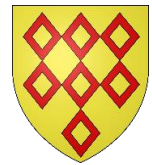


ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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)



6–7 January 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord

‘When they saw the star, they were thrilled; and they went in and saw the child, and worshipped Him.’ cf Mt 2.10

Pope Francis has designated 2024 a **Year of Prayer** in preparation for the **2025 Jubilee Year**, ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

| This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary | |
|---|--|
| Sat 6 5.30pm R: Joyful | <i>Christmas Feria</i> <i>Second collection for Gaza relief and aid</i> Vigil Mass – for the people of the parish |
| SUN 7 8am 10am R: Glorious | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD <i>Second collection for Gaza relief and aid</i> Mass – For an end to the Gaza Conflict Parish Mass – for Barbara Chandler RIP (Birthday) |
| Mon 8 9.30am R: Joyful | The Baptism of the Lord, Feast Mass – for Brendan Parkes (get well) |
| Tues 9 9.30am R: Sorrowful | Ordinary Time begins: Feria, 1st week Mass – for A Barretto RIP |
| Wed 10 9.30am R: Glorious | <i>Feria, 1st week of Ordinary Time</i> Mass – for Bridget McGowan RIP (Anniversary) |
| Thurs 11 R: Luminous | <i>Feria, 1st week of Ordinary Time</i> No mass [Gospel: Mark 1.40-45] |
| Fri 12 7pm R: Sorrowful | <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx, Memorial</i> Mass – Private intention |
| Sat 13 5.30pm R: Joyful | <i>St Hilary of Poitiers, Memorial</i> Vigil Mass – for Chris Taylor RIP (3 rd anniversary) |
| SUN 14 8am 10am R: Glorious | 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME Mass – for Alec Moody RIP Parish Mass – for Benjamin-Joseph Fabonge (8 th birthday) |

- ◆ **Confessions** Either side of any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30–5.15pm; or by appointment
 - ◆ **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Friday after Mass until 8pm
 - ◆ **Baptism, Confirmation (First Communion), Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage:** all by appointment – please contact Fr Jonathan
 - ◆ **Funerals:** by arrangement through the Funeral Director
- Northwick Park Hospital:** for a chaplain contact 020 8967 5130
- Returning to faith?** or to the Church? You may find **Catholic Listeners** useful. (It's a free telephone helpline.) 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, on 0800 448 0704 / catholiclisteners@gmail.com

◆ **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.
- ◆ **All Hymns are on the Bethlehem Carol Sheet:**
- ◆ **Today's readings** are to be found on pp.115-7, and **prayers** on p.118 of the *Mass Book*.
- ◆ **During the Psalm:** ‘All nations shall fall prostrate before you O Lord.’

◆ Alleluia:

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
We saw His star as it | a-rose;
And have come to do | the Lord – homage.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

◆ **After Communion: Blessing of new Wedding Rings** for Giovanni and Nanette Gaudino

◆ **At the end of Mass, ALL SING the Hymn to the Virgin**



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.

Until Candlemas (2 Feb):

Priest After childbirth you remained a virgin.

All Intercede for us, O Mother of God.

All O GOD, who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary have bestowed upon mankind the reward of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech You, that we may experience her intercession for us, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son.

Votive lights burn this week

Our Lady's altar: no intention

St William: no intention

St Catherine: no intention

REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures In many parts of the Church, 6 January (Twelfth Night), Epiphany, is celebrated as the Christmas feast. This is true of the churches of the East. In Ireland it was celebrated as *Nollag na mBan* (Women's Christmas) in acknowledgement of how hard women had worked during the first eleven days for their husbands and children, now was their occasion to enjoy Christmas. But there is a theological justification for this second Christmas festival as well. On Christmas night the birth of the Saviour was revealed to the Jewish people in the person of the shepherds to whom the Christmas proclamation was announced and for whom the heavenly choirs sang. On the Epiphany the Saviour was revealed to the *non-Jewish* world, the heathens or pagans: our forefathers. Epiphany marks the moment of revelation of the Saviour to the whole world.

