



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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

11 January 2026

Dear Parishioners

Today, at the conclusion of the Christmas season, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we remember that by our baptism through the Holy Spirit, we have been blessed with new life from Christ in that we are called children of God. That privilege of becoming brothers and sisters of Jesus clearly imply that we become members of the Christian community, the Church, established by Jesus.

In our Catholic practice, children are brought to receive the sacrament of baptism by parents and God parents, with the assumption that the baptized child will, when old enough, be expected to accept in his or her own name the profound commitments that constitute the reality of a Christian life.

This weekend, our parish confirmation programme that facilitates the journey towards deeper knowledge and commitment begins. Our candidates through the catechetical session that includes prayer and reflection will grow deeply in their knowledge of our Lord and their commitment to their Christian journey.

This time will also enable the candidates to bond together as a team and members of the parish community.



Parents/guardians as the first educators of their children, also have their part to play. They are expected and encouraged to attend the parent's sessions during the year. This involvement of the parents' in the catechesis, and in assisting the catechists and the candidates in their journey in faith is considered as a vital element in the children's preparation for Confirmation.

The parish community also plays its role in encouraging and praying for the candidates, their parents/guardians and the confirmation catechists' team in their journey. Therefore, I ask you to pray for a successful time of preparation in the coming six months.

God Bless
Fr Habte

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -The account of the baptism of Jesus in Mark, the earliest gospel, is also the simplest. In Mark the Voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus himself, and there is no sign that others heard it; it is an experience of Jesus: 'You are my Son'. In Matthew the Voice is addressed to the bystanders: 'This is my Son'. This makes the private revelation into a public scene, a declaration that Jesus' work is about to begin. In the same way our baptism is a public scene, a declaration that we are committed to Christ in his Church – even if we don't remember it! Matthew also records the little dialogue of John's unwillingness to baptise Jesus. Why should Jesus enter into the community of repentance which John was forming? He was no sinner! However, it was a gesture that Jesus was entering fully into the condition of all humanity. He shared fully in human nature, the nature of a humanity which had fallen even though he himself was sinless. At the outset of his ministry Jesus must reveal the fullness of his humanity, for only so could he redeem the fallen human race. Jesus is not merely passive, for he himself joins with John in making the positive step: 'We must do all that righteousness demands'.

A quick review: what difference has baptism made to my life?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

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



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS - This weekend we baptised Folasade Teniola Falase, James Conor Mann, Layla Lily Nicholson, . Congratulations to Folasade, James and Layla and their parents Temitope and Lanre, Jennifer and Jonathan, Sophia and Lance, from all at St William of York and welcome Folasade, James and Layla to our parish family.

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.

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.

CRIB COLLECTION: This year we are collecting for Friends of the Holy Land. This charity, endorsed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, actually has workers based in Bethlehem and is therefore able to help the Christians there survive even under the current siege conditions imposed by Israel. They assist with emergency aid, with counselling and with a limited amount of development.

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.

WOOLY HATS FOR SEAFARERS

Peter and Maureen Swift delivered 106 woolly hats to Stella Maris in Tilbury. We were warmly welcomed by the chaplain Wotjek, who gave us a tour of the docks and shared with us some of the very practical support he had been giving recently to enable seafarers to have some sort of Christmas celebration. We went aboard one of the cargo ships and met a seafarer who was delighted to select his hat and was so pleased with the message attached to it. I'm sure in these bitterly cold days the hats are all helping to warm our seafarers.

The basket for hats and the supply of wool will remain at the back of the church and you are welcome to continue to knit, crochet or purchase woolly hats.

We will make sure they find a seafarer!



NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP FOR OUR ARCHDIOCESE OF 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.



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

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

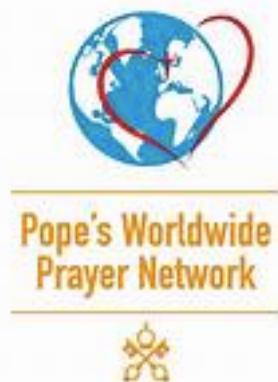
Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea in August 2027 at www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027

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

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/>

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)
who sadly died this week

Betty Harvey RIP

(sister of Theresa Barber)
who sadly died last week

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

25 December - 544, 27/28 December - 222 3/4 January - 193

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 11 Jan 2.45pm	Reconciliation Session 4 Parents/Carers Meeting with Fr Habte	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

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.



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

THE END OF THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Monday 12 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Christine Kitchen RIP

Tuesday 13 January 2026 -

09:30 Jessie Comerford (FM)

Wednesday 14 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Etheldreda White (FM) (live-streamed)

Thursday 15 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Quiet Private Prayer (no Mass)

Friday 16 January 2026 - Feria

09:30 Michael Halon

Saturday 17 January 2026 -St. Anthony, Abbot

10:00 Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

(FM)=Foundation Mass

For more information contact:

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 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