

ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

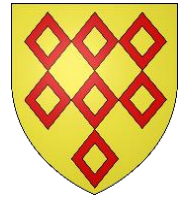
1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ | 020 8954 1299 (Presbytery and Office) | stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699

Parish Priest: **The Revd Fr Jonathan Goodall**

Administrator: Mrs Frances Bright (10am-5pm Wednesday)

Safeguarding Representative: Mr Robert Chandler 020 8207 3509 or stanmoresg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk

Hall Manager: Mr Marcello Borgese 07973 601208 (enquiries by text, with full name and preferred dates)



9—10 December 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

“Let us not resist Christ’s first coming, so that we may not dread the second” (words of St Augustine in the fifth century)

This week’s Masses, Intentions and Rosary	
Sat 9 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Advent 1</i> Mass – for Veronica Desouza RIP (Anniversary)
SUN 10 8am 10am R: Glorious	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Ps Wk 2 Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – for Anthony Mendonca RIP (Anniversary)
Mon 11 9.30am R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Advent 2</i> Mass – for Paul Greed RIP
Tues 12 9.30am R: Sorrowful	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe, Memorial</i> Mass – for Tricia Annessa (Birthday intention)
Wed 13 9.30am R: Glorious	<i>St Lucy, Memorial</i> Mass – for Malcolm and Chrissie Cussell
Thurs 14 R: Luminous	<i>St John of the Cross, Memorial</i> No mass [Gospel: Luke 14.25-33]
Fri 15 7pm R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of Advent 2</i> Mass – for Michael Gaughan RIP
Sat 16 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Advent 2</i> Mass – for Michael Brady RIP
SUN 17 8am 10am R: Glorious 3-5pm	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Ps Wk 3 Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – for Barbara Chandler RIP (Anniversary) NB Christmas Carol Sing-along in the Hall

- ◆ **Reconciliation (Confession)** 20 mins before any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at any time by appointment
 - ◆ **Baptism, Confirmation (First Communion), Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage:** all by appointment – please contact Fr Jonathan
 - ◆ **Funerals:** by arrangement through Funeral Directors **Northwick Park Hospital** contact 020 8967 5130 for a chaplain
- Returning to faith? or to the Church?** You may find **Catholic Listeners** (a free telephone helpline) useful. 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, on 0800 448 0704

◆ **Parents and carers** please do what you need to keep children content and quiet. Do not hesitate to move around *at the back* of the church. (The service is amplified into the Narthex too.) And, for everybody’s safety, *please accompany* any child to the toilet. Thank you.

◆ **Pope’s prayer request** in December: **for people with disabilities** “that they may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.”

A WARM WELCOME, especially if you are new to the parish. **Please take this newsletter home.**

◆ **Before Mass, all say together:** **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.**

FOR TODAY’S MASS

◆ **The ORDER of Mass** on the new pew Mass Card.

◆ **Immediately after the Greeting:**

Blessing the Second Advent Candle (please say lines in bold)

Pr Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:

All To You be praise and glory for ever.

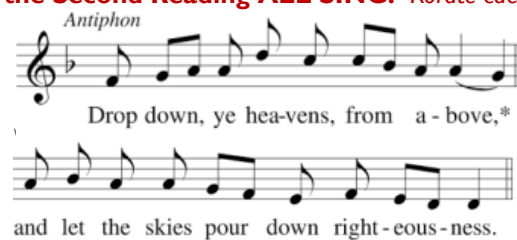
Pr Of old You spoke by the mouth of your prophets.
But in our days You speak through Your Son,
whom You have appointed the heir of all things.

**All Grant us, your people, to walk in His light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when He comes again in glory and judgement;
for You, Lord, are our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God for ever!**

◆ **Today’s readings** are to be found on **pp.85-87** of the *Mass Book*.

During the Psalm, ALL SAY ‘Let us see, O Lord Your mercy, and give us Your saving help.’

◆ **After the Second Reading ALL SING:** *Rorate caeli:*



◆ **At the end of Mass, ALL SING:** *Alma redemptoris mater:*

MOTHER of Christ,	2 Mother of Him
hear thou Thy people’s cry	whom thou from nothing made.
Star of the deep	Sinking we strive
and portal of the sky!	and call to Thee for aid.

**3 O by that joy
which Gabriel brought to thee,
O Virgin pure
let us your mercy see.**

✠ The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

✠ **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

POUR FORTH, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures The call to *conversion of heart* is repeated each year in Advent. Isaiah challenged the people of his own day to change their lifestyles and turn their hearts towards God, John the Baptist in his, the Church today! And, as is clear from the public response to John at the banks of the Jordan, the people *felt the need* for inner conversion. We all long for a more just world and a fairer society than the one we have. Yet, few of us are willing to accept that society will only change *if we do*; society will only pursue the standards Christians value *if we show the way*. At every Mass we ask that, while we "await the blessed hope" of Jesus's coming, we may be *free* from sin and anxiety. The Sacrament of Confession offers us an opportunity to act upon the desire we all feel for conversion and positive change.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11 The Israelites heard these words when they were still in exile in Babylon, 900 miles from Jerusalem. They contain the encouraging news that exile is over, liberation is dawning, and that God will come with power to take them back. All those 'country miles' that stretch

between Babylon and Jerusalem will be transformed into a highway for God the warrior, God the shepherd.

