



**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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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

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

**ALL SAINTS (C)
2 NOVEMBER 2025**

Dear Parishioners

Before we gather in prayer for the souls of our loved ones who have preceded us in encountering the Lord, Today we celebrate the solemnity of all Saints, the Church invites us to venerate, all those who eternally contemplate the Lord in glory, The lives of our Saints, both the canonized ones and the vast majority, who aren't canonized, show us that there are as many ways of becoming saints as there are people and vocations.– the Beatitudes that we read today, is a program of life that achieves the ideal of perfection without ignoring the struggles and anxieties of everyday life. And it is a path that many have embodied, each in their own time. We venerate all the saints and ask their intercession.

In this Month of November known as the “Month of the Holy Souls.” Each prayer we offer in this month is a profound act of faith, reflecting our trust in God's mercy as we seek to ensure eternal rest for those who have gone before us. We hope for our own eternal reward someday as well. All Saints and Souls Day are a reminder of the beautiful belief in the Communion of Saints. We understand that we are the Body of Christ. The Communion of Saints includes all Christian souls.



God Bless
Fr Habte

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS -

Revelation 7:2-4,9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - The Gospel on the feast of All Saints is taken from the sermon on the mount where Jesus describes the behaviour of the blessed. His teaching alters the emphasis of the law from avoiding wrong to doing right. Contradicting a world that adulates personal status, power and control, Jesus blesses humility, conciliation, purity of heart, and trusting God, especially in the face of adversity. We are called to relinquish personal pride and to give the glory to God as we place ourselves in His hands. In seeking righteousness we grow in love for God and neighbour, learning to see each other with God's love and understanding. We learn to let Him work through us, especially when we feel inadequate, for then it is most obvious that His is the glory. God's power and love are seen best in our weakness.

PB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17, John 2:13-22



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS - This weekend we baptised Leila Hanna & Erin Brigid Astin. Congratulations to Leila and her parents Rachel and Jon and Erin and her parents Rachael and Ronan from all at St William of York and welcome Leila and Erin to our parish family.

PETER & MAUREEN SWIFT would like to thank the community for their support, prayers and good wishes following the death of Sylvia. 11.30 Mass on Sunday 2nd Nov will be offered for the repose of her soul and you are invited to Cafe York afterwards to raise a glass in her memory.

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



CEMETERY BLESSING in Hither Green Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday 09th November 2025. We assemble from 2.15am at the Main Gate in Verdant Lane and our procession begins at 2.30pm with a hymn, led by the Bromley Concert Band. We recite the Rosary prayer as we walk, in small groups, and pause to sing hymns on the way. Please make use of this opportunity to bless the graves of our departed beloved ones.

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.

REMEMBRANCE MASS - WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER AT 8.00

We will offer a Holy Mass in remembrance of parishioners who have died in the last year on **Wednesday 19 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

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)



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.



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.



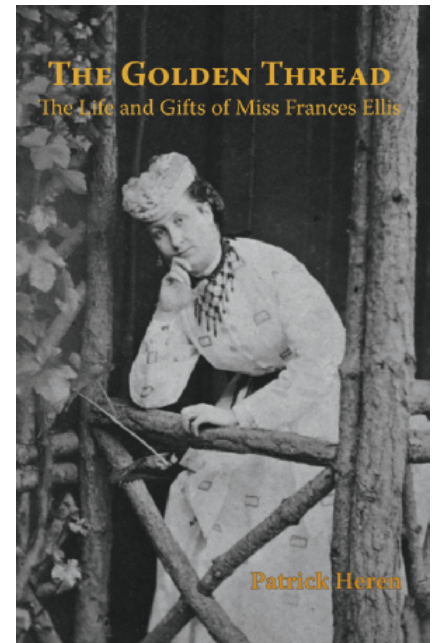
If you would like Mass to be offered for your intention on a particular date (e.g. anniversary) please try to request it well in advance as we are seeing a significant increase in the number of Mass intention requests.

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

THE GOLDEN THREAD - THE LIFE OF MISS FRANCES ELLIS- MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 7.30PM

William King, the secretary of the English Catholic History Association will be holding an online talk for its members on the life of Frances Ellis, the Edwardian Philanthropist and founder of Churches. ***As you know St William of York church is one of those that Frances Ellis financed.*** An invitation has been given to all parishioners of SWOY to attend the online talk via Zoom.

[us06web.zoom.us/j/85105949294?
pwd=NhbrUbTRLrEYp4E47nyEleSsKpt8jE.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85105949294?pwd=NhbrUbTRLrEYp4E47nyEleSsKpt8jE.1)
[Zoom Meeting ID: 851 0594 9294](#)
[Passcode: 268160](#)



The speaker will be Patrick Heron, who published a biography of Frances Ellis last year.

Frances Elizabeth Ellis was born into a wealthy family at Brighton in 1846 and raised as an Anglican. She was left a considerable fortune by her father, and devoted much of her adult life to caring for her blind mother and infirm sister. She seems to have been drawn to the Catholic faith while staying at Ramsgate in Kent. It is said that she was particularly impressed by the piety of a Mr. Leahy, whom she observed walking to Mass at St. Augustine's abbey every day and in all weather. However, that may be, Mr. Leahy does seem to have been instrumental in introducing her to prominent members of the Southwark clergy, including Canon St. John, who was closely involved in fund-raising.

During the 1890's, Miss Ellis began to buy sites and give money to found new churches in the Southwark diocese. Although few records remain, her method seems to have been to find a core group of the faithful in a "frontier" area, and then to work with them and with the diocese to establish a new church. Miss Ellis herself generally bought the sites, as well as giving generously to the construction. The prospective parishioners also contributed, as did the diocese. Financial provision was made in every case for a presbytery, but never for a school.

