



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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)

5 January 2025

Dear Parishioners

Today the church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, at Christmas Christ is revealed to the whole world, to all nations and peoples who come to worship him. God's mysterious plan for humanity is now fully revealed: whoever welcomes Jesus is given the power to become a child of God.

The three wise men represent us all people of the world. We too come to adore him and return to our lives journey being transformed, changed by the experience of this encounter.

The Good News of today is that no one is excluded from God's love, which we see in the face of the Christ Child lying in the manger. We hope to be the instruments of Christ's love by sharing what we have received with others, by our openness, welcoming people and the respect we have to the dignity of every human person.

Let us continue to support one another and may the blessing and protection of Almighty God be with us. Amen.
I wish you a happy and joyful new year.



Fr. Habte

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - Our Epiphany readings paint wonderful visions of a guiding light in darkness, of great joy, and a coming together of people from all nations. Whether a king, an individual or a community, they all come because they recognise something of the divine.

Jesus invites us to see a God who loves and saves. A God who opens our hearts and eyes to the beauty of each other. A God who gives us realisations that thrill and delight us, which we then want to share.

The kings in the epiphany story followed God's guidance and came to give their gifts to an infant king. There are many interpretations of the meaning and symbolism of their gifts. One is that gold would always have precious value, frankincense makes life a little sweeter and is used in prayer, and myrrh soothes wounds and can be used to prepare a body for burial.

Let's rejoice in the amazing diversity of the human race, and look out for and celebrate the unique gifts and wisdom that each person has to offer. What a great feast day to use our gifts by being generous, thoughtful, prayerful and healing to one and other

MMcD

AN EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES - 2025 - 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+24 (The 20 and 24 represent the year. The C + M + B represents the names of the magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and also the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* – Christ bless the house)

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 download a copy [HERE](#)

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



'A very Happy New Year to you all! We are happy to announce that our first Youth Group meeting of 2025 will be on Friday the 10th of January from 6-8pm. Come and join us for some post Christmas fun, games and chat! We look forward to seeing you there.'



NEW PARISH WEBSITE We are delighted to advise that our new parish website has been launched and can be accessed via <https://swoy.org.uk/> or by scanning the QR code with your phone/tablet camera.



Huge thanks to the generosity and hard work of our website designer and all the contributions from parishioners and group/ministry leaders who have enriched the content. We are setting up a new website team to look after it and hopefully it will be a hub that helps us in our Christian journey and mission.

Please take a look and we welcome your feedback via the website contact form. Thank you

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. (For details please see the poster on the notice board or download a copy [HERE](#))

ONLINE WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES - CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE

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 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](#)

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

Margaret Murray RIP

(long standing devoted parishioner who died last Sunday)

Please pray for Margaret's family and friends at this difficult time

**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**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

Our Sacramental preparations continue on Sunday 12 January 2025:- 2.50pm for 3pm start - Reconciliation Session 4 in the church
3pm - Reconciliation Group Parents/Carers meeting in the school hall with Fr Habte

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION -

Please pray for the children who will be making their First Reconciliation on Saturday 18th January at 10.00am. (Please note there will be no 10.30am Mass that day)

A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 19th January 2025 at 9.30am.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION -Sunday 19th January 2025 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 in the parish of William of York is celebrated by arrangement on Saturdays. Preparation for baptism by the parent/s is a requirement, following completion of the course a date and time can be arranged with the Fr. Habte. Thank you.

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 give time for the necessary pastoral and administrative preparation. Please speak to Fr. Habte in the first instance.

MASS ATTENDEES

21/22 December - 251 24/25 December - 538 28/29 December - 188

PARISH DIARY

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

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.

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 Third 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 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 First Sunday of Lent, the Day for the Unemployed.

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**)

Monday 6 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Thanksgiving Christina Murias

Tuesday 7 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Tim & John Ryan RIP

Wednesday 8 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time (live-streamed)

09:30 John McGlynn RIP Junior

Thursday 9 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 10 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Sean Garvey RIP

Saturday 11 January 2025 - Feria of Christmas Time

10:30 Sue Hepworth RIP 5th Anniversary

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Saturday 11 January 2025

18:00 John Curran RIP

Sunday 12 January 2025

09:30 For the Parishioners

11:30 Arthur & Elizabeth Anderson (FM)

THE END OF THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

* FM - Foundation Mass



Supporting Older People

Developing Friendship & Belonging

PLACE

Holy Cross Catholic Church
(Hartley Hall)
208 Sangley Rd, Catford
London SE6 2JS
Access via Sangley Road or
Culverly Road. Car parking
available.

- ✓ Pastoral Support
- ✓ Health & Wellbeing
- ✓ Social Activities

Find out More

 **Phone Number**
07521 425 400

 **Website**
<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/caritas-southwark/>

PLEASE JOIN US

Everybody is Welcome

**Caritas Reps, SVP, Eucharistic
Ministers, Home Visitors,
Luncheon Clubs, Groups or
Volunteers who support older
people**

DATE & TIME

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2025
11:00 AM - 15:00 PM

Lunch will be provided