



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. WILLIAM OF YORK
4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS
Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Deacon Amgad Gerges
Telephone:- 020 8690 4549 mobile 07307 869565



email:- foresthill@rcaos.org.uk website: <https://swoy.org.uk/>
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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (A)

4 January 2026

THE CLOSURE OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

Dear Parishioners

This weekend on Sunday 4th January, the Second Sunday of Christmas, here in our parish we offer a Joint Mass to mark the closure of the Jubilee year of Hope. First of all, we express our gratitude to the Lord for all the blessings he has given us during the Jubilee Year. When Pope Francis announced the Jubilee year he reminded us that this special time was meant to be for everyone a moment of a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, a moment of receiving God forgiveness and mercy, a time to remind ourselves that we have to work and pray for hope in the world.

Thank you to all parishioners who helped coordinate and led pilgrimages, moments of reflection and prayer, those who generously gave the Jubilee themed Lenten reflections, those who made or provided the jubilee banners and prayer cards, and those who prayed and sang during our liturgical celebrations.

Thank you also for giving hope to those in need thorough your prayer, care and generosity.

This Holy Year has been a time of grace and blessing. I hope we all have gained from this special year of Hope.

Fr Habte



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - Sirach 24:1-2,8-12, Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18, John 1:1-18

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - The Gospel reading for this Second Sunday after Christmas is the same as that for Christmas Day itself. Perhaps, after all the celebrations of Christmas, there is room for a more sober thought. The climax is not at the end of the reading, but is in the centre: 'to those who believe he gave power to become sons of God'. On either side of this verse are rejection by his own people, and acceptance by those who see his Glory. This theme of acceptance and rejection runs right through the gospel of John, some accepting (the disciples, Nicodemus, the Man Born Blind), some rejecting (the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jews). The disciples accept at the Marriage Feast at Cana; the leaders of the Jews immediately afterwards reject at the Cleansing of the Temple. You cannot remain neutral; you must either accept or reject. It is a great trial-scene, and we judge ourselves by our reaction to Jesus. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, but the Son judges no one. The last dread scene is when the Jewish leaders pass sentence on themselves before Pilate and before Jesus crowned as king and seated as judge; they reject God's kingship by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. There is no need for sentence to be passed, for we pass our own sentence on ourselves. *Does it make sense to say that we judge ourselves?*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

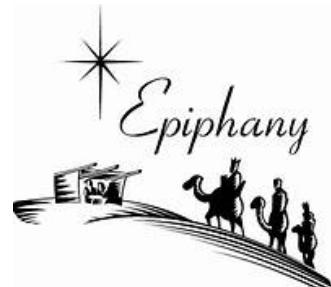
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

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

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES - 2026 - Each year on the feast of the Epiphany many parishes throughout the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. It is an ancient tradition that not only places God at the entrance of your home, it places your entire family under his protection.

You may have seen something like this on or near the lintel or doorposts of houses last year: 20+C+M+B+25 (The 20 and 25 represent the year. The C + M + B represents the names of the magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and also the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat - Christ bless the house)

The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries old tradition. Priests would originally visit each home in their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany. Over time it became more difficult to accomplish such a feat as parishes became larger and larger and priests were stretched thin. For this reason it became an accepted tradition for a member of the household to lead this blessing in place



of the priest. The blessing has biblical roots, deeply Led to the Passover in the book of Exodus.

Please pick up a sheet in Church today with more information on the Epiphany Blessing of Homes or download a copy [HERE](#)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

Our Sacramental preparations continue on Sunday 11 January 2026 -2.45pm start - Reconciliation Session 4 in the church.

Reconciliation Group Parents/Carers meeting in the school hall with Fr Habte.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please pray for the children who will be making their First Reconciliation on Saturday 17th January at 10.00am

(Please note there will be no 10.30am Mass that day)

A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 18th January 2026 at 9.30am.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION -

Sunday 11th January 2026 – Presentation of Candidates at 11:30 Mass

Sunday 11 January 2026 at 6pm- Confirmation Session 1 in church.

Please keep the children, young people, families and catechists in your prayers.

FINANCES - NOVEMBER 2025

The monthly Offertory Collection - £2,054.90

Donations for the Advent Homeless Fund - £377.90

Donations for Holy Souls Masses - £540.00

Donations for Archbishop's Appeal Fund- £232.29

Donations for World Youth Sunday - £160.71

Donations for the Families in Need Fund- £80.00

From monthly standing orders we collected - £5,084.00

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

HOLY SOULS MASSES

Thank you for offering Masses for Holy Souls to be celebrated for the faithful departed. These Masses will be celebrated over the next year.

