

# St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



## PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jonathan Goodall, 1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ  
Telephone: 020 8954 1299  
Email: stanmore@rcdow.org.uk  
<http://swoy.weebly.com>  
Registered Charity No 233699

HALL ENQUIRIES: text message to 07973 601208 (Marcello Borgese)  
PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP:  
Mr Robert 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 arrangement with Fr Jonathan

## MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

31 December 2022/1 January 2023

### Sat 31 December

5.30pm **Vigil Mass**

People of the Parish

### SUNDAY 1 January

#### MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

8.00 **Mass** Margaret Goode RIP

10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**

Barbara Chandler RIP

### Mon 2 Jan *Sts Basil and*

*Gregory Nazianzen, Memorial*

9.30 **Mass** Ana Marie Samatra

### Tues 3 Jan *Holy Name of Jesus,*

*Memorial*

9.30 **Mass** William Fahey RIP

### Wed 4 Jan *Christmas Feria of the day*

9.30 **Mass** Jane & Kevin Goodyear

### Thurs 5 Jan *Christmas Feria of the day*

**No Mass day**

### Fri 6 Jan **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

7.00pm **Mass** Roque Dias RIP

(1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

### Sat 7 Jan *St Raymond of Penyafort,*

*Memorial*

4.30-5.15pm **Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass**

Anne Coyle RIP (Anniv)

### SUNDAY 8 January

#### **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** (Year A)

*The season of Christmas ends*

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**

Roque Dias RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

**WELCOME** to all at Mass today, especially if you have not been to Mass for a while. You are very welcome, and we are pleased to see you, and hope we shall see you again. **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.

**AFTER THE 10am MASS** ... refreshments and chance to connect in the Parish Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

**MOTHER OF GOD** **The Order of Mass** can be followed in the gold 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.109-11**.

Today's psalm response is: **O God be gracious to us and bless us**

THIS WEEK sees the two other great 'solemnities' of the Christmas season, other than Christmas Day itself – the feast of the *Mother of God*, and that of the *Epiphany*. Today we celebrate the motherhood of Mary, the Church's feast every year on new year's day, which does not always fall on a Sunday. So today is a rarity. The homily will of course focus our thoughts on that. Here I want to draw your attention to the Epiphany, on Friday, which is a **Holy Day of Obligation** for all Catholic Christians. The Mass will be at 7pm that evening. Please be there (or Mass somewhere) if you possibly can.

On the *first* day of Christmas (Christmas Day, 25 Dec) and the *last* (the twelfth day, Epiphany, 6 Jan) the Church celebrates two *very different* aspects of the coming of the Lord among us. The shepherds and the wise men were never in Jesus's company at the same time. So, what's the difference then? It's huge once you spot it.

On the night of Christmas a child is born in a stable, the only witnesses to this birth being shepherds – people who were virtual outcasts in ancient Jewish society – who have been informed by angels that the Saviour has been born. But this is a private revelation, the significance of the birth only known to the child's parents and these humble visitors. And, even then, their understanding of what had happened was only partial: Mary meditated over all these things in her heart and, as we see from various episodes in her Son's public life and even at Calvary, she sometimes struggled to fully comprehend what God was doing in her life.

On the twelfth day of Christmas the Church celebrates a very different coming – and by now the holy family is in a 'house', and news of the birth of an auspicious child had spread and was worrying those in power. At

Epiphany we are concerned with a very public event. Epiphany means 'disclosure', 'revelation', 'showing forth', 'making plain'. The witnesses this time were the three 'magi', wise seers, who represent the three then-known continents, i.e. the whole world beyond the land of Palestine. The wise men, who followed a star to reach Christ, who intuited that something marvellous had occurred and that God had entered our world, were from the world of the Gentiles, i.e. *our world*. That means Epiphany is *our* feast! It is a celebration of God being revealed to all the cultures of the non-Jewish world.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 60.1–6** Isaiah draws here a dramatic picture of what he sees as happening when God visits his people. His prophecy corresponds very much to what happened in the Epiphany. The event itself, although public, was restricted to few and discreet. But with the birth of Jesus and with the revelation to the wise men (the whole world) that the Divine Life was fully present in the new-born child, Divine Light had 'stepped into' the world. The minds and hearts of men and women were henceforth illuminated by Jesus. He declared himself later the 'Light of the World' and in his account of the nativity St John too asserts that Divine Light had appeared in the world, but the people received him not. This OT reading from Isaiah – our constant companion throughout Advent and Christmas – challenges us to open our minds to the light the Christ shines direct into our experience of life.

**Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 3.2–3. 5–6** In writing to the early Christians in Ephesus (A city on the modern Turkish coast) Paul is emphasising that the secret that was kept under wraps for generations in the Jewish tradition – and that heathen/Gentile/pagan/godless human societies too were called by God-in-Christ, and salvation was his gift to them too – has now been revealed. It is for that reason that Epiphany is very much **our Christmas**, the child Jesus who reveals himself in his divinity brings salvation to **all** men and women of good will.

**Gospel: Matthew 2.1–12** Let us get behind the familiar story to understand the true significance of the Epiphany, let us join the wise men in welcoming Jesus into our culture, our lives.

**Thanks from all of us** May I take this opportunity – on behalf of us all – to thank publicly all parishioners who contributed to the preparations and the delivery of Christmas. There are some 'take-home' thoughts for next year's, and if you want to make any suggestions for Fr Jonathan, *please speak up!* But we would have had a far poorer Christmas had it not been for the generous help and collaboration of so many. Please! consider yourselves warmly thanked by the whole parish.

**From Mon 9 to Friday 13 January** Fr Jonathan will be taking a short post-Christmas break, to make a short pilgrimage to Fatima, with the intention of praying for his mother, who died on 20 December. Please pray for him and his family. The funeral Mass will be later in the month.

**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](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-looks-forward-to-flame-2023)

**Adult Confirmations 2023** If you have never been confirmed and would like to be prepared for one of this year's Adult Confirmation dates in the Cathedral (**21 January, 22 April, and 23 September**), or indeed confirmation here in the parish, *please* let Fr Jonathan know. If you have simply never been confirmed, and are unsure why you *should* receive this wonderful sacrament, please speak up!

**The Holy Father's prayer intention** for the month of January, a prayer intention that all Catholics can share in together, is for educators: "that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the young people and the most vulnerable above all."

#### **Readers Rota**

<u>31 December 5.30</u> Jennifer Bourke	<u>1 January 8.00</u> Freda Adzinku
<u>1 January 10.00</u> Readings Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers Derrick Pereira & family	
<u>7 January 5.30</u> Noretta Reece	<u>8 January 8.00</u> Audrey Da Costa
<u>8 January 10.00</u> Readings Patrick & Joseph Arthur, Bidding prayers Georgia Nwawulor	
<u>14 January 5.30</u> Lily Meghji	<u>15 January 8.00</u> Georgina Martins
<u>15 January 10.00</u> Readings Robert Chandler, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger	