



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

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Deacon Amgad Gerges

Telephone:- 020 8690 4549 mobile 07307 869565

email:- foresthill@rcaos.org.uk

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

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B)

7 January 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Today the church keeps the feast that we have already sung about in our carols - the Visit of the Magi, the Three Wise Men are important as they represent to us an important changing point in the story of salvation. These men are not part of the Chosen People. The Scriptures call them Gentiles - those from outside the promise. The Good News of today is that no one is excluded from the smile of God, which we see in the face of the Christ Child lying in the manger.

Christmas is about the infinite love of God freely given to the world. The Wise Men are the first to experience this but they will most certainly not be the only ones. The world cries out for the love of God. Let us pray our part in delivering this.

I wish you a happy and joyful new year, we offer our prayers for a better year ahead, free of fear and war and uncertainty.

As Christians in a secular world, we must witness to our trust in God and the promises of Jesus, not letting the times cause us fear or be lacking in hope.

Fr. Habte

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - The Wise Men, with their clever knowledge of astronomy and their lavish gifts, represent all that is best in worldly values. They also have a bit of magic about them, for frankincense and myrrh were used in spells, and the word for 'wise men' can also mean 'magicians'. In this case, the Wise Men have real wisdom and its reward, and all the respect and fame due to a 'magus' and yet they lay it all at Jesus' feet. It might be worth asking at this beginning of the year whether we submit all our skills and comforts to Jesus as the Wise Men did. The story also rests on the sharp contrast between King Herod and the Wise Men. Herod was a Jew, so he should have recognised and honoured the Jewish Messiah. Not at all! He tried to kill the Messiah. By contrast, the Wise Men, arriving from what for us would be the equivalent of outer space, carry on their search till they find Jesus and humbly bow before him. This poses a nasty question: we Christians have all the guidance and encouragement of the Church, but how often do we find those outside the Church, not even professed Christians, behaving in a more Christian way than we do ourselves! *What skill, what gift may I place before Jesus today?*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19, 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42

AN EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES - 2024 -

Each year on the feast of the Epiphany many parishes throughout the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. It is an ancient tradition that not only places God at the entrance of your home, it places your entire family under his protection. You may have seen something like this on or near the lintel or doorposts of houses last year:

20+C+M+B+23

The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries old tradition. Priests would originally visit each home in their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany. Over time it became more difficult to accomplish such a feat as parishes became larger and larger and priests were stretched thin. For this reason it became an accepted tradition for a member of the household to lead this blessing in place of the priest.

The blessing has biblical roots, deeply tied to the Passover in the book of Exodus.

Please pick up a sheet in Church today with more information on the Epiphany Blessing of Homes or click [HERE](#) to download a copy.

OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER (Crib Offerings):- This year, we are collecting for the work of the Cabrini children's society. Please be as generous as you can be.



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS - Last weekend we baptised Antoni Perzanowski. Many congratulations to Antoni and his parents Alina and Marcin from all at St William of York and welcome Antoni to our parish family.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS -

Our Sacramental preparations continue on Sunday 14th January 2024:- 2.50pm for 3pm start - Reconciliation Session 4 in the church
3pm - Reconciliation Group Parents meeting in the school hall

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please pray for the children who will be making their First Reconciliation on Saturday 20th January 2024 at 10.00am.

(Please note there will be no 10.30am Mass that day)

A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 21st January 2024 at 9.30am.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Sunday 21st January 2024 at 6pm - Confirmation Session 1 in the church

Please keep the children, young people, families and catechists in your prayers.

BAPTISM

Baptism of babies and young children of parent/s who live in and/or worship regularly at St William of York is celebrated by arrangement .. Preparation for baptism by the parent/s is a requirement and involves attending a course over two evenings, following which a date and time for Baptism can be arranged with Fr Habte.

GETTING MARRIED

At least six months notice needs to be given for marriages whether they are taking place at St William of York or elsewhere to allow sufficient time for the necessary pastoral and administrative preparation.

Please speak to Fr Habte in the first instance.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

Veronica Lambert RIP

Please remember the friends and family of Veronica in your prayers

Funeral at St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham on Wednesday 10 January 2024
at 11.45am followed by burial at Grove Park Cemetery

The family welcome any parish friends who may wish to attend the
celebration of Veronica's life.

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

23/24 December -278 25 December -484 30/31 December -262

PARISH DIARY

TBC	Instrumentalists	Church
Thurs 11 Jan 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Sun 14 Jan 2.50pm for 3pm	Reconciliation 4	Church
Sun 14 Jan 3pm	Reconciliation Group Parents Meeting	School Hall
Sat 20 Jan 10.00am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
Sun 21 Jan 9.30am	Thanksgiving Mass for Reconciliation	Church
Sun 21 Jan 6pm	Confirmation 1st Session	Church

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2024

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church - Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time before Lent:

Peace on Earth - especially on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Openness to the Word of God - especially on the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

For Justice and Peace in the World - especially on Racial Justice Day

(three Sundays before the first Sunday of Lent)

Christian Unity - especially during the Church Unity Octave

The Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it - especially on Thursday 8th February

The Sick and Those who Care for them especially on World Day of the Sick, 11th February

The Unemployed- especially on the Sunday before the 1st Sunday of Lent, the Day for the Unemployed

2024 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY

Please use link below to access the 2024 Southwark directory which includes the Diocesan Calendar, Parishes, Mass times, Priests, Schools, Societies, Holy Days of Obligation and other useful information:-

[2024 Southwark Directory](#)

PEACE SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 14 January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year Pope Francis's message for the 2024 World Day of Peace focuses on the role of Artificial Intelligence in peace-making. **[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL MESSAGE](#)**



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, 28 JANUARY 2024

With the festivities around Christmas and the New Year now celebrated, please note in your diary our reoccurring celebration of Racial Justice Sunday coming up on **28 January 2024**. On that day, Archbishop John Wilson will be celebrating the event at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY at the 10am Mass.

The Racial and Cultural Inclusion Commission, coordinated by Canon Victor Darlington, would like to invite all parishioners to this event. Please come in your traditional attires and costumes and possibly bring a flag of your country of origin. This will add vigour and colour to the occasion.

Mass will begin at 10.00am and everyone is gently requested to be seated at least 15 minutes before.



Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. [SIGN UP TODAY HERE](#)

CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! Read more about us and our decision to join forces. Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty.

So, sign up to do the Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your school or parish. Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B)

Saturday 6 January 2024

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 7 January 2024

09:30 Nancy & Michael O'Connor RIP

11:30 John O'Sullivan RIP **(live-streamed)**

Monday 8 January 2024 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

09:30 Yvonne Owokade Personal Intentions

The end of the Season of Christmas

Ordinary Time before Lent

Tuesday 9 January 2024 - Feria

09:30 Sean Garvey RIP

Wednesday 10 January 2024 - Feria

09:30 John McGlynn Junior RIP **(live-streamed)**

Thursday 11 January 2024 - Feria

09:30 Private Prayer

Friday 12 January 2024 - Feria

09:30 Annie Murphy RIP

Saturday 13 January 2024 - Feria

10:30 Bridget Kavanagh

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Saturday 13 January 2024

Peace Day

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 14 January 2024

09:30 Anne Delaney RIP

11:30 Sue Hepworth RIP

(FM) Foundation Mass

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



28 JANUARY 2024, 10 AM

@

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT AMIGO HALL



ARCHDIOCESE *of*
SOUTHWARK