Miss Ellis was instrumental in setting up at least twenty-one new churches in South London.

They are:

St. Benet's, Abbey Wood,

St. Gertrude's, South Bermondsey

Our Lady of the Rosary, Brixton,

St. Helen's, Robsart Street, Brixton (since merged with Corpus Christi, Brixton)

Holy Cross, Carshalton,

Holy Cross, Catford,

St. Vincent de Paul, Clapham Common,
St. Bede's, Clapham Park (Miss Ellis lived next door in the house that is now the presbytery),
St. Gregory's, Earlsfield (since replaced),
St. William of York, Forest Hill,
Ss. Philip and James, Herne Hill,
St. Wilfred's, Kennington Park,
St. Bartholomew's, Streatham/Norbury, St. Matthews, West Norwood,
St. Thomas the Apostle, Nunhead,
St. James the Great, Peckham Rye,
St. Francis de Sales & St. Gertrude, Stockwell,
Ss. Simon & Jude, Streatham Hill,
Our Lady of the Assumption, Links Road, Tooting (since replaced) St. Boniface, Tooting.

These churches started life as missions rather than parishes, underlining the precarious — and hopeful — circumstances of their foundation. Miss Ellis particularly favoured a Romanesque style with a single large rose window, but as money was short, they were mostly without ornament. Usually, Miss Ellis insisted on employing an architect whose normal line of work was designing railway sheds, and this utilitarian approach is in evidence at Norbury and a number of other churches in Southwark.

As in all the Ellis foundations there was to be a monthly Mass for the Holy Souls, something that continues to this day as the monthly 'Ellis Mass for the dead' in their memory. Miss Ellis died at The Daughters of the Cross Home at Hayle in Cornwall which she had been instrumental in having built in 1930.

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity.



Scouts

12th Forest Hill
(St William of York)

CHIEF SCOUT SILVER AWARD (TOP CUB SCOUT AWARD)

The Cubs have been busy this term. Congratulations to Evie, Rueben, Eli, Milo, Oscar, Martha, Isaac and Caleb who have completed their Chief Scout Silver Award. It shows that they are adventurous, have helped their community and have learnt about the world. It also means that they have gained skills, worked in a team, completed all their Challenge Awards and at least six Activity Badges. Well done!

This Thursday, 6th November, a member of the District Team will be coming down to present their awards and wish them well as they join our Scout Troop which is re-opening on Thursday.

Adults - Want to make a difference and have fun doing it? Could you be one of our volunteers with Beavers, Cubs or Scout Troop? No experience needed — just enthusiasm and a bit of time!

Get in touch if you would like to find out more ahesketh@12thswoyscouts.org

Akela/Antonietta Hesketh
Lead Volunteer

12TH FOREST HILL ST WILLIAM OF YORK SCOUT GROUP LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Antonietta will be awarded her 30 year long service award. The team would like to thank Antonietta for her hard work and leadership to the Group and Parish over all the years of service. There have been over two hundred children that have passed through the 12th Forest Hill during Antonietta's years of service, being Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. I am sure that you will all agree this is an amazing achievement, she has had many positive and profound effects on these children. Please join me in congratulating her for this award.

With thanks from the Trustees, past and present and all the members.

MASS ATTENDEES

12/13 October - 250 18/19 October - 280 25/26 October - 272

PARISH DIARY

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
Thursday 5 Nov 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Friday 7 Nov 6-8pm	Youth Group Meeting	Upper Hall
Sunday 9 Nov 2.15pm	Cemetery Blessing	Hither Green Cemetery
Sunday 9 Nov 2.45pm	1st Reconciliation Session 2	Church
Monday 10 Nov 7.30pm	Baptism Course 2	Lower Hall
Saturday 15 Nov 2pm	Bereavement Talk	Cafe York
Sunday 16 Nov 5pm	Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Wednesday 19 Nov 8pm	Remembrance Mass	Church

**Please note change of date of the Remembrance Mass now
Wednesday 19 Nov at 8pm**

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER -

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

Vivienne Lake RIP

A long standing faithful and dedicated parishioner

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

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



Bob White RIP

A long-standing and well known parishioner in our community a number of years ago.
He retired to Hove with his wife Elena and their three children.

Please remember Bob's family and friends in your prayers.
(Funeral has already taken place)

Cynthia Sarangabani RIP

Please remember Cynthia's family and friends in your prayers.

Funeral at St William of York on Tuesday 18 November at 11.00am

**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**

ALL SAINTS (C)

Saturday 1 November 2025

18:00 Agnes Adebanke Otiko RIP 4th Anniversary

Sunday 2 November 2025

09:30 Holy Souls - For the Parishioners

11:30 Sylvia Swift RIP (live-streamed)

Monday 3 November 2025 - ALL SOULS DAY

09:30 Costello & Leen Families RIP

Tuesday 4 November 2025 - St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

09:30 Michael Jenvey RIP Anniversary

Wednesday 5 November 2025 - Feria (live-streamed)

09:30 Clemencia Charles RIP Anniversary

Thursday 6 November 2025 - Feria

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 7 November 2025 - The Dedication of the Cathedral Church of Saint George

09:30 Ernest Levey (FM)

Saturday 8 November 2025 - Feria

10:30 Sue & Paul Barber Wedding Anniversary

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (C)

Saturday 8 November 2025

18:00 Tracy Holme RIP 1st Anniversary

Sunday 9 November 2025

09:30 **Family Mass**

Holy Souls - For the Parishioners

11:30 Theresa Wyse Blessings

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

(FM)=Foundation Mass