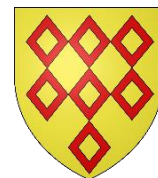


# ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 [stanmoressg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stanmoressg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)  
Hall Manager: Mr Marcello Borgese 07973 601208 (enquiries by text, with full name and preferred dates)



## 23—24 December 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Day

'Your son will be the Son of the Most High; His throne, the throne of David; His reign will be endless' *Lk 1.31*

<b>This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary</b>	
<b>Sat 23</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of 23 December</i> <b>Mass</b> – for the people of the parish
<b>SUN 24</b> 8am 10am  5.30pm 10.00pm 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> <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)
<b>Tues 26</b> <b>NB</b> 10am R: Sorrowful	<b>St Stephen</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Alec Moody RIP
<b>Wed 27</b> 9.30am R: Glorious	<b>St John the Apostle and Evangelist</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Marian and Dave Fleming
<b>Thurs 28</b>  R: Luminous	<b>The Holy Innocents</b> <b>No mass</b> [Gospel: Matt 2.13-18]
<b>Fri 29</b>  R: Sorrowful	<b>St Thomas Becket</b> <b>No mass</b> [Gospel: Luke 22.24-30]
<b>Sat 30</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<b>6th Day in the Christmas Octave</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Rishi Kapadyia (premature baby in hospital)
<b>SUN 31</b> 8am 10am R: Glorious	<b>CHRISTMAS I – The Holy Family</b> <b>Mass</b> – for the people of the parish <b>Parish Mass</b> – for the repose of Pope Benedict XVI
<b>Mon 1 Jan</b> R: Joyful 9.30am	<b>THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Margaret Goode RIP (Anniv)

◆ **Reconciliation (Confession)** 20 mins before any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at any time by appointment

**Northwick Park Hospital** 020 8967 5130 for 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.

**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.

◆ **Immediately after the Greeting:**

**Blessing of the Fourth Candle** (please say lines in **bold**)

*Pr* Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:

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

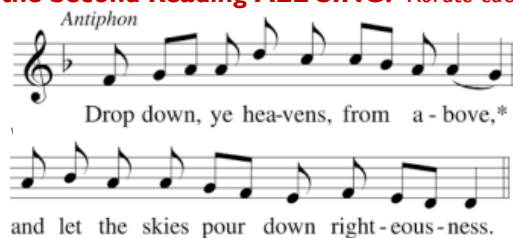
*Pr* Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**All** Grant, that we who have seen Your glory may daily be renewed in Your image and prepared for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.  
**Blessed be God for ever!**

◆ **Today's readings** are to be found on **pp.90-92** of the *Mass Book*.

◆ **During the Psalm, ALL SAY** 'I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.'

◆ **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 ...

**REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures** We stand at the threshold of Christmas on this Sunday which is at the same time the fourth in Advent and Christmas Eve. We encounter King David (of whom, according to the genealogists, Jesus was a direct descendent): David imagined he could do something for God – build Him a permanent dwelling at the centre of Jerusalem. His success as monarch went to his head and he forgot his humble origins as a shepherd boy. He was denied his desire. By contrast, in Luke's Gospel, we see an Israelite girl who is fully aware of who she is before God; and it is her *humility that enables her* to do something very great for God. The promise made to David in the grandeur of his palace centuries before would now be fulfilled because a low-born girl had an extra-ordinary openness to God. Despite what the imagination of countless has done to embellish and elaborate on the story of Mary, there is very little majesty in the Christmas narrative. Its power comes from its simplicity and humility: the gifts we need to appreciate its good news.

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1–5, 8–12, 16** David was Israel's first successful king. Given that, as king, he lived in a palace, so a Temple should be constructed as God's dwelling place. Before David made Jerusalem his capital, the Ark of the Covenant (the place of God's presence among His people) had been housed in a tent. God literally travelled with his people through all their ups and downs. Indeed, God had other plans:

**Masses in the week after Christmas** NB Both Thursday and Friday there will be no public Mass.

**Office closure** The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. It will reopen on Wed 3 January.

**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.

**Holy Land** As I write, the UN is inching to its first unanimous resolution on the ending of hostilities in Gaza. Thanks be to God! As the situation deteriorates human and humanitarian need escalates. The Archbishop's Council discussed how our diocese can support the needs in Israel-Palestine, and the cardinal wrote to say:

**I the crib offerings** this year will be applied, as always, to the **Catholic Children's Society** for the relief of poverty at home in UK.

