

# St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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Mass - Sunday  
Sat 5.30pm (1st Mass of Sunday)  
Sunday 8am & 10am  
Weekdays  
Mass Monday Tuesday & Saturday 9.30 am  
Thursday As announced  
Mass on Friday 7pm  
Confessions: Saturday 10am – 10.30am & on call

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

20/21 February 2021

Saturday 20th February

5.30pm Chris Taylor RIP  
(Tony & Elvira)

Sunday 21st February  
1st Sunday of Lent

8am People of the parish

10am Private intention

Monday 22nd February  
The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

9.30am McShane Intention

Tuesday 23rd February

9.30am Maria Ritina Dias RIP  
(Anniv)

Wednesday 24th February

NO PUBLIC MASS

Thursday 25th February

NO LITURGY

Friday 26th February

7pm Stations of the Cross with  
Holy Communion

Saturday 27th February

5.30pm John Pollard Intention

Sunday 28th February  
2nd Sunday of Lent

8am Mary Berwick RIP

10am Carey intention

## The First Sunday of Lent: a new covenant with Noah: Christ in the wilderness

Always on the first Sunday of Lent we hear about Jesus fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. The devil tries to tempt Him. Though not in the same dramatic way, Lent offers us a similar challenge. Lent is not a 'quick fix'; it is a lengthy journey and an invitation. The experience of the Corona-virus that we have been living through has been much longer than 40 days and perhaps more to come? It has been an ordeal and perhaps like our Lord in the wilderness we, in our lockdown equivalent, have been dis-oriented and tempted. On Ash Wednesday - we were reminded to 'turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel'. Remember that God is ever faithful. He has made a holy pact with humanity. It is called a 'covenant'. The Lord speaking to Noah in the first reading establishes a covenant with the whole earth.

## The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2021

Over the last year many of the regular extra 'door' collections have not taken place. Good causes (sick and elderly priests, CAFOD, priestly training and others) have had to go without. During this Lent - you will find envelopes at the back of the church for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. With Caritas - this collection helps to provide food for children and families in our parishes and communities who are facing hunger. It also supports our brothers and sisters through the pandemic - including 'trafficked' women and exploited families. The envelopes are at the back of the church. Please collect and make your contribution if you can, popping the envelopes into the now regular collection baskets, On the posters on the central inside doors you will find a 'scan to GIVE' possibility. This collection remains open throughout the 40 days of Lent.

## First Holy Communion 2021 - REGISTRATION

Given the circumstances - preparation for our First Holy Communion children will this year be largely 'remote'. Application forms are in the church porch or may be collected from outside the parish house. Please return/email to the parish by March 1. Further details available soon.

## Lenten opportunities

A very powerful Lenten devotion is the 'Way of the Cross' which our parish will pray each Friday of Lent at 7pm with the distribution of Holy Communion. Take this opportunity. The Stations of the Cross speak to our daily lives. Prayer and fasting are also very much at the heart of Lent.

Pope Francis in his book writes of Lent in positive terms - "This Lent, may

we be increasingly concerned with 'speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn'. 'In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference.' To gaze on and recognise a brother or sister!

### **WE ARE OPEN!**

Thankfully our parish church opening seems to have settled into a regular pattern. Sunday Mass times are consistent with pre-COVID. The Lord has blessed the parish with a small group of 'totally dependent' stewards who open up, assist with arrivals and seating and sanitise after church use. Other volunteers also assist. Thank you to all involved and to all who co-operate.

### **Church Safety Arrangements**

- Face Masks must be worn at all times whilst in the Church,
- Please observe safe distancing and no intermingling between households,
- Follow 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 42 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,
- If you are feeling unwell, suffering from a cold or cough, please do not attend Church.

**Do you want to fast this Lent?** In the words of Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints: contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words; be silent and listen



### **Counters Rota**

21 February Richard Afonso, Walter Acuti, Beatrice McAdam  
28 February Judith Brightwell, Monica Assoku, Funmi Da Silva

"IN *Happy*  
MOMENTS,  
PRAISE GOD.  
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,  
SEEK *God.*  
IN QUIET  
MOMENTS,  
*trust* GOD.  
IN EVERY MOMENT,  
THANK *God.*"