



**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

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

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
26 OCTOBER 2025**

Dear Parishioners

A big Thank you to Fr Kenneth Iwunni from Lewisham Parish.
Fr Kenneth has been here with us in our parish for three weeks in the month of October for a supply in my absence.

We thank him for his pastoral service. Thank you to all for assisting Fr Kenneth during his stay in the parish. He is now back to continue his service at the church of St Saviour, Lewisham. He enjoyed his stay and warm welcome in the parish.

Thank you also for all parishioners who looked after the parish in my absence.

God Bless
Fr Habte



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - Sirach 35:15b-17,20-22b, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'. *Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: "God be merciful to me, a sinner". Through these words, what is God saying to you?*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Revelation 7:2-4,9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2026 - Sunday 2 November 6pm If your child is in Year 9, Year 10 or above and they would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be an information meeting for Candidates & Parents in the church on Sunday 2 November 2025 at 6pm. The preparation sessions will commence in January 2026.



FAMILY MASSES - The next 2 family masses will be held on **Sunday 9 November and Sunday 7 December at 9.30am**. If your child or young person would like to be involved in either (or both) please let us know - foresthillfamilymass@rcaos.org.uk Thank you and best wishes,
Family Mass team: Tope and Jon

YOUTH GROUP MEETING - We will be holding our next Youth Group meeting on **Friday 7th November 6pm-8pm**. We look forward to welcoming our young people from ages 11-17.



HOLY SOULS - In the month of November, the Church offers special prayers for Holy Souls. Monday 3 November is All Souls Day as we remember our beloved dead. I encourage you to have Masses said in our parish for those of your relatives and friends who have died. On the tables in the narthex there are sheets along with envelopes which you can use to make an offering for Mass for your deceased loved ones during the month of November. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the sheets and put your envelope in the Box specially prepared for your Offerings on the Sanctuary. Alternatively you can post your envelopes through the presbytery letter box. Mass offerings for Holy Souls may also be via the contactless device or via our website <https://donate.mydona.com/st-william-of-york-rc-church> or QR code. Thank you



REMEMBRANCE MASS - WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 8.00

We will offer a Holy Mass in remembrance of parishioners who have died in the last year on **Wednesday 12 November at 8.00pm**, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. I would like to invite all parishioners to join us and their families in prayer.

BEREAVEMENT TALK, Saturday 15th November 2pm-3pm On Saturday 15 November we will be hosting representatives from St Christopher's Hospice who will be talking to us about bereavement support. It will be a workshop that will encourage conversation and provide theory around what grief is, the confidence to talk about it and some tips on management of grief whether the loss be recent or a decades ago. This will be the start of a programme of talks on Bereavement. If you are interested in attending this talk please write your name down on the sheet in the Narthex along with your telephone number and or email.

WOOLY HATS FOR SEAFARERS - Would you like to show your appreciation to a seafarer?

Stella Maris is a charity we support as a parish and we hear a little about their work every summer when the annual appeal is made. They give all sorts of practical support to the seafarers who leave their homes and families to work on ships to bring food and all sorts of goods to our shores.

One of the things Stella Maris provide is woolly hats – which are very much in demand by seafarers arriving in the depths of winter. Our Christmas project for this year is woolly hats – and we are starting early to give you plenty time to get busy. Please take a leaflet or download a copy [HERE](#) to find out how you can contribute. There is yarn and needles available for anyone to take. Knitted, crocheted and shop bought hats are all welcome! Just make sure they are a nice snug fit to stay on amid storm and tempest!

Talk to Maureen Swift if you want to know more (0776 5428299)



2026 MASS INTENTIONS - We have now received diaries for 2026 and will be pleased to accept Mass Intentions by email to Mary foresthill@rcaos.org.uk via telephone 020 8690 4549 or envelope to the presbytery.

Mass offerings may be sent to the presbytery with your intention or sent directly to our bank account:- Bank: NatWest Bank, Sort Code: 60-50-01, Account number: 79124437
Account name: RCAS FOREST HILL, Reference: Your surname/Gift Aid no. Mass intention offerings may also be donated via our contactless device in the Narthex or via the secure portal on our website <https://donate.mydona.com/st-william-of-york-rc-church> or the QR code (the name of the intention can be recorded within the messages option on the website) Please remember to register for gift aid if you are a UK taxpayer.

If you would like Mass to be offered for your intention on a particular date (e.g. anniversary) please try to request it well in advance as we are seeing a significant increase in the number of Mass intention requests.

If you wish to obtain a Mass card, please see Fr Habte after Mass.

JOIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK WHATSAPP CHANNEL

For the latest updates in the Archdiocese of Southwark, including reflections and homilies from Archbishop John Wilson, as well as prayers and music, join our WhatsApp channel. Our channel aims to help you draw closer to the Lord Jesus through engaging and prayerful content, so please subscribe and share.

Join via this link rcaos.org.uk/whatsapp or by scanning the QR code.



THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).



SEEKING FACILITATORS - The Southwark Marriage and Family life (M&FL) Team are seeking married couples who are practising Catholics to join their growing team to present courses for Marriage Preparation, Building a Better Marriage and other initiatives in 2026. Salary: £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) for the couple. Mileage paid in addition. All training given. For full job description and further details, please contact liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications: October 31st 2025

ROOTED IN LOVE - an opportunity for married and engaged couples

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a monthly online meeting where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Gathering monthly on Zoom Thursdays: 30 October at 8:30pm, 27 November at 8:30pm, 11 December at 8:30pm

Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information

SEPTEMBER 2025

The monthly Offertory Collection - £2,095.07

Donations for Education Sunday - £339.97

Donations for Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission) - £226.41

Donations for the Parish Crisis Fund- £80.00

From monthly standing orders we collected - £5,486.00

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

MASS ATTENDEES

5/6 October - 333 12/13 October - 250 18/19 October - 280

PARISH DIARY

Thursday 30 Oct 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Sunday 2 Nov 6pm	Confirmation Programme 2026 Meeting for parents/candidates years 9, 10 and above	Church
Monday 3 Nov 7.30pm	Baptism Course 1	Lower Hall
Tuesday 4 Nov 7.30pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Cafe York
Friday 7 Nov 6-8pm	Youth Group Meeting	Upper Hall
Sunday 9 Nov 2.45pm	1st Reconciliation Session 2	Church
Monday 10 Nov 7.30pm	Baptism Course 2	Lower Hall
Wednesday 12 Nov 8pm	Remembrance Mass	Church
Saturday 15 Nov 2pm	Bereavement Talk	Cafe York

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

Vivienne Lake RIP

long standing faithful and dedicated parishioner who sadly died in hospital last weekend

Please remember her husband Brian, family and friends in your prayers

Funeral at St William of York on Wednesday 12 November at 11.30am

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



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Saturday 25 October 2025

18:00 Pietro Battista RIP

Sunday 26 October 2025

09:30 For the Parishioners

11:30 Children of Aberfan

Monday 27 October 2025 - Feria

09:30 Joseph Irihari Goubo RIP Anniversary

Tuesday 28 October 2025 - Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

09:30 Gertrude Badejo & Family

Wednesday 29 October 2025 - Feria (live-streamed)

09:30 Anthony Johnston RIP

Thursday 30 October 2025 - Feria

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 31 October 2025 - Feria

09:30 Marie Byrne Birthday blessings

Saturday 1 November 2025 - Feria

10:30 Deceased members of Orieso Family

ALL SAINTS (C)

Saturday 1 November 2025

18:00 Agnes Adebanye Otiko RIP 4th Anniversary

Sunday 2 November 2025

09:30 Holy Souls - For the Parishioners

11:30 Sylvia Swift RIP (live-streamed)

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page
www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

(FM)=Foundation Mass