



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

15 DECEMBER 2024

Gaudete Sunday

Dear Parishioners

On the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete Sunday gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for 3rd Advent.

In keeping with the spirit of rejoicing, The colour of the Advent candle for this week, and the priest's and deacon's vestments are rose or pink.

It is when people refuse to give up on hope and joy, it is great to witness when people are joyful in the midst of suffering and desolation, and refusing to be locked into an environment of despair, Like St. Paul – a prisoner in his cell awaiting his approaching death and writing letters to cheer other people up. Like John the Baptist – a voice in the wilderness announcing Good News to his own country people, because the Lord is very near. God's nearness is a source of joy that no one can steal from them. They call people to make ready for God's arrival with joy.

Advent is a reminder of our need to prepare for two events, the joyful preparation for the birth of Jesus and preparing for the second coming of the world, to meet our maker when we die. Advent reminds us of this reality.



In John people could see God's way. That is why they asked him: "What must we do, then?" John, in reply, challenged people's generosity and sense of fairness so that others may have a reason to rejoice. God's closeness also carried prophets and others through difficult times. It urges all of us to get on with life when we face the reality of our weakness and limitation. To believe in the abiding presence of a God who cares and gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of our stops and starts. That presence always challenges our generosity and calls on our sense of justice.

God Bless
Fr Habte

TODAY'S READINGS -

Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit. *What is the "rubbish" in my life which needs to be burnt away to prepare for the coming of Jesus?*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS -

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

GIFT SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL - We just wanted to get in touch to say a big thank you for your support with the Toy Appeal this year. Please know that your donations will make such a difference to people in our community this Christmas. Please pass on our thanks to everyone.

Happy Christmas , The Salvation Army , Lewisham Borough

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.



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.

KS2 SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - The Christmas Carol Service led by Yr3, 4, 5, & 6 will be held on Tuesday 17th December at 5.30pm in the church. All welcome



PARISH CAROL SERVICE - Our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22 December at 4.00pm followed by refreshments in the school hall. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church if you can help with the carol service in any way. Thank you. **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 or download a copy [HERE](#)

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|--|
| 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 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

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA CHRISTMAS POSTERS:- please collect a copy of a Christmas poster from the box in the narthex. Donations will be greatly appreciated and will be sent to [Mary's Meals UK](#)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - Flowers will be arranged for Christmas on **Monday 22nd 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.

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”.



You can watch the full message here <https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmessage2024>

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 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](#))

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>

2025 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY - Please us 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](#)

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

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 before Christmas and before doing so wish to update the details for all the ministries/groups so the info 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.

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

**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

23/24 November - 234 - 30/1 December - 383 7/8 December - 317

PARISH DIARY

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Sunday 15 Dec 1.30pm | Dominic Bentham's Students' Piano Concert | Church |
| Sunday 15 Dec 5pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction | Church |
| Tuesday 17 Dec 5.30pm | SWOY School Carol Service led by Yr3, 4, 5, & 6 | Church |
| Wednesday 18 Dec 7.30pm | Parish Penitential Service with visiting priests | Church |
| Thursday 19 Dec 8pm | Singing Practice | Church |
| Saturday 21 Dec 9.15am | Instrumentalists | Church |
| Sunday 22 Dec 4pm | Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments | Church School Hall |

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT FOR THE HOMELESS

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

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

Monday 16 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Brian Croft RIP

Tuesday 17 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Henritta Ihagbedua RIP

12:00 Funeral of Phyllis George RIP

Wednesday 18 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Veronika Prill RIP (live-streamed)

Thursday 19 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Private Prayer

Friday 20 December 2024 - Feria

09:30 Margaret & Mary O'Sullivan RIP

Saturday 21 December 2024 - Feria

10:30 George Asare Birthday Thanksgiving

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 Sue Hepworth RIP

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/



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

**Every parishioner, catechist,
parent and teacher in our
schools and parishes now
has access to over 120 high-
quality workshops from the
Catechetical Institute.**

1. Scan the QR code below and watch the walkthrough video
2. Follow the links to register your personal account today

aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan

