



## THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. WILLIAM OF YORK

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Parish Priest

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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 occasion)*

**Reconciliations** - Saturdays 11-12 noon

**Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

First & last Friday of the month after Mass

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**22 February 2026**

Dear Parishioners

Today I would like to congratulate Peter Begg, who begun the second part of his journey in faith that will be concluded on the Solemnity of Pentecost by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

“The rite of election which usually coincides with the opening of Lent” took place in the Cathedral yesterday. During this celebration, catechumens and candidates are called by name and enter their names in the register of catechumens and candidates of our Diocese.

This solemn gesture officially confirms their commitment to the journey, marking the final stage of preparation before the Easter Vigil, when they will receive the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) in the parish where they completed the journey.

Peter was accompanied the RCIA team. This is a joyful moment “that marks the period of the final, more intense preparation for the Sacrament of initiation”

I entrust the rest of Peter's journey to our Lord, to the prayers and full support of his God parent Ivan Toniolli, the RCIA team and of our parish community.

The journey in faith is not only an opportunity for those who wish to approach the faith, but also a great gift for the Christian community. The whole community also begins the journey towards repentance and renewal in the season of Lent, the annual call to repent and return to God's way, let us take advantage of this opportunity in Lenten observance of prayer, fasting, and generous giving to those who are less fortunate than us.

God Bless  
Fr Habte

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7,Romans 5:12-19,Matthew 4:1-11

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - Today's Scripture readings provide us with a real lesson in the understanding of good and evil and the consequences for acting as requested by Satan.

This is strongly illustrated in the Gospel reading where Jesus, whose fasting made him obviously hungry is taken by the devil to see large parts of the world and how we can secure ownership of them as long as we bow down and adore the devil.

Jesus' response is very clear - "Be gone Satan, you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" . At this we see the devil disappear, and we are left with a clear message if we need to get him out of our lives - 'Worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'.

We know that this isn't always easy but it remains as a promise to us all today, with forgiveness available if we fail to do so and are genuinely sorry. PMcD

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Genesis 12:1-4a, 2 Timothy 1:8b-10, Matthew 17:1-9

**LENT LEAFLET** In the special leaflet with today's newsletter, you will find lots of information about the meaning of Lent and some ideas for making it special. Download a copy here [Lent leaflet](#)

**A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT:** Fr Habte and the parish RCIA team would like to invite all parishioners to take advantage of the Lenten reflections on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm-9.00pm co-ordinated by different parish ministries, followed by light refreshments in the lower hall. Our first evening for reflection will be on Tuesday 24 February. All welcome.



## **FAMILY FAST DAY - FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY** - This

Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help



another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

We will have a second collection next weekend 28 Feb/1 March. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT** - There will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 10.00am after the morning Mass during Lent.

**“24 HOURS FOR THE LORD”** This will be marked over two short periods on Friday 13 & Saturday 14 March. We start with 6pm Mass on Friday 13 March, and the church will remain open afterwards for quiet prayer and reflection with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour, finishing with Night Prayer at 11pm. On Saturday 14 March, we have Morning Mass at 10.30am and the church will remain open until 12 noon with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE** will be on Wednesday 25 March at 7.30pm with visiting priests. We also have the weekly time of confession every Saturday morning from 11.00am to 12 noon.

**LENTEN ALMS** - Almsgivings is one of the three pillars of our Lenten practice. Almsgiving is charity towards our neighbour. The parish is thankful for your donations during Lent.

## **PRAY THE ROMERO ROSARY AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL**

Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm, and again on Friday 6th and Friday 27th March. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season.

Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](https://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

**Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of**

**Bola Tesdi RIP**

**who sadly died earlier this month, her two children attended SWOY School**

**Barbara Przyszlakowska RIP**

**Funeral at St William of York on Monday 2 March at 12 noon**

**Ann Caroline McHale RIP**

**Funeral at St William of York on Wednesday 4 March 2026 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**

7/8 Feb - 302      14/15 Feb - 243      18 Feb - 246

**PARISH DIARY**

Tuesday 24 February 8pm-9pm	RCIA - Lenten Reflection 1 followed by light refreshments	Church Lower hall
Tuesday 26 February 8pm	Singing Practice	Church
Friday 27 February	CAFOD Family Fast Day	
Saturday 28 February 4pm	BeWell Hub drop in for refreshments	CafeYork
Sunday 1 March 2.45pm	Eucharist Session 2	Church
Sunday 1 March 6pm	Confirmation Session 4	Church

**TRAINING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS**

We welcome all children in Year 4 and above who have celebrated their First Eucharist to join our parish serving team. We'll be running a training session for new servers on Saturday 7th March at 11am. Please email us at [swoy.altarserving@gmail.com](mailto:swoy.altarserving@gmail.com) if your child would like to come along or you want to find out more. You can also just come along on the day but it helps us if we know in advance how many children we'll have. The session will last 1-1.5 hours. There's 10-15 minute talk with parents at the beginning and you can then either stay and wait in church or go and come back at the end.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Saturday 21 February 2026**

**18:00** Renate Betson RIP

**Sunday 22 February 2026**

**10:30** Betty Harvey RIP

**Monday 23 February 2026 - Feria**

**09:30** Mrs Margaret Mary Acquah RIP Anniversary

**Tuesday 24 February 2026 - Feria**

**09:30** Kevin McGuinness RIP

**Wednesday 25 February 2026 - Feria**

**09:30** Martha Merrifield RIP

**Thursday 26 February 2026 - Feria**

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

**Friday 27 February 2026 - Feria**

**CAFOD Family Fast Day**

**09:30** Pa Sylvester & Agnes Orieso RIP

**Saturday 28 February 2026 - Feria**

**10:30** Resty Navarette RIP

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Saturday 28 February 2026**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 1 March 2026**

**09:30** Charles Edwards RIP Birthday

**11:30** Brendan Keigher RIP (live-streamed)

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)

(FM)=Foundation Mass

# ROMERO ROSARY

5PM  
EVERY  
FRIDAY  
DURING  
LENT



DRAW CLOSER TO THE  
**LORD JESUS** THIS LENT  
BY JOINING US IN  
**PRAYING THE ROSARY**

[rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

Archbishop John Wilson will lead  
the rosary on 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March

Location:  
National Shrine of St Oscar Romero  
St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HR



# Cabrini Children's Clothes Bank



Volunteer-led free clothes bank  
for newborn to 12 years old



21.01 - 04.02 - 18.02 - 04.03 - 18.03 - 01.04



from 10 till 11:30 am

At Cabrini Campus - Honor Oak Park, SE23 3LE



Stay for tea, coffee and a friendly chat



All updates on Instagram

[@cabrini\\_childrens\\_clothes\\_bank](https://www.instagram.com/cabrini_childrens_clothes_bank)



Contact: [cabrini.ccb@gmail.com](mailto:cabrini.ccb@gmail.com)