ALSO *If there are any presents that you would like to pass on to a child in need, the Catholic Children's Society does this too. We ask you to wrap the present up, indicate if is for a boy or girl, and the age group. Then put it under the parish Christmas trees! And they will be delivered to CCS.*

**2 a special collection** in response to the appeal of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem should be taken immediately after Christmas. We shall do this as a **second collections at all Masses** on the feast of the Epiphany, Sunday 7 Jan, a day of obligation.

Personal **donations** can of course be given at any time:

- [cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/](http://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/)
- [embraceme.org/gazacrisis](http://embraceme.org/gazacrisis)
- [abcbethlehem.org/abcbcd-news/abcbcd-crisis-appeal](http://abcbethlehem.org/abcbcd-news/abcbcd-crisis-appeal)

**More Singers** at the 10.00am weekly Parish Mass. Could you help with the singing or even playing a musical instrument? It involves an hour on Saturday at 9.45am

**Planning 2024?** - Two dates of interest

**25 May** Mass in Thanksgiving for Matrimony (at the cathedral) for those with major anniversaries to celebrate  
**19-26 July** Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. For more see <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

it was He who would build David a 'house' – the House of David: descendants to rule in Israel. This promise took on great significance for the Jews after the monarchy had died out and they lived for 600 years under foreign (pagan) rulers. The people began to look forward to a messiah: God's anointed David's descendant, Israel's deliverer. The new testament regularly points out that Jesus is of David's house and line.

**Second Reading: Romans 16.25–7** Paul gives praise to God for Jesus who reveals the plan of God which had for so long been hidden. Now the plan was clear to all, and it included the salvation of everyone. This insight is a cause of great joy to Paul and is the driving force in his ministry. It shows that God's wisdom is far beyond any human philosophy or strategy; and is the cause of our praise of the Almighty.

**Gospel: Luke 1.26–38** John the Baptist dominates the stage first in Advent, but in its closing days Mary moves centre stage. She occupies a greater place in Luke's Gospel than in any other. While it is just as possible of St John's Gospel, Christian tradition has it that Luke knew Mary in her old age and that she told him her story. Mary's openness to the Spirit of God opens the way for God to come into the flesh of the world. And that is how Luke presents our discipleship in his gospel. God will work in the world whenever Jesus's followers open themselves, in an attitude of faith, to the work of his Spirit.

**STOP THE 14-DAY LIMIT on experimenting on embryos being removed** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for **experimenting on embryos**, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans. **Right To Life UK** has launched an easy-to-use tool that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking him or her to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/14days](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/14days) now. It takes 30 seconds. Speaking for such things is part of your baptismal dignity in the Church.

Pray too, this Christmas, for all parents expecting a new child -- for a safe and healthy pregnancy.

**Votive lights** burn this week at

Our Lady: for Roque Dias (Dad) RIP

St William: for

St Catherine: for

<b>Readers rota</b>			
23 Dec	5.30pm	Noretta Reece	
24 Dec	8am	Georgina Martins	
	10am	Monika Tabarrok, Carol-Anne Chandler	
	5.30pm	Monika Tabarrok	
25 Dec	10pm	Tim, Mel, Crystelle, Elaine, Lily	
	8am	Daphne Byron	
	10am	Robert Chandler, Carol-Anne Chandler	
26 Dec	10am	Carol-Anne Chandler	
30 Dec	5.30pm	Lily Meghji	
31 Dec	8am	Amelie Direkze	
	10am	Maureen Ruane, Joseph Arthur	
1 Jan	9.30am	Jennifer Bourke	

**Church Cleaning rota**

**Volunteers wanted** to help out with cleaning for 1 hour from 9.30am on Saturday 30 December

**Weekly Almsgiving**

17/12/2023	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>£ 315.79</b>
	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£ 167.00</b>
	<b>Standing Orders &amp; Online</b>	<b>£ 75.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 557.79</b>