



**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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

18 January 2026

Peace Day

Dear Parishioners

On Saturday 17th our Children received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They have been preparing for the last few months, trying, little by little, to take on small and big responsibilities.

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time is a meaningful experience that prepares children to receive First Communion with a pure and joyful heart. Through this sacrament, they discover the value of forgiveness and the beauty of God's love, which always accompanies them on their journey of faith.

It is a moment of grace that marks the beginning of a more conscious and spiritually enriched life, a fundamental step in their Christian journey.

In this beautiful journey together, we prepared for the Feast of Reconciliation or Forgiveness, The Catechetical team and the parish tried to support parents in their child's education to the faith and help put into practice, in daily life, the commitment that you assumed on the day of your children's Baptism.

It is important for boys and girls to feel the presence of parents who share the path they are travelling. To assist you in this journey, we took time together to reflect on the sacrament of reconciliation.

Preparation for First Reconciliation involves the entire parish community. Parents are called to be an example of Christian life, guiding their children on their journey of faith and accompanying them in discovering God's merciful love.

I am grateful to all parents, catechists and teachers from our school, for the commitment in the mission of accompanying our children to this sacrament of love and forgiveness.

God Bless
Fr Habte



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS -Isaiah 49:3,5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -In contrast to the other gospels, where the reader observes the disciples discovering gradually who Jesus is, John gives us a week between the baptism and the marriage-feast of Cana, during which Jesus is given increasingly significant titles by those who meet him: Rabbi, the Messiah, Son of God, King of Israel. Perhaps the most significant titles of all are those given by the Baptist himself, Lamb of God and Chosen One of God. Jesus as the Lamb of God is a theme which overarches the gospel; it is introduced again at the Crucifixion. According to John Jesus dies at the moment the paschal lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple, and John alone refers the scriptural saying to Jesus that 'Not one bone of his will be broken' (John 19:36) which was originally part of the instructions for the sacrificing of the lamb at the Festival of Passover (Exodus 12:46). In the Book of Revelation Jesus is represented standing 'as a Lamb that seemed to have been sacrificed'. The Lamb is therefore an image both of his suffering and of his triumph. It links up with the picture of Jesus as the Suffering Servant of the Lord who moves through suffering and humiliation to vindication and to the triumph of God.

Reflect on Jesus as the Lamb standing as though sacrificed.

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS- Isaiah 9:1b-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17, Matthew 4:12-23

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 18-25 January

We are all invited to celebrate, draw strength and encouragement from the gift of our shared faith. In these turbulent times, we can take heart from the endurance of that faith.



BAPTISM Baptism of babies and young children of parent/s who live in and/or worship regularly at St William of York is celebrated by arrangement .. Preparation for baptism by the parent/s is a requirement and involves attending a course over two evenings, following which a date and time for Baptism can be arranged with Fr Habte.

GETTING MARRIED At least six months notice needs to be given for marriages whether they are taking place at St William of York or elsewhere to allow sufficient time for the necessary pastoral and administrative preparation. Please speak to Fr Habte in the first instance.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Second Collection next weekend

For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light.

St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 1 February 2026 - Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 1 February 2026, at 10am.

Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride. If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags.

After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments — a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion. You are warmly encouraged to attend in person, but if you cannot make it you can watch the livestream through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgl>

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: A CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS RESOURCE.

The Archdiocese has launched an exciting apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable you to use them. To watch the videos and take part in this exciting project, please visit: rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist

So many people offered Fiona such kind remarks on her newsletter item last weekend and asked for more, so Fiona has kindly sent another submission:-

TOBIT AND THE BLESSED CHALK: Surprising Things for a New Catholic.

It's been less than a year, and I'm still feeling new—still learning what to say and when. It's so helpful when the school children come into church and all the words are up on the screen; this helps a lot with my mumbling and stops my confident but misplaced "Amen".

I've finally stopped adding my Church of England 'extra bit' onto the Lord's Prayer. I've learnt to wait... and then there it is. And yes, the early "Amen" you might hear is probably me!

There are new words and phrases in my everyday life now: blessed chalk, Rosaries, novenas, Reconciliation, Adoration, intercession, transubstantiation, miracles, Stations of the Cross, all the saints—so many saints!

I love learning about the saints. I have favourites—is this a good thing?

The veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven, is wonderfully new and fills me with wonder.

All the different ways of praying—what a gift. Ignatian, Rosaries, formal and traditional, informal and conversational, Lectio Divina, contemplation, and Bible study.

I've been doing a 54-Day Rosary Novena. This is a very new and unexpected addition to my days. And who knew there was holy water in the narthex to take home? Not me, until recently—and house blessings, Rosary blessings, so many blessings.

I've chalked my door, had ash on my forehead, chosen a new name, brought home palm fronds (that honestly did not fold into a neat cross but remained stubbornly frond-like), and discovered books in the Bible that I had no idea about—like Tobit. And Judith. What a gift.

Perhaps the most surprising thing of all is how at home I feel amongst all this newness. In the midst of learning, stumbling, and marvelling, I've found a deeper sense of belonging than I ever expected.

