



**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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

**14 DECEMBER 2025**

**Gaudete Sunday**

Dear Parishioners

The main theme of the third Sunday of Advent is joy, as we draw closer to Christ's birth, not just any joy, but the joy brought about by the coming of the God who saves, to which Advent calls us. The joy Scripture speaks of is that which springs from the experience that God loves us and therefore comes to save us in situations of helplessness.

John the Baptist sends his disciples to our Lord to find out whether Jesus is the Messiah. The question of John and his disciples can be our question too from time to time. Is Jesus the One for us or are we waiting for someone else? Perhaps during this Advent, we may struggle with questions such as this. Our search will be full of restlessness until we find and recognise Jesus Christ as true God and true Man - who is our saviour.

We wish you a fruitful Advent reflection and encounter with the Lord that will lead us to the recognition Christ Jesus our Lord!

Fr Habte





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

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - This passage reflects on John's doubt, Jesus' mission and the Kingdom. John the Baptist is disillusioned and has doubts about Jesus and asks "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" He is puzzled about who Jesus is and sends messengers to ask if he is the Messiah. It is reassuring for us to hear that John also had doubts like us. It's ok to have doubts and is a normal part of our faith. When we have questions or doubts, we can ask advice from other Christian friends, Priests or Ministers, through spiritual direction which is very worthwhile practice, or take them to God in prayer which will give us hope and encouragement. Jesus avoids answering John's questions about who he is and instead tells John to see the evidence through his miracles and healing. His view is that he should work among the people to show them the Kingdom instead of casting away those who are on the margins of society and waiting for sinners to repent first. Faith in action always has an impact and it's important to show compassion and do what we can to help those in difficult circumstances and those living on the margins. Jesus highlights the transition from the Old Covenant preparation to the New Covenant reality in Christ praising John as the greatest prophet saying that "the least in the Kingdom of Heaven surpasses him". The "least" in God's new kingdom are greater than even the greatest of the prophets who may have made preparations but don't put it into action and follow the way. LBr

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, 35:1-6a, Matthew 1:18-24



**BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS** - This weekend we baptised Vanessa-Iris Gonzales and Sophia-Rose Gonzales. Congratulations to Vanessa-Iris and Sophia-Rose and their parents Dayana and Wherlyn Jr from all at St William of York and welcome Vanessa-Iris and Sophia-Rose to our parish family.

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

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.**

Midnight Mass and 11.30am Mass on Christmas day will be live streamed on our parish Facebook page [www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)  
If there is any parishioner in need of transportation to Church for Midnight or Christmas Day Masses. please let Mary in the office or Fr Habte know.

**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

**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 welcome.

**SWOY SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** - at **5pm on Tuesday 16 December** - All welcome

**CONFESSION DURING ADVENT** - 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.

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

Please give generously! THANK YOU.

**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>

**SOUTHWARK SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION ADVENT REFLECTIONS** The Southwark Spirituality Commission send daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. Sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning via [tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025](https://tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025)

These reflections are a great way to keep your mind focused on the Lord Jesus during the busy Advent season.

**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 Fr Habte know after Mass and please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you

**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.

**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\*\*](#)

Please 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**

22/23 November - 262 29/30 November - 240 6/7 December - 368

### **PARISH DIARY**

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
Tuesday 16 Dec 5pm	SWOY School Carol Service	Church
Thursday 18 Dec 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Friday 19 Dec 7.30pm	Parish Penitential Service with visiting priests	Church
Sunday 21 Dec 4pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Refreshments <b>**REMEMBER - please return your woolly hats!**</b>	Church School Hall

**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

**Monday 15 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** Margaret Harley RIP

**Tuesday 16 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** Gertrude Thompson (FM)

**Wednesday 17 December - Feria**

**09:30** Madeleine Read (live-streamed)

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**Thursday 18 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

**Friday 19 December 2025 - Feria**

**09:30** John Thompson (FM)

**Saturday 20 December 2025 - Feria**

**10:30** Mother Antoinette Bella Casa (FM)

**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

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