

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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For Confessions please contact
Father Michael direct on the
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1st Sunday of Advent

28/29 November 2020

Saturday 28th November

Mary Juliet Fernando RIP

Sunday 29th November
1st Sunday of Advent

Rodney Fernandes RIP (Pereira)

10am The Faithful Departed

Monday 30th November
St Andrew, Apostle
Patron of Scotland

The Clifford Family

Tuesday 1st December

Donald & Olivia Martins RIP

Wednesday 2nd December

Linda O'Grady RIP

Thursday 3rd December
St Francis Xavier, Priest

NO LITURGY

Friday 4th December

Anna Gircon RIP

Saturday 5th December

People of the parish

Sunday 6th December
2nd Sunday of Advent

People of the parish

10am Eileen O'Brien RIP

Advent - a litany of good advice

Let's pile up all the Advent recommendations in the readings this weekend: 'Lord, you are our Father, we the clay...the work of your hands' "our Lord Jesus Christ will keep us steady and without blame until the last day" 'Be on your guard, stay awake'. Three times in the gospel we are told – STAY AWAKE! Remember though that this wakefulness (woke?) is not driven by a kind of nervous fear. It is a constant readiness to welcome the Master. This is the real meaning of Advent; we are preparing to greet the coming of Jesus. Yes, in Bethlehem but more importantly in the here and now moments of our lives; in the sadness and setbacks of the virus, in the hope and promise of vaccines. 'Watch out' might be the special words of our Advent admonition. We watch for the day to inherit the promise! Ultimately Advent invites us to wait in hope for the final coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Open for Mass - Thanks be to God

Providing there are no setbacks, the church should be open on this coming Friday for 7pm Mass! A joy! We then return to our normal COVID schedule. In this newsletter, there is a reminder of the COVID guidelines for places of worship. This time of opening is a real gift for our Advent journey.



Open for Christmas

There will be two Masses on Christmas Eve: 5.30pm and Midnight. There will be challenges! Our numbers are limited under COVID guideline - 48! No singing! No Christmas carols! Shorter Masses. On Christmas Day - Masses will be at 8am and 10am - with the same restrictions. ALL Masses will require tickets - which will be available from next weekend. Please note that the tickets will be for specific Masses. Subject to the demand for tickets, a third Mass may be arranged on Christmas Day at 11.15am.

Open for the Sacrament of Confirmation

All things being equal - Father Michael will celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit next Sunday 6 December at 12noon. Our candidates (Emilia Acuti, Isabella Borgese, Emer Fadian, Josh Ioannou, Olivia Ioannou,

Chiemezue Nwamba, Caitlyn Pereira, Cameron Tabarrok, Amelia Willoughby) will be marked with Oil of Chrism blessed by the Cardinal in the Cathedral. 9 candidates will mean 6 guests each under COVID restrictions. Importantly there will be a final meeting of the candidates in the church on **Thursday 3 December at 5pm - including a short rehearsal for the ceremony.** Please pray for our young parishioners on such a special day.

Father – fatter and fatter!

Dear parishioners of Stanmore - what are you doing to me? Nine months since we went into the first lockdown and through all that time - I hardly ever open my front door without finding: meals, goodies, desserts, cakes and more left outside. Most of them are anonymous. Some of you have owned up. Leaving aside all my teasing, I simply want to say a very big THANK YOU to everybody contributing to the fatter Father campaign. Please help me to be a 'fitter' Father though. (Father Michael)

Hidden tasks

Throughout the months, the church grounds and gardens have been tended. When we were open - our stewards and others looked after the cleaning of the church. Our on-line Masses and parish website have been maintained and supported by willing technicians and liturgy folk. Flowers on the sanctuary have been arranged. So many people have stayed in touch with each other. Loyal parishioners have continued to 'fund' the parish, plus many other willing hands and kindnesses. May the Lord bless in abundance the whole parish family. Father M

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2020 at 3pm

The Christmas Carol sing-a-long will be going ahead this year but will be moving to ZOOM. As you know, we are not allowed to sing together in church, however holding this event on Zoom will allow us to sing to our heart's content in the safety of our own homes. I hope many of you will be able to join and if you are able to lead a carol (in a similar way to what our musicians do on Sunday) then please let Janice know on Pereira_janice@hotmail.com. Similarly if you need any help connecting on Zoom, either over the internet or phone, please let her know. Further details to follow but in the meantime, save the date and time – Sunday 13th December between 3pm and 4pm and don't forget to start baking those mince pies. It will be a lovely way for us all to be "together" before Christmas.

SUNDAY MASS OPPORTUNITIES !!! - a widespread invitation!

At this time and trying to respect guidelines and social distancing - the available Sunday Masses are

Friday 7pm; Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8am and 10am

Monday 9.30am

Additional weekday Mass on Tuesday 9.30am : no public Mass on Wednesday or Thursday

Church Safety Arrangements – A Reminder

- Face Masks must be worn at all times whilst in the Church,
- Please observe safe distancing and the one-way traffic flow system that is in place,
- Please follow the direction of the Marshals on the seating arrangements, and stay in the assigned pew seat, a restricted number of 48 remains in place which will be adhered to.
- Holy Communion is distributed after the final Prayers and Blessing, with Parishioners expected to exit the Church, not returning to their seat,
- The Toilet facility remains out of use,
- Hand sanitizers are sited at the Entrance and Exit from the Church for personal use,
- The weekly newsletter will be available for collection on leaving, with baskets placed for the Offertory offerings,
- If you are feeling unwell, suffering from a cold or cough, please do not attend Church.