

# St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



## PARISH PRIEST

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## MASS TIMES

### Sunday

8.00 am & 10.00 am

### Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday No Mass

Friday 7.00 pm

Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)

**Confessions on Saturdays 4.30-5.15pm**  
in church or by arrangement with Fr Jonathan

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7/8 January 2023

### Sat 7 Jan

5.30pm **Vigil Mass**

Anne Coyle RIP (Anniv)

### SUNDAY 8 January

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)**

*The season of Christmas ends*

8.00 **Mass** Bridget McGowan RIP

(2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**

Roque Dias RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

### Mon 9 Jan

*Feria of First Week of the Year*

**Lectionary Year 1 No Mass**

*Gospel of the day: Mark 1:14-20*

### Tues 10 Jan *Feria*

**No Mass**

*Gospel of the day: Mark 1:21-28*

### Wed 11 Jan *Feria*

**No Mass**

*Gospel of the day: Mark 1:29-39*

### Thurs 12 Jan

*St Aelred of Rievaulx, Memorial*

**No Mass**

*Gospel of the day: Mark 1:40-45*

### Fri 13 Jan *St Hilary, Memorial*

**No Mass**

*Gospel of the day: Mark 2:1-12*

### Sat 14 Jan *Feria*

4.30-5.15pm **Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass**

Chris Taylor RIP (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

### SUNDAY 15 January

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

(Year A) *Peace Sunday*

8.00 **Mass** Patrick & Patricia Coyle

(50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**

Kevin D'Souza RIP

**WELCOME** to Mass today, especially if you have not been for a while. We are pleased to see you, and hope we shall see you again. **Please take this Newsletter home**, and use the calendar to help you pray.

**AFTER THE 10am MASS** ... they're back! refreshments (often cakes!) and chance to connect in the Parish Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

**PREPARATION FOR MASS** 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. **Amen.**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** *The Order of Mass* can be followed in the red Parish Mass Book – **first from p.7**; then, after the Bidding Prayers – **from p.15**; then, from the Lord's Prayer – **p.56.**

The **Readings** for today's Mass are to be found in the gold Parish Mass Book on **pp.118-20.**

Today's **psalm response** is: **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

WE HAVE ALL been baptized. Our parish is a community of men and women who share a common identity as sons and daughters of God resulting from our baptism. This last day of Christmastide, on which we leap-frog thirty years forward in Jesus' earthly life, brings us all back to the beginnings of our own individual Christian journey.

Most of us have no memory of our baptism, being christened – 'Christianed' – as small infants. But given how significantly the first sacrament defines our lives, today's feast presents us with a welcome opportunity to reflect on what baptism means for us.

We are baptised in and with water. Jesus, we must imagine, was subject first to *total immersion* in the Jordan and then had water poured on him by John the Baptist. Water is essential to life, without it we dehydrate – and like all animal and plant life, we cannot grow. (One of the developing crises of the next decade of the 21st century will be the struggle for water, and access to it is already being weaponized in conflicts.) And yet, as recent floods have clearly shown, water can also bring death on a large scale. *Life and death are side by side in the reality of baptism.* We are baptised into Christ's *death* and yet in the waters of Baptism we are (re)born to *new life*, through a cleansing water that makes us grow in the Spirit. In an *act of unique solidarity* with sinful humanity he came to redeem and save, Jesus, who was Himself *without sin*, submitted himself to baptism in the Jordan at the hands of John (known for ever as "the Baptist") as if this action defined his being and mission.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7** Isaiah had more than the other prophets to say about Messiah and his coming. And this magnificent excerpt

expresses very directly what God expected his Holy One would be. Perhaps this was one of the texts Jesus took with him from the Jordan into the desert, for his forty days and forty nights of prayer and reflection on his future

mission. The latter part of the reading was used by Jesus when he launched his public ministry in the synagogue of his native Nazareth.

**Second Reading (NT): Acts of the Apostles 10.34–38** It is rare for us to hear from the Acts of the Apostles (Luke's follow-up to his Gospel) outside Eastertide. What we are presented with today is a proclamation of Easter faith, of the message of salvation to **all** men and women of good will which we celebrated at Epiphany, and a brief summary of Jesus' career, starting as it did with his baptism by John in the Jordan. (Interestingly enough, John the Baptist features more prominently in the works of the secular historians of the time, like the famous Josephus, than does Jesus himself.)

**Gospel: Matthew 3.13–17** For John the Baptist, the invitation to be baptised was *always* preceded by a call to conversion. That was the purpose of baptism ... the forgiveness of sins. It is understandable therefore that, recognising in Jesus God's Messiah, John should be reluctant to baptise Jesus (the One without sin). Jesus submitted to it as a sign of His mission – His total identification with sinful humanity which immediately received the seal of approval from heaven where Jesus was identified as God's Son and enjoying divine favour.

**This week** Fr Jonathan will be taking a short post-Christmas break till Friday to make a short pilgrimage to Fatima, with the intention of praying for his mother, who died just before Christmas. He will also be praying for the parish. The daily Gospel readings at Mass are given in the calendar.

**Next week (15<sup>th</sup>) is Peace Sunday**, promoted by Pax Christi. The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to make it a day of prayer for Peace and to reflect on the Pope's 1 January message.

**"No one can be saved alone"**, invites us to reflect back on this terrible period, and ask ourselves what it might teach us. It can be found on the Vatican website.

It seems appropriate also to quote the late Pope Benedict on this theme. 'The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules, and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negative ones. The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to share with the world a new vision for the future. In this spirit, that is with confidence rather than resignation, it is appropriate to address the difficulties of the present time.' *Caritas in Veritate*, 21

**First Confession and Holy Communion 2023 Application Forms** are available in the church porch for parents to complete and return direct to Father Jonathan. To be considered, children must already be in Year 3 or above at school. If you have any questions, please talk to Carol-Anne Chandler after any Sunday 10am Mass.

**Calling Young People!** How many young Catholics out there? Would you enjoy the encouragement of gathering with other young Catholics? **Flame** is a Catholic youth mega-event that takes place on our doorstep, at the OVO Arena, one of England's iconic arenas near **Wembley Stadium**. Taking place on Saturday, **4 March 2023** is the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales. Worth checking out: [www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-looks-forward-to-flame-2023](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-looks-forward-to-flame-2023)

**Adult Confirmations 2023** If you have never been confirmed and would like to be prepared for one of this year's Adult Confirmation dates in the Cathedral (**21 January, 22 April, and 23 September**), or indeed confirmation here in the parish, *please* let Fr Jonathan know. If you have simply never been confirmed, and are unsure why you *should* receive this wonderful sacrament, please speak up!

**Holy Father's January prayer intention**, which all Catholics can share in together, is for educators: "that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the young people and the most vulnerable above all."

### Message from CAFOD

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people join us in our mission here in the Westminster diocese. Could you volunteer and help us raise awareness in either parishes or schools about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out more by joining one of our volunteer meetings in Lambeth on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January or Oakwood, North London on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 0208 449 6970

### Readers Rota

<u>7 January 5.30</u> Noretta Reece	<u>8 January 8.00</u> Audrey Da Costa
<u>8 January 10.00</u> Readings Patrick & Joseph Arthur, Bidding prayers Georgia Nwawulor	
<u>14 January 5.30</u> Lily Meghji	<u>15 January 8.00</u> Georgina Martins
<u>15 January 10.00</u> Readings Robert Chandler, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger	
<u>21 January 5.30</u> Monica Clifford	<u>22 January 8.00</u> Rosemary Chukwulobelu
<u>22 January 10.00</u> Readings Monika Tabarrok, Bidding prayers Carol-Anne Chandler	