FIONA MARSHALL HAS KINDLY SHARED HER EXPERIENCE OF HER RCIA JOURNEY WITHIN THE PARISH

**When I was little and baptised into the Church of England, my Catholic Grandad—Thomas Lavelle, or “Strawberry Pop” would often take me to Sunday Mass.

At first it was all in Latin, then one day... it suddenly wasn’t.

In WW2, my Grandad had been a bomb-disposal expert ,nicknamed “Lucky Tom,” a Chindit in Burma—special forces, prisoner of war, tortured, escaped, struck down with malaria and haunted by traumas I can’t bear imagine, but his faith never wavered.

In his later years he became a lay Carmelite.

He used to tell me that the Catholic Church, for all the flaws and imperfections, had saved him—and that to him, it was the closest thing to Heaven on earth.

Fast-forward a good few decades. Life had happened: and my faith was put on the back burner somewhat.

I’d been searching, sort of, reading all kinds of books, asking all sorts of questions, amidst plenty of distractions, becoming a mum, the glorious chaos and wonder of it all.

Somewhere along the way I started to feel like something fundamental was missing. I suspected it might be God.

I’d always believed in Him, in a 'there's definitely an intelligent loving Creator behind this whole incredible Universe'—and my guardian angel deserves the shiniest star in heaven for never abandoning the job.

My ideal arrangement?

Let Jesus sit quietly in the back seat, taking charge only when I really needed something. Convenient faith, minimal disruption.

Thankfully, Jesus had other plans. I’m convinced He had a word with my Grandad, because just over a year ago they gently steered me through the doors of St. William of York.

From the very first visit I was welcomed, and came back every week.

RCIA was a steep, wonderful learning curve and life-changing.

The time, energy, and love poured out by and the whole RCIA team, all the attendees, and volunteers left me humbled and deeply grateful.

To be prayed for was a new and profound experience.

Holy Week was a lot!

I was used to slipping quietly into the back pew, trying (and often failing) to stand, sit, and kneel at the right moments, and receiving a blessing with arms crossed.

Then suddenly the Church became my second home—my husband Mike jokingly declared himself a “church widow”.

The sorrow of those days leading to Good Friday, the stripped-bare church, the covered cross, the realisation that He really did die for me... I think I cried through every Mass.

And then came the Easter Vigil—joyful, overwhelming in the very best way. The anointing with oil, speaking my confirmation name “Thomas”, the music, the candlelight, the fellowship...I was a Catholic!

People gave me cards and gifts, hugged me and spoke kind welcoming words.

Now, every week, I receive the Eucharist.

What a blessing.

A very special thank you to Theresa and Paula for their open hearts and generous spirits that made me feel so at home.

To Eileen, who swooped in to save me from sponsor-less panic, going far above and beyond with unwavering support and kindness.

And above all to Father Habte, who has filled this whole journey with light.

I've been Catholic for eight months now, and it has been amazing.

People have been so incredibly kind, I'm learning more than I ever thought possible, and I love being part of the St. William of York community.

This is my first Christmas as a Catholic, and I'm excited for every moment of it.

Thank you.

So Merry Christmas, and the happiest of New Years to you all.

Here's praying for peace on earth.

Now wouldn't that be something.

Love,

Fiona **

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

Betty Harvey RIP
(sister of Theresa Barber)
who sadly died on 27 December

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

20/21 December - 256, 25 December - 544, 27/28 December - 222

PARISH DIARY

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

THE YOUTH GROUP will resume on Friday the 9th of January at the usual time of 6–8pm. We look forward to seeing you there for post Christmas fun, games and chat!

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the word of God - Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (A)

Saturday 3 January 2026

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 4 January 2026

10:30 Sylvia Swift RIP (live-streamed)

Monday 5 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Sue Hepworth RIP Anniversary

Tuesday 6 January 2026 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Holy day of Obligation

10:30 Anne Delaney RIP

20:00 For the Parishioners (live-streamed)

Wednesday 7 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Vivienne Lake RIP (live-streamed)

Thursday 8 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 9 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time

09:30 Sean Garvey RIP

Saturday 10 January 2026 - Feria of Christmas Time

10:30 John McGlynn Junior RIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

Saturday 10 January 2026

18:00 Michael & Nancy O'Connor RIP

Sunday 11 January 2026

09:30 For the Parishioners

11:30 George Okello RIP

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

(FM)=Foundation Mass