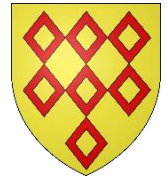


# ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ | 020 8954 1299 (Presbytery and Office) | [stanmore@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 [stanmoeresg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stanmoeresg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)  
Hall Manager: Mr Marcello Borgese 07973 601208 (enquiries by text, with full name and preferred dates)



## 16—17 December 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent: ‘Gaudete Sunday’

“John was not himself the light, only a voice to give evidence for the light”. *John 1.8*

This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary	
<b>Sat 16</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Advent 2</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Michael Brady RIP
<b>SUN 17</b> 8am 10am 1pm 3-5pm R: Glorious	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Ps Wk 3</b> <b>Mass</b> – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – for Barbara Chandler RIP (Anniversary) <b>Baptism</b> of Frederick Cannon Christmas Carol Sing-along in the Hall Tickets available on the door
<b>Mon 18</b> 9.30am 5-7pm	<i>Feria of 18 December - Rosary: Joyful</i> <b>Mass</b> – for the O’Leary family <b>Confessions</b> with the Sacrament exposed
<b>Tues 19</b> 9.30am 5-7pm	<i>Feria of 19 December - Rosary: Sorrowful</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Seamas and Maud Ruane <b>Confessions</b> with the Sacrament exposed
<b>Wed 20</b> 9.30am 5-7pm	<i>Feria of 20 December - Rosary: Glorious</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Jane and Kevin Goodyear <b>Confessions</b> with the Sacrament exposed
<b>Thurs 21</b> R: Luminous	<i>Feria of 21 December; Peter Canisius</i> <b>No mass</b> [Gospel: Lk 1.39-45]
<b>Fri 22</b> 5-7pm 7pm	<i>Feria of 22 December - Rosary: Sorrowful</i> <b>Confessions</b> with the Sacrament exposed <b>Mass ‘for the Forgiveness of Sins’</b> – for Martha Fahey RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Sat 23</b> 5.30pm	<i>Feria of 23 December R: Joyful</i> <b>Mass</b> – for the people of the parish
<b>SUN 24</b> 8am 10am R: Glorious	<b>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Margaret Byrne <b>Parish Mass</b> – for Maureen Ride RIP (Anniversary) <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
5.30pm 10.00pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b> for Families – for Israel-Gaza Carols and <b>Mass ‘during the Night’</b> – For Molly Goodall RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Mon 25</b> 8am 10am R: Joyful	<b>Mass ‘at Dawn’</b> – for Alec Moody RIP <b>Mass ‘during the Day’</b> – for Jim Love RIP (Anniversary)

♦ **Parents and carers**, do what you need to keep children content and quiet. Please 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.

**Coming to faith? or returning to the Church this Christmas?** You may find **Catholic Listeners** useful. It’s an initiative of our Diocese and is funded by the Cardinal’s Appeal).

Free phone-line, 4-7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, 0800 448 0704, and/or [www.catholiclisteners.com/](http://www.catholiclisteners.com/)

**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 10.00 MASS

- ♦ **The ORDER of Mass** can be found on the new pew Mass Card.
- ♦ **Today’s readings** are to be found on **pp.87-89** of the Mass Book.
- ♦ **During the Psalm, ALL SAY ‘My soul rejoices in my God.’**

### Three additional elements:

**1 Immediately after the Greeting - Blessing of the Third Candle** (please say lines in **bold**)

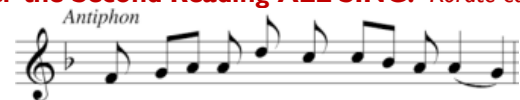
*Pr* Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:

**All To You be praise and glory for ever.**

*Pr* Your prophet John the Baptist, as a burning and shining light, witnessed to the truth of Your Son.

**All May we Your servants also rejoice in His light, O Lord, and so be led to witness to Jesus our Saviour King of the ages, and Lord of Your coming kingdom. Blessed be God for ever!**

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



*R*

Drop down, ye hea-vens, from a-bove,\*



and let the skies pour down right-eous-ness.

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



**MOTHER** of Christ,  
hear thou Thy people’s cry  
Star of the deep  
and portal of the sky!

**2 Mother** of Him  
whom thou from nothing made.  
Sinking we strive  
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 ...

**REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures** (pp.87-89 of the *Mass Book*) We move into the second phase of the Advent season this Sunday, and look to celebrating the birth of Our Saviour in historic time. We meet Jesus in today's gospel near the river Jordan, present but *unknown to the people* thronging around John the Baptist. Jesus, our now risen Lord, is present in our world but, alas, there are so many people who do not know him. There are many who think they know something about Him but have a very *distorted* image. Most people have a vague idea of why Christmas is a time of celebration, even if Jesus does not figure in their lives. That fact in turn reminds us, that we *can* make Him known to others, provided His light *already* burns within us. So, let us use these days, between now and Christmas, to reflect on *who* Jesus is for us and, through every act of kindness, every greeting, every word of witness to our faith, we will make Him present in the lives of others. Then they may 'get' why Christians must rejoice at His birth.