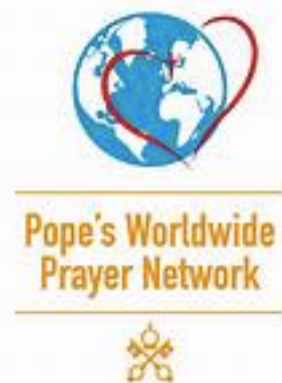
God's welcome is bigger and more generous than I imagined—and I'm grateful every day.

Fiona Marshall

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2026

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network presents the twelve prayer intentions that the Holy Father entrusts to the Church for the year 2026. These monthly intentions serve as a compass to guide a mission of compassion for the world, inviting the faithful to mobilise in prayer and service for the great challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church.

Each prayer intention is the result of a synodal process of discernment in which the Church from countries all over the world participates. At the end of this process, the Holy Father, after his own prayer, chooses them and offers them to the Church.



The entire Church is invited to embrace these intentions to transform prayer into concrete actions, growing in communion with the Pope in a mission of compassion for the world. "Pray together, change the world"

<https://www.popesprayer.va/the-popes-prayer-intentions-for-2026/>

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are invited to join Archbishop John on pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 7 to 13 June 2026. The cost is £789, which includes flights and full-board accommodation on a shared basis. To book, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea in August 2027 at www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027

For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/scys1

MASS ATTENDEES

27/28 December - 222 3/4 January - 193 10/11 January - 319

PARISH DIARY

Thursday 22 Jan 8pm	Singers practice	Church
Sunday 25 Jan 6pm	Confirmation Session 2	Church
Tuesday 27 Jan 7.45pm	RCIA Session - The Sacrament of Confirmation	Lower Hall
Sunday 1 February 2.45pm	Eucharist Session 1	Church

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP FOR SOUTHWARK

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV has appointed Canon Gerard Bradley as Auxiliary Bishop for our Archdiocese of Southwark. Bishop-Elect Gerard's Episcopal Ordination will be on Monday 2 February in our Cathedral. The Holy Father has assigned him the Titular See of Beverley, the birthplace in Yorkshire of St John Fisher, loved by us all as a former Catholic Bishop of Rochester.

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.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL - GIFT SUNDAY

Dear St William of York ,

I am writing to express our heartfelt thanks to the Church for donating to our Christmas Toy Appeal back in December. Through your generosity and those of other like-minded people and organisations we were able to provide toy parcels for 746 children and young people.

We aim for each toy parcel to contain a main gift, a smaller gift, a book, craft, stocking filler and a game for the family, with those who are older (13+) receiving either a gift or a voucher. As you can imagine this is a lot of gifts that are distributed to families most in need within our community

Your donations really have made a difference - thank you.

The fact that we were able together to help so many families and children was far beyond what we had hoped was possible.

Please accept our thanks and good wishes for all that this year will bring.
Many thanks

Rachel Carpenter (She/Her)
Church Leader, Salvation Army, Lewisham



Thank you

During December
The Salvation Army in Lewisham Borough
have provided

574 Food Parcels feeding **1,437** people
(in partnership with Lewisham Foodbank)

Toy parcels for **746** Children

100 Christmas dinners & gifts to those alone
this Christmas

(in partnership with Community Connections & Age UK)



Thank you for helping us
share JOY this Christmas

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

Stephen Richardson RIP

Funeral at St William of York on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 11.45am

Caroline O’Kello RIP

(niece of Aloysius O’Kello)

Betty Harvey RIP

(sister of Theresa Barber)

John Lynch RIP

(father of Simon and father-in-law of Sharon Lynch)

John pictured in the front and centre with the whole family on his 90th birthday



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



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Peace Day

Saturday 17 January 2026

18:00 Renate Betson RIP

Sunday 18 January 2026

09:30 Thanksgiving Mass for First Reconciliations
For the Parishioners

11:30 Vivienne Lake RIP

Monday 19 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Rose Smith (FM)

Tuesday 20 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Isaac Deacon (FM)

11:45 Funeral of Stephen Richardson RIP

Wednesday 21 January 2026 - St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

09:30 Ann Melon RIP (live-streamed)

Thursday 22 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 23 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Paedar McConnell

Saturday 24 January 2026 - St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

10:30 John & Helen O'Connor (FM)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday of the Word of God

Saturday 24 January 2026

18:00 For the Parishioners

Sunday 25 January 2026

09:30 Carmela De Palma RIP 1st Anniversary

11:30 Eilish Brophy RIP

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

(FM)=Foundation Mass

For more information contact:

 caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

 07521 425400



**Principal Celebrant:
Archbishop John Wilson**



Racial Justice Sunday 2026

Sunday 1st February, 10am

St George's Cathedral, Southwark

**After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall
for refreshments and conversations!**

**You are warmly encouraged to attend in person,
but if you cannot make it you can watch the livestream
by scanning the QR code or by using the following link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI>



**Justice, Peace & Integrity
of Creation Commission**



**Commission for Promoting
Racial & Cultural Inclusion**

 **Caritas**
Archdiocese of Southwark