

St. William of York Catholic Church



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 personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

24/25 December 2022

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Year A)

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

BH Monday 26 December

St Stephen Boxing Day
10.00am Mass Nora Balfe

Tues 27 December St John the Apostle
No Mass

Wed 28 December Holy Innocents
No Mass

Thu 29 December St Thomas Becket
No Mass

Friday 30 December
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
7pm Mass Sr. Veronica Rinnie

Saturday 31 December
7th Day of the Octave of Christmas
5.30pm Vigil Mass
People of the Parish

SUNDAY 1 January MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Year A)

8.00 Mass Margaret Goode RIP
10.00 Parish Mass and Angelus
Barbara Chandler RIP

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.**

CHRISTMAS DAY The **Order of Mass** can be followed on the special service sheets. The **Readings** for today's Mass are to be found in the gold Parish Mass Book – for the **Vigil Mass** from **p.95**, for the **Midnight Mass** from **p.98**, for **Christmas Day** from **p.103**

Something to celebrate Today we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ, second only to Easter as the greatest Christian feast. We celebrate that God became man, and dwelt among us. If we're blessed, we'll celebrate with family, with presents, eating and carols, Christmas tele and games, and, first and foremost, with sacred worship. The thing about Christmas is that, whether we're feeling 'in the spirit of the season' or not, we'll celebrate it. Something marks the occasion out. No matter how little Christianity appears to influence our society, every year it keeps *this day* like no other, with a real feast! With joy.

And that's *a really good thing*. If every knee is to bow at the name of Jesus, it seems to be a very *good* thing that many people who don't ordinarily follow Him will take a day to celebrate the birth of the most predicted, and the most celebrated, human life, ever. This merriment and joy—perhaps the only moment in the year when a unifying culture overtakes everything else—simply *cannot be separated* from the goodness of what Christians call The Incarnation.

Quite often people who say that they are not believers have, in truth, lost a handle on what Christianity *actually is*. And yet, Christmas somehow manages to convey the possibility of togetherness, kindness, reconciliation; of the holiness and the beauty of life; of the veneration and admiration due to a new-born child; of the possibility that there might be angels out there shouting at the tops of their voices, "Peace to people of goodwill."

And it doesn't take much to see, and to proclaim, that it is CHRIST who is at the centre of all those things. So Christmas is therefore a moment for the

Church—that is, us—to consider how Jesus Christ might be *more fully proclaimed* — and how we might more visibly, faithfully, and joyfully give our witness to him.

Going deeper But if non-believers have lost a handle on what Christianity actually is, should Christians not also ask, 'what even is the Incarnation, then?'

First of all, 'the Incarnation'—God becoming flesh and living among us—is a paradox, because it is a way of talking about two very unequal things. On the one hand, the *un-created being* of God, and on the other, our *created being*, of flesh and dust.

So you have to look at 'the Incarnation' from two different angles. From God's point of view, first. At the centre of the word 'incarnation' you have '*caro*' – taking flesh. When we do that in the womb we humans become full of potential. When *God* does it, he submits to a restriction. He who is everywhere, in whom

everything was made, chooses to be present in a single body. That person, Jesus Christ, therefore becomes a walking revelation about God.

But, second, it's really important to look at the Incarnation from the point of view of the *flesh*. You remember in Scripture there's that repeated phrase 'all flesh'. In the Genesis story of Noah's ark, '*All flesh* had become corrupt', and in Advent we hear from the prophets that '*All flesh* shall see the glory of the Lord'. What Christian faith professes is not that God decided to be one man for 33 years as a guest of the earth. But that '*all flesh*' was changed. Being human *after* His Incarnation isn't the same as being human before – regardless of whether or not you believe in Christ or even know that Christ ever walked on this Earth. The Incarnation of God opened all human life—'all flesh'—up to eternity. 'The Incarnation' is something miraculous about God humbling Himself in a wordless child. But it is also something *equally miraculous* about you and me, and *all flesh*!

Christmas Greetings from the Presbytery

Dear Friends: I would like to take the opportunity of this newsletter to thank you, together with my wife, for all your kindness and generosity during our first months here in Stanmore.

May Christ Jesus, the Incarnate Word, be close to you, and all those you love and pray for, this Christmas and throughout the Year of Our Lord 2023.

With our gratitude and prayers: Fr Jonathan & Sarah Goodall

Crib Offerings 2022 "The Catholic Children's Society is helping local disadvantaged children and families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis with immediate practical support. Our sole aim is to help vulnerable families in greatest need." Our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important task. **Please contribute** near the Crib in church, or via the Society's website: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

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.

The Epiphany, on Friday 6 January, marks the ending of the feast of Christmas, and is a **Holy Day of Obligation** for all Catholic Christians. The Mass will be at 7pm that evening.

Application Forms for First Holy Communion 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 Servers *Please* would all altar servers – or would-be altar servers – or their parents – send Fr Jonathan an email contact to stanmore@rcdow.org.uk. Such details will only be used by Robert Chandler or Fr Jonathan for *contact* purposes.

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

Adult Confirmations 2023 The next Adult Confirmation dates in the Cathedral are **21 January, 22 April, and 23 September**. If you have never been confirmed and would like to be prepared for either April or September, please let me know. If you have not been confirmed and are unsure *why* you *should* receive this wonderful sacrament please speak up! *Fr Jonathan*

Readers Rota

24 December 5.30pm Monika Tabarrok 24 December 11pm Arthur Family, Walter Acuti, Tim & Mel Goodger
25 Dec 8am Rose Okosi 25 December 10am Readings John McIntyre, Bidding prayers Carol-Anne Chandler
31 December 5.30 Jennifer Bourke 1 January 8.00 Freda Adzinku
1 January 10.00 Readings Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers Derrick Pereira & family
7 January 5.30 Noreta Reece 8 January 8.00 Audrey Da Costa
8 January 10.00 Readings Patrick & Joseph Arthur, Bidding prayers Georgia Nwawulor