

ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

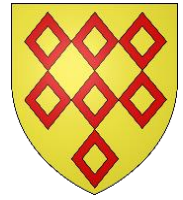
1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ | 020 8954 1299 (Presbytery and Office) | stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699

Parish Priest: **The Revd Fr Jonathan Goodall**

Administrator: Mrs Frances Bright (10am-5pm Wednesday)

Safeguarding Representative: Mr Robert Chandler 020 8207 3509 or stanmoressg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk

Hall Manager: Mr Marcello Borgese 07973 601208 (enquiries by text, with full name and preferred dates)



2-3 December 2023 – Advent Sunday

“What I tell you”, said Jesus, “I tell everyone: Keep watch!” Mark 13.37

This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary	
Sat 2 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of the 34th Week of the Year</i> Mass – Private intention
SUN 3 R: Glorious 8am 10am 6pm	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) <i>Lectionary year of St Mark begins</i> Mass – For John Goodall RIP (Anniv.) Parish Mass – For effective Christian unity Evening Prayer at St John's
Mon 4 9.30am R: Joyful	<i>St John of Damascus, Memorial</i> Mass – For Andrew Marioni RIP
Tues 5 9.30am R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of Advent</i> Mass – For Rinaldo Liparotti RIP
Wed 6 9.30am R: Glorious	<i>St Nicholas, Memorial</i> Mass – Protection and safety for the Nwawulor family travelling
Thurs 7 R: Luminous	<i>St Ambrose, Memorial</i> No mass [Gospel: Matthew 7.21, 24-7]
Fri 8 7pm R: Sorrowful	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION <i>Solemnity (no fasting)</i> Mass – For Rosemary Walls (Birthday thanksgiving)
Sat 9 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Advent I</i> Mass – For Veronica Desouza RIP (Anniversary)
SUN 10 8am 10am R: Glorious	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass – For the people of the parish Parish Mass – For Anthony Mendonca RIP (Anniversary)

◆ **Reconciliation (Confession)** 20 mins before any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at any time by appointment

◆ **Baptism, Confirmation (First Communion), Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage:** all by appointment – please contact Fr Jonathan

◆ **Funerals:** by arrangement through Funeral Directors

Northwick Park Hospital for a chaplain contact 020 8967 5130

Returning to faith? or to the Church? You may find **Catholic Listeners** (a free telephone helpline) useful. 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, on 0800 448 0704

◆ **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. Thanks.

A WARM WELCOME to Mass today, especially if you are new to the parish. **Please take this newsletter home.**

◆ **Before Mass, when the tower bell rings, pray 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.

◆ **The ORDER of Mass** on the new pew Mass Card.

◆ **After the Greeting: Lighting the Advent Wreath:**

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the Mass Lectionary is:

Advent 1 **The Patriarchs** Advent 3 **St John the Baptist**

Advent 2 **The Prophets** Advent 4 **The Blessed Virgin**

As we look towards Christ's promised final coming, each Sunday reminds us of those who prepared for His first coming.

Pr Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:

All **To You be praise and glory for ever.**

Pr You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

All **May we be obedient to Your call:**

ready and watchful to receive Your Christ,

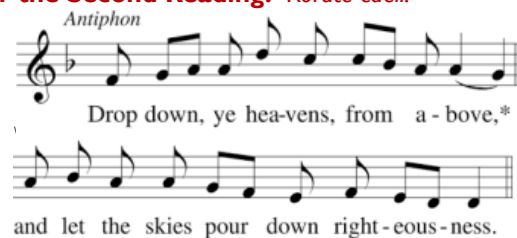
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for You, Lord, are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever!

◆ **Today's readings** are to be found on **pp.82—84** of the *Parish Mass Book*. The psalm response is: **'God of hosts bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.'**

◆ **After the Second Reading: *Rorate caeli:***



◆ **After the Dismissal: *Alma redemptoris mater:***

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 you for aid.

3 O by that joy
which Gabriel brought to thee,
O Virgin pure
let us your mercy see.

☩ The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

☩ **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

POUR forth we beseech Thee, **O Lord** ...

REFLECTIONS on today's scriptures As Christians we live in a permanent state of expectation "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ". For the greater part of the season of Advent, with which we inaugurate a new liturgical year, we focus our gaze on the 'second' coming of the Lord at the close of the age. How we can be best prepared for the Lord's return? We know that it will be an unexpected moment, so we are challenged to be daily alert. Advent also invites us to reflect on the many ways in which God is present in our world and present to us in our day-to-day lives.

First Reading: Isaiah 63.16-17,19; 64.3-7 There is an urgency in the prayer of the prophet Isaiah. The world needs God, and the prophet pleads for divine intervention. He wants the clouds to be ripped open, and that God ride to the rescue of his sinful people. Earlier in the prophet's writings (Isaiah 48.5) God was invited to send down his unique holy one, the just one [the Messiah], like rain from heaven - everywhere. That text inspired one of the oldest and greatest

Advent hymns of the Latin liturgy, *Rorate caeli desuper* which we sing each Sunday until Christmas.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1.3-9 The early Christians of Corinth (just west of Athens) had just received the gospel message through the preaching of Paul and they lived in expectation that the Lord's return was imminent. Paul is aware that his preaching to the people of Corinth and elsewhere makes what God revealed in Jesus known to many more people, and that there are many (including succeeding generations) who yet have to receive the gift of revelation. It is an urgent message because 'you do not know the day nor the hour' of the Lord's return. But more than that, the full revelation of God's purpose will come only with the Lord's second (glorious) return.

Gospel: Mark 13.33-37 The disciples were always keen to know when and how he might return. This whole chapter is full of this theme. But all Jesus would do, however, was to advise them, "you don't want to be asleep!" Vigilance!

Today, if it were not Advent Sunday, would be the feast of **St Francis Xavier**. He was co-founder of the Jesuits and one of the greatest early modern missionaries of times, strengthening the Church in India and founding it in Japan. He died near Hong Kong, but is enshrined in Goa. Thank God for the strengthening of the Church here by Goan Christians.

THIS EVENING 6pm @ St John's is the Stanmore churches' annual Advent joint evening prayer. I encourage you to join me there. Fr JG

NEXT Sat, 9 December, SANTA DASH in aid of St Luke's Hospice - see poster on the noticeboard. Dress up as Santa for a 5km dash. Registration (£5) opens Nower Hill High School Pinner HA5 5RP from 10am.

Sat 16 December Fr Jonathan will be leading an Advent retreat morning (10-2) - **'A new heaven and a new earth'** - at St John Fisher, 80 Imperial Close HA2 7LW

Flowers for Christmas The flower team would be very grateful for any donations towards a 'Christmas Flower Fund'. Please use the designated wall-safe in the Narthex.

WANTED! More readers and servers 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.**

Pope's prayer request in December **for persons with disabilities** "that they may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."

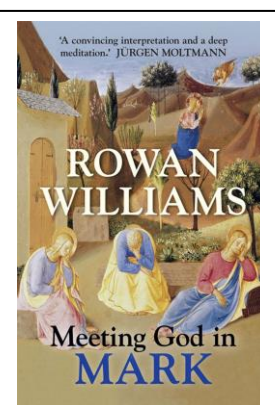
Know St William's past? The remaining copies of the parish history are available in the Narthex for a suggested price of £3 (to parish funds)

Votive lights burn this week for

Our Lady: Fr. Edward Carolan RIP and members of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate
St William:
St Catherine: John & Molly Goodall RIP

Weekly Almsgiving

26/11/2023	Loose Plate	£271.16
	Envelopes	£177.00
	Standing Orders & Online	£484.50
	Total	£932.66



Fr Timothy Radcliffe: 'I could not put it down!'

Week-long Votive Lamps

A week-long lamp (£10 per lamp) will burn for your intentions in one of three places: the altar of Our Lady, or beside St William or St Catherine on the Sanctuary. State your preference.

Envelopes in the narthex.

Christmas Cards are in! ... the Repository. They're from Aid to the Church in Need. **Please support this cause.**

Holy Land internet links for ongoing donations as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza develops ...

- cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/
- embraceme.org/gazacrisis
- abcdbethlehem.org/abcd-news/abcd-crisis-appeal

So you can plan Christmas, Mass times will be as follows:

Sun 24th: 5.30pm Christmas Vigil for families;

NB 10pm Carols and 'Mass during the Night'

Mon 25th: 8am 'at Dawn'; **10am** 'during the Day'

There will be plenty of opportunities for Confession throughout the week before. Please! plan to make your confession.

Stuck for a Christmas present ... especially for a confirmation candidate? Why not consider giving a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*? Either the full thing: £15 paperback; or the *Compendium* version: £9 hardback. Get those questions answered ...

First Confession and Holy Communion 2024 Starting in **January**, there will be classes most Sundays until the end of May. The application forms are now available. **Please return them to Fr J or Carol-Anne by mid-December.**

Readers rota	2 Dec 5.30pm	Noretta Reece
	3 Dec 8am	Daphne Byron
	10am	Joseph Arthur, Patrick Arthur
	9 Dec 5.30pm	Lily Meghji
	10 Dec 8am	Freda Adzinku
	10am	Derrick Pereira & family, Tim & Mel Goodger

Church Cleaning rota

9 Dec Team C	Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira
16 Dec Team A	Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam