

We are called to live and propose the conversion of hearts, to stand for justices, with humility but with determination, we are called to be a prophet, to be a sign of God's presence wherever we live.

The sacrament of reconciliation serves us to prepare the way for the Lord, during this period of preparation, here in our parish we will be holding an Advent penitential service

Fr Habte



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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. John came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities. The Hebrew concept of repentance which John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant – and still means – just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel at the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication. His is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice. A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom. *What sort of change did John the Baptist ask from his listeners? Think of one change you need to make in your life to welcome Jesus.*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

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 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



THANK YOU - The family and I Jerviane would like to thank all the parishioners who came to celebrate the Mass of our late brother Ashley. We are eternally grateful for the love and blessings that have been shown to us. Also thank you for all the prayers and support given during this difficult time, words of comfort and masses offered have given us strength and solace.

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

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.

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.



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

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT WILL BE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

Phyllis George RIP

(Funeral at St William of York on 17th December at 12.00pm)

Eileen O'Connor RIP

Long standing parishioner of many years ago
wife to Jerome and mum to Mary, John, Angela

Bishop John Hine RIP

He was born in 1938, and served the Diocese of Southwark with dedication.

Ordained in 1962, he became an Auxiliary Bishop in 2001.

Known for his humility and pastoral care, he served the Kent area.

Even in retirement, he remained a beloved presence.

Reception of the Body: Monday, December 9th at 6:00 PM at St. George's Cathedral.

Requiem Mass: Tuesday, December 10th at 2:00 PM, followed by committal.

**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**

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](#))

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.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE - We have started building a new parish website with the help of a generous website designer. (brother of one of our Parishioners) [We are aiming to launch our new parish website in good time before Christmas and before doing so wish to update the details for all the ministries/groups so the information is current.](#) If you have received an e mail regarding this please help us to fulfil our plan by responding to Mary as soon as you can. Thank you

FINANCES - NOVEMBER 2024

The monthly Offertory Collection - £2,207.44
Donations for Holy Souls Masses - £600.00
Donations for Archbishop's Appeal Fund - £259.44
Donations for World Youth Sunday - £118.60
Donations for Parish Crisis Fund - £414.93
From monthly standing orders we collected - £5,378.00

Bank details to set up a regular standing order:
Account name: RCAS Forest Hill, Sort Code: 60 50 01 Acc No: 79124437
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

16/17 November - 317 23/24 November - 234 - 30/1 December - 383

PARISH DIARY

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec	Gift Sunday donations	Church
Sunday 8 Dec 12.30pm to 2.30pm	Christmas Fair	SWOY School
Wednesday 11 Dec 10am	Christmas Stars & Tea	Cafe York
Thursday 12 Dec 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Saturday 13 Dec 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church
Sunday 15 Dec	Please return Christmas decorated stars by today	
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

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 (live-streamed)

Monday 9 December 2024 -

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

09:30 Tony Frisoli RIP Birthday

Tuesday 10 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Daniel & John O’Sullivan RIP

Wednesday 11 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 George Asare Birthday Thanksgiving (live-streamed)

Thursday 12 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Private Prayer

Friday 13 December 2024 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

09:30 Malcolme Fletcher RIP

Saturday 14 December 2024 - St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

10:30 Celia Costello RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ©

Gaudete Sunday

Saturday 14 December

18:00 Meg Gallagher RIP

Sunday 15 December 2024

09:30 For the Parishioners

11:30 Joe & Maureen Reynolds RIP Anniversary

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, Knatchbull 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**

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.