**19 and 20 December** at 7.30pm in the Cathedral, **Christmas Celebration** with orchestra and famous readers. **Never been? You've missed a treat!** Go to [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

**WANTED, please! More readers and servers** 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.**

**Last call for First Holy Communion Enrolment** Starting in January, classes will be most Sundays until the end of May. **Please return application forms to Fr J asap.**

**Know St William's past?** Only three copies of the parish history left ... quick ...

**The Pope's prayer request** in December: 'that **people with disabilities** may be at the centre of society, and that institutions may offer programs that value their participation.'

**The Parish Office** will be closed on Wednesday 27 December, but will be staffed from 3 January. The parish phone-line will not be checked from Tues 26 to Sat 31.

**Flowers for Christmas** Donations towards Christmas Flower in the designated wall safe in the Narthex, please.

<b>Weekly Almsgiving</b>		
<b>10/12/2023</b>	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>£ 226.95</b>
	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£ 203.00</b>
	<b>Standing Orders &amp; Online</b>	<b>£ 95.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 524.95</b>

**Votive lights** burn this week at  
 Our Lady: for Private intention  
 St William: for the Siloghi family  
 St Catherine: for Roque Dias (Dad) RIP

<b>Readers rota</b>	16 Dec	5.30pm	Jennifer Bourke
	17 Dec	8am	Audrey Da Costa
		10am	Robert Chandler, Nwawulor family,
	23 Dec	5.30pm	Noreta Reece
	24 Dec	8am	Georgina Martins
		10am	Monika Tabarrok, Carol-Anne Chandler
		5.30pm	Monika Tabarrok
		10pm	Tim, Mel, Derrick, Elaine, Lily
	25 Dec	8am	Daphne Byron
		10am	Robert Chandler, Carol-Anne Chandler
	26 Dec	10am	Carol-Anne Chandler

**Church Cleaning rota**  
**Volunteers wanted** to help out with cleaning for 1 hour from 9.30am on Saturdays 23 and 30 December

**First Reading: Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11** This is the great mission statement that Jesus chose to read on day one of His public ministry (Lk 4.16-18). He had come to proclaim the Lord's favour to lives blighted by sin, and to reconcile the world to God and to itself. Freedom is a frequent rallying call in world history – but Jesus's way to it is *unique!!* What are the ingrained problems of our day, and our lives, which we would like the Lord to set us free from this Christmas?

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24** Paul is still talking to the young Christian community of Thessalonica about the second coming of Christ. They – we! – must not be passive but active: not tread water, but swim towards Him, actively pursuing the things that God asks of us.

**Gospel: St John 1.6-8, 19-28** We'll be reading *St John's* gospel at quite often over the next few weeks. Even though, like St Mark (our Year B gospel), John has no account of Jesus' birth, he, like Mark, puts John the Baptist centre stage on page one.

**Which Christmas meal is most important?** Christmas Dinner or Holy Communion? Which will you put most effort into preparing? Please note there will be **opportunities throughout this week for Confession**. There is no better way to receive Christ, than into a heart prepared for Him.

**Cribs at 800** 2023 is the year that marks the eighth centenary of the Nativity scene that St Francis set up in Greccio, close to the Italian city of Rieti.



'I would like', Francis said, 'to represent the Baby born in Bethlehem, and let people see, with their own eyes, ... how He was laid in a feeding trough, on the straw between the ox and the ass.' That's how Franciscan sources describe the desire that burned in Francis's heart in late 1223: to represent Jesus's birth in a way that would help *everyone*, at a glance, take in the truth of God made man.

Our crib here at St William's will be in a new place this year – next to the altar of Our Lady – to try to fulfil Francis's desire to encourage greater personal devotion to Christ.

You will also find, in the Narthex, a short set of prayers for blessing your crib at home.

**A long weekend coming up** This year we've got two holy days of obligation next to each other - Sunday and then Christmas Day. Perhaps you've been asking yourself, 'Can a faithful Catholic somehow observe *both* by participating in only *one* Mass?' The straight answer is, 'Sorry, no'. Two obligations, two Masses. The options look like this:

- 1 Two vigils (Sat 23 and Sun 24)
- 2 Two days (Sun 24 and Mon 25)
- 3 'Long weekend' (Sat 23 and Mon 25 - take Sunday off)
- 4 'Super Sunday' (Sun 24-8 or 10am, then 5.30 or 10pm)

These are also your options, wherever in the world, or the UK, you may be lucky enough to be going on holiday for Christmas. Two obligations; two Masses.

**Christmas Collections** Since this year Christmas falls so close to a Sunday we wanted to make it clear that any offering given in the normal planned giving methods is for the benefit of the Church. Anything given in the special Christmas Offering envelopes will be for the benefit of Fr Jonathan. As in previous years, should you prefer to make a separate donation to Fr Jonathan at any time then you should mark the envelope for the attention of Fr Jonathan.