



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. WILLIAM OF YORK
4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS
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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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 7 DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parishioners

As you are aware, the "Parish Crisis Fund" was set up in March 2020 to assist struggling families in our community severely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Since that date, we have received a total of **£25,768.47** enabled through the love and generosity of our supportive parish community. I wish to thank you all on behalf of the families who have benefitted and continue to benefit from the fund.

We as a community have donated **£21,598.75** to numerous families and individuals in need which include many children identified by our Parish School.

I have recently discussed with the parish Finance Committee and we now feel we should by the end of the year cease the "Parish Crisis fund" as it was set up during Covid for a specific purpose during that period. We will then transfer the remaining monies to the status of "Families in Need" to be used for helping families requiring additional support within the community.



We anticipate further challenges ahead with the cost of living increases and fuel charges and we ask you to please continue to support the “Families in Need” fund so we can continue to assist families in our community who are struggling.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support.

God Bless
Fr Habte



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah as ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” ’

John lived in the wilderness and called for repentance, baptising with water in the river Jordan. Everyone in the region went to him confessing their sins and receiving a baptism of repentance. John particularly warned the Pharisees and Sadducees to be sincere, because their status as children of Abraham would not save them without a change of heart.

God is not interested in lip service, saying the right thing, but failing to live by it. In order to be trees that bear good fruit, we must first long to please our loving Creator, rather than trying to look good in the eyes of people.

John anticipates the arrival of Jesus, who will baptise “with the Holy Spirit and fire.” The humble, repentant heart will be filled with the Holy Spirit and all superficial, insincere behaviour will be exposed and rejected, like chaff, burnt after being separated from wheat. Our hope rests on Jesus’ response to the repentant thief on the cross, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” PB

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS - This weekend we baptised Noah Markey. Congratulations to Noah and his mother Gemma from all at St William of York and welcome Noah to our parish family.

GIFT SUNDAY - We will be collecting gifts at all masses this weekend 6-7 December. This year, we are asking for donations of Toys or gift vouchers for children and teenagers, unwrapped Small Christmas food and other items - e.g., Christmas puddings, biscuits, chocolates, crackers. Many thanks for your generosity.

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 7th December
12:30 – 14:30



COME ALONG AND HAVE
SOME FESTIVE FUN!

THANK YOU TO ALL PARISHIONERS - THE THESEIRA FAMILY

Thank you all so much for helping us to celebrate the diamond wedding anniversary of our parents Maximillian and Margaret Theseira a couple of weeks back. You helped to make it such a special occasion.

It was a lovely and welcoming service with lovely singing and such a warm congregation. We hope to visit with you all again soon.

Best wishes to you all, The Theseira Family



ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S ADVENT 2025 REFLECTION This Advent, Archbishop John is calling us on to reflect on the “astonishing truth” that the “Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us”. In a [video reflection](#), Archbishop John said that: “to say God is with us is not poetry but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven”. You can watch his full reflection at <https://rcaos.org.uk/advent2025>

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING ADVENT WILL BE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT - Advent is a good time to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance, it is a time of conversion. We will be holding a parish Penitential service with visiting priests on **Friday 19th 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.

PARISH 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.

SOUTH EAST PASTORAL AREA, CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East warmly invites you to the Christmas Carol Service of the South East Pastoral Area, Archdiocese of Southwark on **Sunday 14th December at 5pm** at Our Lady, Help of Christians Church, Cresswell Park, SE3 9RD. All are welcome.

HELP NEEDED - CAFE YORK REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

Marie-Odile is currently on holiday until the end of Jan. I would be grateful for volunteers to organise refreshments in Cafe York after Sunday Masses in Marie-Odile's absence so we can continue to enjoy time and refreshments together. If you can assist, please let me know after Mass and please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex to advise availability so we can try and organise a rota for the coming weeks. Thank you Fr Habte

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER - For Christians in areas of conflict -Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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

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 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

MASS ATTENDEES

15/16 November -305 22/23 November - 262 29/30 November - 268

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 7 Dec 12.30pm	SWOY School Christmas Fair	School
Sunday 7 Dec 2.45pm	Reconciliation 3rd Session	Church
Tuesday 9 Dec 10.00am	Art Group	Cafe York
Thursday 11 Dec 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Sunday 14 Dec 5pm	SE Pastoral Area Christmas Carol Service	Our Lady, Help of Christians, Cresswell Park, Blackheath
Tuesday 16 Dec 10-11.30am	Cabrini Children's Clothes Bank (please see poster)	Honor Oak Park SE23 3LE
Friday 19 Dec 7.30pm	Parish Penitential Service with visiting priests	Church
Sunday 21 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments	Church School Hall

2026 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY - Please use the link below to access the 2026 Southwark directory which includes the Diocesan Calendar, Parishes, Mass times, Priests, Schools, Societies, Holy Days of Obligation and other useful information.

[2026 Southwark Directory](#)



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Saturday 6 December 2025

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 7 December 2025

09:30 Family Mass

Tony Frisoli RIP Birthday

11:30 Robbie Sharp RIP (live-streamed)

Monday 8 December 2025 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

09:30 Thanks to Our Lady

Tuesday 9 December 2025 - Feria

09:30 Bailey Haines Hayhow Wellbeing

Wednesday 10 December 2025 - Feria

09:30 Mariam & Basti Mariampillai RIP (live-streamed)

-

Thursday 11 December 2025 - Feria

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 12 December 2025 - Feria

09:30 Hettie & Derek Dowdall

Saturday 13 December 2025 - Feria

10:30 Peggy Walsh (FM)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Gaudete Sunday

Saturday 13 December 2025

18:00 Renate Betson RIP

Sunday 14 December 2025

09:30 Meg Gallagher RIP

11:30 For the Parishioners

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/

(FM)=Foundation Mass

CABRINI CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

COME AND TAKE
AND/OR DONATE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.
FROM NEWBORN TO 12 YEARS



WHEN:

1&3RD TUESDAYS
OF THE MONTH

7/10, 21/10

4/11, 18/11

2/12, 16/12

AT 10-11.30AM

WHERE

ST FRANCESCA CABRINI
HONOR OAK PARK, LONDON SE23 3LE

IF DONATING CLOTHES MUST BE
IN GOOD CONDITION AND CLEANED.

UP TO DATE COMMUNICATIONS ON INSTAGRAM
@CABRINI_CHILDRENS_CLOTHES_BANK