

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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(Marcello – via text message)

Mass – Sunday
Sat 5.30pm (1st Mass of Sunday)
Sun 8am & 10am
Weekdays
Mass Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday as announced
Friday 7pm
Confessions Saturday 10.30am and on call

3rd Sunday of Advent

11/12 December 2021

Saturday 11th December

5.30pm Private Intention (Ruane)

Sunday 12th December
3rd Sunday of Advent

8am Jim Love RIP (Anniv)

10am Barbara Chandler RIP
(Anniv)

Monday 13th December
St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

9.30am Katie Intention

Tuesday 14th December
St John of the Cross
Priest & Doctor

9.30am Sebastian Pires RIP
(Anniv)

Wednesday 15th December

9.30am Mirko Cihak RIP
(de Souza)

Thursday 16th December

NO LITURGY

Friday 17th December

7pm Martha Fahey RIP

Saturday 18th December

5.30pm Maria (Smita) & family
Intention

Sunday 19th December
4th Sunday of Advent

8am Gabriel Intention

10am Kwarteng Intention

Advent Sunday 3 - 'Rejoice in the Lord' - Rose Sunday

The gospel tells us that “a feeling of expectancy” had grown among the people; surely a characteristic of the Advent season? It is truly a time of *waiting*; rose vestments though because it is joyful waiting! The Messiah, long expected for many centuries from the beginning of time - will now come to rescue us. This is NOT nervous twitchy waiting - it is trusting the promise of God, heard in the second reading, that there is no need to worry. Instead in the words of the psalm - ‘let us sing and shout for joy, for great is our midst is the Holy One of Israel’. (Father Michael)

The Sacrament of Penance; going to Confession for Christmas

There will be an opportunity for Confession on **Thursday 23 December between 5pm and 7pm**. There will be a visiting priest available and also Father Michael. Please make a note of the date and time - a beautiful invitation from the Lord to receive His mercy.

Cleaning of Church – New Team

With the move back into the Church, we need to put in place a new cleaning team that will weekly undertake the necessary cleaning tasks on Saturday mornings. Past members of the cleaning team and new team members are sought – please sign up on the sheet in the porch or email the Parish your interest in keeping our Church clean and tidy.

Christmas Day Mass Offering clarification - Finance Committee

Traditionally the Christmas Day offerings were for the Parish Priest but, under revised Inland Revenue rules, such offerings need to be in an envelope addressed to the Parish Priest, otherwise the offering will go into the normal Parish funds.

COVID Guidelines from our Bishops

With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- *That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.*
- *That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.*
- *That there is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.*
- *That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!*

- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.

If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.

2021-2022 – Christmas & New Year



Thursday 23 December The Sacrament of Confession 5pm till 7pm

Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve 5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass

11pm Carols leading into Mass – ending at Midnight

Saturday 25 December – Christmas Day 8am & 10am Christmas Masses

Sunday 26 December – Holy Family 8am & 10am Masses **Monday 27 December** Mass at 10am

Father Michael’s Retirement – Michael Goode, Chair of the Finance Committee

Parishioners will join me in thanking Fr. Michael for his loving service to the Parish and in wishing him a long, happy and healthy retirement. It is intended that a special event will be held at a suitable date in Spring 2022 for Parishioners to both formally and informally thank Fr. Michael. Your active support and involvement will be sought in making this a truly celebratory event of Father Michael’s Ministry.

I will really miss Stanmore!

There is so much that I will miss; above all - you the dear parishioners. I have been on the receiving end of your kindness and thoughtful generosity. Home visits to the sick and housebound have been a constant blessing; the solid weekly visits to Stanmore Orthopaedic hospital - where I have learnt and received so much. Our weekday Masses and other blessings. Of course I have been in a few parishes in the last 48 years of ministry. Many cherished memories - but somehow I have experienced a very special and deep connection with Stanmore. (Father Michael)

A Catholic education for every Catholic pupil

One of our excellent Catholic Primary schools now has vacancies.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION 2022 (DOB: 01/09/17-31/08/18). Supplementary application forms are now available on the school website. Please also visit Harrow Council’s website to apply online. Closing date for receipt of BOTH applications is: 15th January 2022.

Project Update

Work has progressed significantly with the High Altar in place, underfloor heating pipes installed and flooring works on track for Christmas Services to be conducted in the Church. As previously stated, the work will not be fully completed, with handover in January. Both the Choir Loft and Our Lady’s Side Altar will not be available for use, and part of the Altar area will store furniture & fittings that will not be in place (Pulpit, Credence Table and Communion Rails). However, whilst the arrangements are not what we would like, it does allow for this important Feast to be celebrated within a formal Church setting (plus enable greater congregation attendance numbers).

Readers Rota

11 December 5.30pm Lily Meghji

12 December 8am Freda Adzinku

12 December 10am Readings Monika Tabarrok, Bidding prayers Maureen Ruane

18 December 5.30pm Monica Clifford

19 December 8am Georgina Martins

19 December 10am Readings Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers Georgia Nwawulor

Counters Rota

12 December Richard Wong, Pearly Jesuthasan

19 December Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese