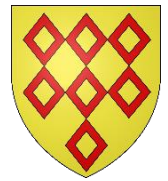


ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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)



30—31 December 2023 – Sunday after Christmas: The Holy Family

'Jesus went with them to Nazareth, became wiser and taller, gaining favour both with God and with the people.' Lk 2.52

| This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary | |
|---|---|
| Sat 30 5.30pm R: Joyful | 6th Day in the Christmas Octave Mass – for Rishi Kapadyia (premature baby in hospital) |
| SUN 31 8am 10am R: Glorious | CHRISTMAS I – The Holy Family Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – for Pope Benedict XVI (RIP, Anniversary) |
| Mon 1 9.30am R: Joyful | THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity Mass – for Margaret Goode (RIP Anniv) |
| Tues 2 9.30am R: Sorrowful | <i>St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Memorial</i> Mass – for solidarity between Church leaders in Israel-Palestine |
| Wed 3 9.30am R: Glorious | <i>Christmas Feria</i> Mass – for William Fahey (RIP Anniv) |
| Thurs 4 R: Luminous | <i>Christmas Feria</i> No mass [Gospel: John 1.35-42] |
| Fri 5 7pm R: Sorrowful | <i>Christmas Feria</i> Mass – for Roque Dias (RIP 2 nd Anniv) |
| Sat 6 5.30pm R: Joyful | <i>Christmas Feria</i> Vigil Mass – for the people of the parish |
| SUN 7 8am 10am R: Glorious | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Mass – For an end to the Gaza Conflict Parish Mass – for Barbara Chandler RIP (Birthday) |

- ◆ **Confessions** 20 mins before any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at anytime 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.107-9** of the *Mass Book*.
- ◆ **During the Psalm, ALL SAY** 'He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers His covenant for ever.'

◆ Alleluia, ALL SING

ALLELUIA, alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in | your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a | home in you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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



| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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.

From Christmas to Candlemas:

✠ After childbirth you remained a virgin.

✠ Intercede for us, O Mother of God.

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. Amen.

Votive lights burn this week

Our Lady's altar: for **Richard, Irene and Jim**
St William and St Catherine: no intention

◆ **Pope's prayer request** for January 2024: **for the gift of diversity in the Church:** "that the Spirit will help us recognize the different charisms within the Christian community, and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the Catholic Church"

REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures As far back as 1994, when the UN decided on a Year of the Family, there was a very heated discussion as to what actually constituted a family. It's motto was "Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society" In the intervening years the single-parent family and the patchwork family have moved main stream. All of us have, in our immediate circle, among our relatives or close friends, families that do not quite conform to the traditional conception of the supposed ideal family. That same year, and partly in an attempt to rescue the ideal of the Catholic family, St John Paul II inaugurated a World Meeting of Families every three years, the most recent (the tenth) being in Rome in June 2022.

The proximity of today's feast to Christmas—probably the only commonly celebrated family feast of the year—was designed by the Church in the 1969 reforms to the Calendar to relate the Holy Family of Nazareth to the families of today. The Church recognises that few if any families conform totally to the ideal in the Holy Family, yet, in her compassion for all her children, regardless of how their marriages or families have worked out in practice, all Catholic families are under the patronage of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

This feast is certainly an occasion to give thanks for family solidarity -- for the filial love which unites children to their

parents, for the parental love which parents lavish on their children, and for the spousal love which, often even after death, unites husband and wife in a strong bond of unity.

First Reading: Genesis 15.1-6, 21.1-3 Abraham and Sarah are totally barren; the chief servant is Abraham's heir.. Then God alters destiny. They become fruitful. Isaac is the son of God's promise. All marriages in some sense point towards the messiah, and every child bears something of God's supernatural gift. God opens this family up, and by faith it must remain open at God's disposal.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11.8, 11-12, 17-19 Such openness was widened to an extreme degree when God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. God miraculously founds a family, then shatters it. Abraham and Sarah are praised for believing that God would fulfil the promise made through Isaac – that Abraham's name would be carried on—and God restored Isaac to them, as from the dead.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40 Holy Family in Nazareth is no idyllic family. Here we have the prophecy that will define the meaning of their family life: the child will be a great light to lighten both Hebrews *and Gentiles*; but also the sword that will pierce the mother's heart points to his even greater destiny and work. She will offer Him up, and share in the sacrifice He makes.

A WARM THANK YOU to all for your kind good wishes, prayers and gifts over the feast. *Fr Jonathan*

HOLY LAND

Bishops of the 'Holy Land Coordination' (an international liaison group of Catholic bishops, led by England and Wales) have issued a statement after two Christian women were killed in a sniper attack on the Holy Family Church compound in Gaza on 16 December 2023. See www.cbcew.org.uk/

You can also hear Cardinal Nichols's SkyNews interview on www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-desperate-situation-at-holy-family-church-gaza/ He asked that every Christian, and other people of goodwill who have a faith in God, would in their prayer "implore God to touch hearts that have hardened over many decades, so that we can move forward."

Appeal Collection next week In view of Cardinal Nichols' response to the appeal of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem a **special second collection** will be made after all Masses next Sunday – the feast of the Epiphany, Sunday 7 Jan. **Please come prepared to donate to that collection.**

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.*

More Singers needed at the 10am weekly Parish Mass. Could you not help with the singing? or even playing a musical instrument? It involves an hour's run-through, 10am on Saturday. A church that sings together prays together!

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

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|------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 24/12/2023 | Loose Plate | 933.11 |
| | Envelopes | 408.00 |
| | Standing Orders & Online | 215.00 |
| | Total | £1556.11 |

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 now. It takes 30 seconds. Speak for those who can't.

Not rocket science "If you want to be a pray-er, you must pray!" is something I am often telling people. "A Christian who doesn't pray doesn't know Jesus." is another. Not rocket science. But the pope has thrown us a collective life-line, and a challenge. In preparation for the **2025 Jubilee Year**, "Pilgrims of Hope", the coming year, 2024, has been designated a **Year of Prayer** by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the *Our Father*, and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray and why they pray. He asks us to deepen our prayer life and love of God; and to learn to teach at least one other person to pray during 2024.

Pax Christi donation envelopes are available in the Narthex. This is a voluntary donation, not a second collection.

Readers rota

| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| 30 Dec | 5.30pm | Lily Meghji |
| 31 Dec | 8am | Amelie Direkze |
| | 10am | Maureen Ruane, Joseph Arthur |
| 1 Jan | 9.30am | Jennifer Bourke |
| 6 Jan | 5.30pm | Jennifer Bourke |
| 7 Jan | 8am | Daphne Byron |
| | 10am | Derrick Pereira & family (readings) Patrick Arthur (Bidding prayers) |

Church Cleaning rota

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 Jan | Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, |
| Team B | Indrè Balçaitè |
| 13 Jan | Dominick Martins, |
| Team C | Elaine & Derrick Pereira |