St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST Fr Jonathan Goodall, 1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ

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Parish Safeguarding

Representative: Mr R Chandler (r chandler@sky.com)

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 personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

17/18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 17 December

Advent feria of the day No morning Mass 4.30-5.15 Confessions 5.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday Lawrence (sickness)

SUNDAY 18 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

[Daily Office Psalter week 4]
 8.00 Mass People of the Parish
 10.00 Parish Mass and Angelus
 Barbara Chandler RIP (Anniv)

Mon 19 Dec Advent feria of the day 9.30 **Mass** Maria Shukla (Thanksgiving)

5.30-6.30 Adoration & Confessions

Tues 20 Dec Advent feria of the day 9.30 **Mass** Sr Rosanna O'Grady (90th Birthday)

5.30-6.30 Adoration & Confessions

Wed 21 Dec Advent feria of the day

9.30 Mass Maureen Ride RIP

5.30-6.30 Adoration & Confessions
Thu 22 Dec Advent feria of the day

No Mass day

Fri 23 Dec *Advent feria of the day* From 3.30-6.30pm

Adoration and Confessions

7.00pm Mass Martha Fahey RIP

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

9.30 Christmas Eve Morning Mass John Okenabirhie (Thanksgiving for 80th birthday)

5.30 Vigil Mass of Christmas
 James Balfe RIP (Anniv)
11.00pm Carols and Readings
followed by Christmas 'Mass during
the Night' Malcolm & Chrissie Cussell

SUNDAY 25 December

8.00 Christmas 'Mass at Dawn'

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Year A)

Tricia & John Annessa 10.00 Christmas' Mass during the Day' People of the Parish

Monday 26 December

St Stephen's Day [Boxing Day] 10.00am Mass Nora Balfe

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME.

PREPARATION BEFORE 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.

DURING MASS Last week we began using other congregational responses provided in the Missal.

At the Greeting:

Priest Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

During the Eucharistic Prayer:

Priest The mystery of faith.

Congregation Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free!

At the Dismissal:

Priest Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Congregation Thanks be to God!

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

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT 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**. (New Mass cards, far simpler to follow, are in preparation.)

The **Readings** for today's Mass are to be found in the gold Parish Mass Book on pp.91—93.

Today's psalm response is: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

HAVING FOCUSED our attention for several weeks on the second coming of Jesus as Lord and Judge, the Church invites us now to focus our attention and our prayer on the events surrounding his coming among us in Bethlehem a little over two thousand years ago. Today the scripture readings remind us, through the prophet Isaiah, of God's *long-term* preparations for the sending of Messiah, and, also, the *immediate* preparation for Mary's pregnancy through the angelic revelations to St Joseph. Eight centuries before that birth, a specific promise came from the mouth of Isaiah: a descendent of the royal house of David, a sign that henceforth God *dwells-with* his people,

which is what "Emmanuel" means. And these prophetic words were precisely the words which came immediately into Joseph's mind after he had been visited by an angel in his dream.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 7.10–14 The smaller kingdoms of the Near East were under threat from the expansionist ambitions of the Assyrian king. Ahaz was in the grip of fear as were the neighbouring states. God motivated him to ask him a favour and to appeal to him for protection. The king procrastinated and kicked for touch: he did not address a prayer to God. Isaiah reproved the king and others for their lack of confidence in God. Ahaz had essentially abdicated his authority and the consequences were drastic. Isaiah encouraged the people to put their trust in the maiden's son who will be called "Emmanuel". Was this a prophecy which had currency toward the end of the 1st century BC when messianic expectation had reached a fever pitch in Palestine? Would Joseph have been familiar with it from his sabbath-day attendance at the synagogue?

Second Reading (NT): Romans 1.1–7 The widespread use of email may have done away with visiting cards. They have not lost their uses however: a name, an address, email contact, phone number, and a logo all help to *identify* us, and lodge a person in our memory. I still have visiting cards from various people who I worked with at Westminster Abbey in the 90s! This reading is St Paul's visiting card, his introduction of himself in the opening lines of his letter to the Christians in the imperial capital, Rome, whom he had not yet met. It also introduces us to Paul and reminds us of how significant he was.

Gospel: Matthew 1.18–24 This is St Matthew's version of the Annunciation story: the angel speaks to *Joseph*.

Calling Servers, or would-be servers Please would you (or parents of younger servers) add your name and email address *before Christmas* to the list currently in the outer Sacristy? Such details will only be used by Robert Chandler or Fr Jonathan for *contact* purposes.

Confessions before Christmas In addition to making a personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan at any time, please note the times **throughout this week** there will be **Adoration and opportunity for Confession** as follows:

Mon, Tues, Wed 19—21 Dec 5.30-6.30 Adoration and Confessions From 3.30-6.30 Adoration and Confessions

Don't prepare your Christmas lunch better than you prepare your Christmas Communion. The grace of this Sacrament is the best way of preparing to celebrate Christmas.

Christmas is, naturally enough, a **Holy Day of Obligation** for all Catholic Christians, the next after that being the **Epiphany** on Friday 6 January.

Catholics Christmas Collections Since this year Christmas falls on a Sunday we wanted to make it clear that any offering given in the normal planned giving methods is for the benefit of the Church; anything given in the special Christmas Offering envelopes will be for the benefit of Fr Jonathan. As in previous years, should you wish to make a separate donation to Fr Jonathan at any time then you should mark the envelope for the attention of Fr Jonathan.

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! Ever felt you were in a minority as a young Catholic? Would you enjoy the encouragement of a 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 in the shadow of **Wembley** Stadium. Taking place on Saturday, **4 March 2023** – 150 days ahead of the World Youth Day in Lisbon – Flame 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

Readers Rota

<u>17 December 5.30</u> Martin Rush <u>18 December 8.00</u> Daphne Byron

18 December 10.00 Readings Georgia Nwawulor, Bidding prayers Robert Chandler

<u>24 December 5.30 Monika Tabarrok</u> <u>24 December 11.00pm</u> Tim & Mel Goodger

 $\underline{\textbf{25 December 8.00}} \ \textbf{Rose Okosi} \ \underline{\textbf{25 December 10.00}} \ \textbf{Readings John McIntyre, Bidding prayers Carol-Anne Chandler}$

26 December 10.00 31 December 5.30 Jennifer Bourke

<u>1 January 8.00</u> Freda Adzinku

1 January 10.00 Readings Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers Derrick Pereira & family