Second Reading (NT) 2 Peter 3.8-14 Advent is centred on the second coming of the Lord; and it is the subject of this letter to an early Christian community associated with St Peter. These early disciples had been told that Jesus would come again, but had become anxious given that time of Christ's glorious return was unknowable. It is quite simple: the Lord is not being slow but patient, to give everyone the chance to turn. 'We are *waiting* for what he *promised*; live virtuously, and He will find you at peace when He comes.

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8 We encounter today the last of the old testament prophets and herald of Jesus: the strange but fascinating John the Baptist. It is once more in the *desert* that, as Isaiah said, hearts would be prepared for God's coming. John implored people to change their worldview, to repent (of their sins, of their lifestyle), and to live as forgiven people. In this way they would be ready, open, attentive for what God would do more powerfully through Jesus.

Upcoming events with a Christmas difference ...

Next Saturday (16th) Fr Jonathan will lead an Advent quiet morning (10-2): '**A new heaven and a new earth**' at St John Fisher, Imperial Close HA2 7LW. Please come!

14 December at 7.30 a **fundraising Christmas concert** at Our Lady of Victories, 235a Kensington High Street W8. 6SA featuring The London Welsh Male Voice Choir with soloists. The Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political Christian charity providing direct help to the most vulnerable Christians in The Holy Land. In 1900 29% of the population was Christian. Now it's less than 2%. Poverty and disadvantage was widespread even before the current crisis. Help them to stay, or the Holy Land will soon have 0% Christians. Buy tickets or donate via www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/event/Christmas-concert-2023

19 and 20 December at 7.30pm in the Cathedral, **Christmas Celebration** with orchestra and famous readers. **If you've never been, you've missed a treat!** Don't let tickets go to tourists! www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

Votive lights burn this week at
Our Lady: for Amasanti and DeBono Family
St William: for Deceased members of Whittaker and O'Neill families
St Catherine:

WANTED! More readers and servers Please! we need to expand our lists of readers and servers at Mass, younger and older; male or female. Training will be given. **Please speak to Fr J.**

Flowers for Christmas The flower team would be very grateful for any donations towards a 'Christmas Flower Fund'. Please use the designated wall-safe in the Narthex.

Know St William's past? The very few remaining copies of the parish history are available in the Narthex for a suggested price of £3 (to parish funds).

Weekly Almsgiving

3/12/2023	Loose Plate	£ 222.36
	Envelopes	£ 302.00
	Standing Orders & Online	£ 840.00
	Total	£1364.36

Nearly final call! First Holy Communion 2024 Starting in **January**, there will be classes most Sundays until the end of May. The application forms are available. **Please return them to Fr J or Carol-Anne by mid-December.**

So you can plan Christmas, Mass times will be as follows:

Sun 24th: 5.30pm Christmas Vigil for families;

NB 10pm Carols and 'Mass during the Night'

Mon 25th: 8am 'at Dawn'; **10am** 'during the Day'

There will be plenty of opportunities for Confession throughout the week before. Please plan to make your confession.

Stuck for a Christmas present Why not give (or receive) a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*? Either *Youcat English*, the Youth Catechism of the Church £8.50 paperback; the *Compendium* (short) version: £9 hardback; or the full thing: £15 paperback.

Unlocking potential Could your child, or one you know, use extra support to Learn the Core curriculum subjects? A new resource has opened up at John Lyon School. To learn more contact tcenquiries@outlook.com or ring 020 3576 4657, or @learnthecore. It comes highly recommended.

Keep thinking about Advent – it's here to help! When the Son of God first appeared, He was humble and poor. In God's time He will re-appear, glorious and full of power. "We say we love him, yet we fear Him coming again." said St Augustine. "So, are we certain that we love Him? Or do we love our sins more?", he asked. Jesus came to *take them away* – our sins, yours, mine, everyone's. So, let's give them to Him! All of them. So we have none to make us ashamed, unworthy. *That's what He came for.* Augustine also said: "He will come, you know not when; but if He finds you prepared, no sin will be held against you." We need only to acknowledge our sins, and hand them over. *Please, please prepare to confess before Christmas, even if you've not done so for months, even years! It's the best gift you can give God.*

Readers rota 9 Dec 5.30pm Lily Meghji

10 Dec 8am Freda Adzinku

10am Derrick Pereira & family,
Tim & Mel Goodger

16 Dec 5.30pm Jennifer Bourke

17 Dec 8am Audrey Da Costa

10am Robert Chandler, Nwawulor family,

Church Cleaning rota 16 Dec Team A Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam

16 Dec Team B Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby,

Indrè Balčaitė, Viktoriia Vrublievska