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6 Darkness hangs over the pagan world. That pagans lived in darkness was self-evident to the ancient Jews. But Isaiah promises that even the pagans will see light, *recognise* it, *pursue* it. The light hovers over Israel, yet it is not Israel which is the source of that light, it is the refracted

glory of the Lord and all peoples are capable of seeing it, of being enlightened by it and of doing great things for God. This is a reading of great hope: none are excluded from God's light nor prevented from recognising and discovering Him.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3.2-6 The new testament is full of amazement at the fact that *pagans* can also share in God's love for—and promise to—ancient Israel, despite the fact that the old testament had always contained the idea that God would reveal himself to the whole world, that none were beyond the reach of his providential grace. But that amazement is because of *the way the promise was fulfilled*. It is not as servants, but as 'sons' (*and daughters*) with Christ that the promise is fulfilled.

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12 The shepherds were sent to the manger by angelic message and emotion. The magi were drawn to Bethlehem by astronomical signs, their intelligence, and their fascination. But that got them only so far. They went first to a palace; but the star took them to a stable. Their understanding was *transformed* by their search. The shepherds, glorified God. The magi fell down, and worshipped.



**HOLY LAND
Special Second Collection
at all Masses Today**

in response to the appeal of Patriarch Pizzaballa in Jerusalem, and endorsed by Cardinal Nichols, reminding us that 'All those people in Gaza who are fleeing and taking shelter are actually doing so in the footsteps of that Holy Family.' If you didn't come to Mass ready to make a donation, there are some

envelopes in the Narthex. They can be returned to the Presbytery. Please see Patriarch's letter on the Noticeboard.

Read (or rather listen to) THE BIBLE IN A YEAR?

Try <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>, or <https://bibleinayear.fireside.fm/>

THANK YOU to you all for your kind good wishes, prayers and gifts over the feast. *Fr J*

WANTED – and THANKED! I want to take this opportunity, of the Epiphany, to thank all those who have helped, adults and children who offer their time and service to God and the parish as altar servers, and to Robert Chandler for encouraging them. We are all grateful to you. Nonetheless, we need to *expand* our company of servers (and readers) at Mass. Training will be given. *Speak to Fr J.*

More Singers wanted at the 10am Parish Mass. Could you help with the singing, or perhaps playing an instrument? It involves an hour's run-through, 10am on Saturday.

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/>

| Weekly Almsgiving | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 31/12/2023 | Loose Plate | £ 470.27 |
| | Envelopes | £ 274.20 |
| | Standing Orders & Online | £ 500.00 |
| | Total | £1244.47 |

♦ **Peace Sunday, next week** 15 January. No general collection – but **Pax Christi envelopes** are available in the Narthex. Please return them in the Sunday collections.

Holy Communion One of the great advantages of receiving Holy Communion at the communion rail (as we do at the 10am Mass) is the chance to pray better in that moment. Settled, not constantly shuffling along, we are able to be recollected before and after receiving: 'mindful' of the joy and beauty of sacramental union with Jesus. To give you words for that moment, may I suggest a prayer (from an old German hymn) that you might use at the rail. Even better, over time, commit it to memory so it never leaves you.

**SUN, who all my life dost brighten,
Light, who dost my soul enlighten,
Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth,
Fount, whence all my being floweth,
At Your feet I fall, my maker.
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this precious food from heaven.
For my good, Your Body given!**

New Year's resolutions? ... Asked how someone can become a saint, St John Henry Newman replied:

'I say, first – do not lie in bed beyond the due time of rising; give your first thoughts to God; make a good visit to the Blessed Sacrament; say the Angelus devoutly; eat and drink to God's glory; say the Rosary well; be recollected; keep out bad thoughts; examine yourself daily; go to bed in good time, and you are already perfect.'

| Readers rota | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 6 Jan | 5.30pm | Jennifer Bourke |
| 7 Jan | 8am | Daphne Byron |
| | 10am | Derrick Pereira & family (readings) Patrick Arthur (Bidding prayers) |
| 13 Jan | 5.30pm | Noreta Reece |
| 14 Jan | 8am | Freda Adzinku |
| | 10am | Tim & Mel Goodger (readings) Robert Chandler (Bidding prayers) |
| Church Cleaning rota | | |
| 13 Jan | Team C Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira | |
| 20 Jan | Team A Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam | |