



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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

**21 December 2025**

**CHRISTMAS DAY (A)**

**25 December 2025**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)**

**28 December 2025**

Dear Parishioners

Today we come to the last Sunday of the Advent season, As we prepare to welcome the Prince of peace into our hearts, let us make sure that this Advent season and the Lord's year that we just started in Advent be a time that brings peace into our lives, let it be a time not only of giving and receiving gifts but a time of true peace in our lives, that transforms our lives and enables us to share that gift with others.

Our parish community wishes to leave a concrete sign of God's love for us, which reminds us that those who are loved by God are called to love their brothers and sisters not only with words but also with the ability to share who they are and what they have.

Thank you for all your care and the tangible sign of love expressed through your generous prayers and gifts for those who are less



fortunate. Thank you to all who have so generously donated to the collections of our Gift Sunday and Advent Homeless collection.



Fr Habte

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT READINGS** -Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7,Matthew 1:18-24

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - Our Gospel on this last Sunday of Advent prepares us for important messages at the heart of Christmas. We see them through the eyes of Joseph as he tries to work out what to do about his fiancée being pregnant. His first instinct is his compassion for Mary. His next thought is fear, of the societal judgement he and Mary would likely encounter.

God's message to Joseph however is to not be afraid. Joseph's dream shares three important teachings with us: that the Spirit of God is the life and breath of Jesus; that Jesus came to save people from the harm caused by sin; and that Jesus, is the Emmanuel foretold by the prophet Isaiah - the embodiment of God with us.

Welcoming a child into the world is a life-changing, emotional and awe-inspiring occasion. We are hard-wired to respond to and nurture a baby. In these last busy days of Advent, perhaps we could carve out a moment to reflect on God's gift of Jesus to us, and all the ways that God shows us that he is with us. MMcD

**CAROL SERVICE** - Our Carol Service will take place on **Sunday 21st December at 4.00pm** followed by refreshments in the school hall. Come and enjoy this great celebration for everyone. **\*\*REMEMBER - please return your woolly hats!\***

**CHRISTMAS MASSES** - Please take a Christmas card this weekend so that you and your family have the Mass times at hand over the Christmas

There will be four Masses over Christmas:-

Wednesday 24 Dec 6.00pm - Family Mass

Wednesday 24 Dec 11.30pm Carols leading into .....

Wednesday 24 Dec 12.00 am Christmas Midnight Mass(live-streamed)

Thursday 25 Dec 9.30am - Mass with carols

Thursday 25 Dec 11.30am - Mass with carols (live-streamed)

**The 6pm Vigil Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve will be specifically dedicated for families. Children will be involved in leading and animating the liturgy. Parents please dress the children as angels and shepherds.**

**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 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



**CHRISTMAS CLEANING OF THE CHURCH** - We will clean the church on **Monday 22 December** after the morning 9.30am Mass. Please come at 10.00am to help clean the church. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - If you would like to donate towards Christmas Flowers, please post an envelope through the presbytery door or donate via the Dona contactless device in the Narthex or QR Code above. Thank you

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO THOSE ABLE TO TRAVEL AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS** We send our best wishes to those parishioners who are travelling to be with family and friends, and those who will not be with us on Christmas Day. May you have a great time.

### **SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT FOR THE HOMELESS**

Please give generously! THANK YOU

**OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER** This year, we shall be collecting for the work of the Catholic Children's society, supporting disadvantaged children and families in need within our schools and parishes in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can be. Thank you

**THE YOUTH GROUP** enjoyed their last session of the year with a lovely Christmas party. In the spirit of sharing good will, the group made up some care packages for prisoners which included some treats and Christmas cards. Youth group will resume in the new year on Friday the 9th of January at the usual time of 6–8pm.



Dear Parishioners,

**I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas! Thank you all for your support, good wishes, cards and gifts. May the New born Jesus bless and protect you today and always.**



As we celebrate the nativity of our Lord and begin the Christmas season, we ponder on the incarnation of the Lord our Saviour, his love and solidarity with us in our joy and pain, and his care and love for our lives. We give thanks to God who shared our humanity and fragility to save us.

Every time we notice the needs of those around us and make a gesture of love that fills us and those who receive it with joy, we are a witness that Jesus is present among us. Christmas presents itself as a gift of grace without measure, because there is no limit to the immensity of God, who gives himself to our humanity and sanctifies us.

Let us look to the child Jesus who asks and wants to be born in each of us and be the sign of the Father's love for others.

May the Christmas wish that we exchange today be a wish that enables us to give birth to gestures of love every day that bring joy into our homes and our communities.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year 2026.

Fr Habte

**ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at [rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025](https://rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025).



## **THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY READINGS** - Sirach 3:2-6,12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**THE HOLY FAMILY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** -The flight into Egypt is a splendid gospel for the feast of the Holy Family. It tells of a time of the acutest danger, when Mary and Joseph must have been at their wits' end in caring for their precious child, and so were most bound together as an endangered family, and at their most reliant on God in a situation humanly hopeless. The powerful, resourceful and pitiless Herod was a formidable threat; he would have no scruples about killing a few male children in the little hill-town of Bethlehem. There is also a further dimension: on many occasions, and especially here, Matthew depicts Jesus as a Second Moses: from the beginning Herod threatens Jesus' life just as Pharaoh had threatened Moses' survival as a baby. Just as Moses went into exile after killing the Egyptian overseer, so Jesus also goes into exile, to return when the threat is past. Of both it is said, 'Those who wanted to kill you/the child are dead' (cf. Exodus 4:19). Later Jesus will be seen as the Second Moses when he stays forty days and nights fasting in the desert, and when he delivers the new Law at the Sermon on the Mount and at the Transfiguration. *What can you do to bind your family more closely together in Christ?*



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**NEW YEARS DAY** - our Mass honouring the Mother of God, will be on Thursday 1 January 2026 at 10.30am

**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** - We will have one joint Mass at 10.30am on Sunday 4 January 2026 marking the end of 2025 Jubilee Year.

**THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** will be celebrated on Tuesday 6 January - Masses at 10.30am and 8pm.



## BISHOP RICHARD MOTH APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has today, 19 December, appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster.



Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015.

Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will now become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is Installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026. [READ MORE](#)

**ARCHBISHOP JOHN SAID:** “I am delighted that Bishop Richard Moth will be the next Archbishop of Westminster and congratulate him most warmly on the appointment.

“Bishop Moth is a man who has a deep love of the Lord Jesus. Originally a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, he has led the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton prayerfully, with a focus on formation and mission. I know he will bring that love of the Lord, along with his zeal for evangelisation, to Westminster, and I look forward to working further with him and my brother bishops as we strive to lead more people to Christ. “Above all, please join me in praying for Bishop Moth as he prepares for this new challenge, may the Lord continue to guide him and bless him.”

On the forthcoming retirement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop John said: “Cardinal Vincent has served the Church in England and Wales, and latterly the Diocese of Westminster, faithfully and remarkably throughout his ministry. I had the privilege of serving under him as an Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster for several years and saw first-hand how he put his love of the Lord Jesus into action.

Please continue to pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

**Aidan Youssef RIP**

**Neil Divers RIP**

**Eilish Brophy RIP**

**Eilish will be received into St Thomas More Church, 380 Lordship Lane, Dulwich,  
SE22 8ND on Monday 29 December at 4pm  
Funeral to take place on Tuesday 30 December at 11.30am**

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**

29/30 November - 240 6/7 December - 368 13/14 December - 308

### **PARISH DIARY**

Sunday 21 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments	Church School Hall
Monday 22 Dec 10am	Christmas Cleaning	Church
Friday 9 Jan 6pm-8pm	Youth Group Meeting	Upper Hall
Sunday 11 Jan 2.45pm	Reconciliation Session 4 Parents Meeting	Church School Hall
Sunday 11 Jan 6pm	Confirmation Session 1	Church
Tuesday 13 Jan 7.45pm	RCIA Session - The Sacrament of Baptism	Lower Hall
Saturday 17 Jan 10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
Sunday 18 Jan 9.30am	Thanksgiving for Reconciliation Mass	Church
Sunday 18 Jan 5pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction	Church

**PARISH OFFICE** - The Parish Office will close from Friday 26 December and reopen on Monday 5 January 2026. The answer phone will be switched on and messages will be responded to. In an emergency, please come to the presbytery and if no answer at the door, please leave a written message. Thank you

*Our next newsletter will be issued for the Second Sunday after the Nativity on  
Sunday 4 January 2026.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

**Day of prayer for Expectant Mothers**

**Saturday 20 December 2025**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

**09:30** Bob White RIP

**11:30** Sue Hepworth RIP

**Monday 22 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** Tim Clancy, Patrick Clancy, Mary Clancy

**Tuesday 23 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** Decd members of the Read, Dowdall and Webster Families

**Wednesday 24 December - Feria**

**09:30** Eileen Kelly RIP

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (A)**

**First Christmas Mass of the Nativity**

**Wednesday 24 December 2025**

**18:00 Family Mass**

Peter Hann RIP 6th Anniversary

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Thursday 25 December 2025**

**Midnight** For the Parishioners (live-streamed)

**09:30** Decd Priests of the Parish

**11:30** For the Parishioners (live-streamed)

**Friday 26 December 2025 - St. Stephen, Deacon, the first Martyr**

**10:30** Holy Souls

**Saturday 27 December 2025 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**10:30** Emma & Paul Nosworthy 1st Wedding Anniversary

**THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH (A)**

**Saturday 27 December 2025**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 28 December 2025**

**09:30** Christine Kitchen RIP

**11:30** Joe & Maureen Reynolds RIP Anniversary

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](https://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)





**THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH (A)**

**Saturday 27 December 2025**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 28 December 2025**

**09:30** Christine Kitchen RIP

**11:30** Joe & Maureen Reynolds RIP Anniversary

**Monday 29 December 2025 - St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr**

**10:30** Fr John Pledger (FM)

**Tuesday 30 December 2025 - Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

**10:30** Yvonne Owokade Birthday Thanksgiving

**Wednesday 31 December - Seventh day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

**10:30** Peter Coffey RIP (live-streamed)

**Thursday 1 January 2026 - MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**10:30** Bridie Costello RIP

**Friday 2 January 2026 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

**10:30** Anne Orieso Thanksgiving to God

**Saturday 3 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time**

**10:30** Cassie McGlynn RIP

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (A)**

**Saturday 3 January 2026**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 4 January 2026**

**10:30** Sylvia Swift RIP

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(FM)=Foundation Mass