



**THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST. WILLIAM OF YORK**

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**CHRISTMAS DAY THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (A)  
25 DECEMBER 2022  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (A)  
1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**“Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to those on whom his  
favour rests” (Lk.2:14)**



**Merry Christmas and Happy new year 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

**I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas! Thank you all for your support, good wishes, cards and gifts. May the New born Jesus bless and protect you today and always. Fr. Habte**

As we celebrate the nativity of our Lord and begin the Christmas season, we ponder on the incarnation of the Lord our Saviour, his love and solidarity with us in our joy and pain, and his care and love for our lives. We give thanks to God who shared our humanity and fragility to save us.

We pray that we Christians not only enjoy the joy that comes from the knowledge of this love, but learn from it and make sure that this joy carries us through each and every day of the coming year. May the joy the Lord offers to all of us this day find a worthy place in our hearts and souls.

Thank you for your care and generosity that has provided so much for those in need around us and many parts of the world through your prayer and gifts throughout the year.

I would especially like to thank all those who support the parish throughout the year and in this special season of Christmas, Altar Servers, Sacristans and Catechists, parents and children who came to lead, and read at our Christmas Family and all our Christmas Masses; to our Music Group; Musicians, greeters, Stewards, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist; the art group and all who worked hard in collaboration with the art group, those who help decorate the Church for Christmas, those who organised the Carol Service; (both the school and the parish) those who came to clean the church, arrange flowers and the Crib. All who support the parish through their good will and prayer. Your support to our parish keeps it to be lively and enables us to fulfil its mission.

May almighty God bless and protect you. I wish you a very happy new year 2023.

Fr Habte

### **TODAY'S READINGS -**

Isaiah 52.7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -**

The Gospel above (which we read at Midnight Mass) reminds us that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses especially the poverty of the family: Christ comes to the poor and is greeted by the poor. Mary and Joseph are displaced persons, and can find no decent place for the baby to be born. There is no space in the living-quarters and he has to be put in a feeding-trough among the animals. He is greeted not by the rich presents of the magnificent wise men from the East, but by impoverished hired shepherds, guarding flocks in the winter night. He is born to be the patron of the homeless and of displaced persons.

But Jesus is also the fulfilment of the hopes of the Old Testament. The families both of John the Baptist and of Jesus are eminently faithful to the prescriptions of the Law, waiting for the salvation promised to Israel. In the Temple Jesus will be greeted by Simeon and Anna, the representatives of fidelity to the Old Law. The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem shows that he is born as the heir to the promises to David, that God would build David a house of everlasting sovereignty, whose king would be the Son of God and would call God his Father. *What does the Christmas story tell us about Jesus?*

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS -**

Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

The cosy picture of the bright-eyed child in the clean wooden manger (with the ox and the ass peeping in from a respectful distance) is misleading. The picture should be one of destitution. There was no room for the new-born in the normal living quarters, and the worried mother had to lodge him in the only space available, a feeding-trough for cattle, perched on top of their fodder. That was where the ragged sheep-minders found him. They too were the poorest of the poor, no sheep of their own, just hired for the night. Perhaps they got a drink of goats'-milk or a crust of bread for their shivering pains. Matthew does at least have the baby worshipped by those rather splendid Wise Men from the East, with their noble and symbolic gifts. No gifts forthcoming from today's rough crew. As we worry about our post-Christmas waistlines, it makes us reflect on where true blessedness lies, and who are the chosen ones of the Lord. Surely God could have rustled up more suitable worshippers for his Incarnate Son than these scruffy down-and-outs? No, I'm afraid not.

*Why is the poverty of Mary and Jesus so strongly stressed?*

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Please take a Christmas card so that you and your family have the Mass times at hand over the Christmas season. You can also find the Christmas card also on the website and Facebook page and by following this link [Christmas Card](#)

There will be four masses over Christmas: Christmas Eve 6.00pm & Midnight and Christmas Day 9.30am & 11.30am

- The Christmas Day 9.30am Mass will be specifically dedicated for families. Children will be involved in leading and animating the liturgy.
- Midnight Mass and 11.30am Mass on Christmas day will be live streamed.

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO THOSE ABLE TO TRAVEL AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS

We send our best Christmas wishes to those parishioners who are travelling away to be with family and friends, and those who will not be able to be with us on Christmas Day. May you have a great time.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO FR HABTE

The offering at all Christmas Masses is your personal offering to Fr Habte. Father Habte thanks you in anticipation for your generosity. Please use the red envelopes provided and Gift Aid where possible as the parish will benefit. Donations may also be given via the Contactless device in the Narthex, by scanning the QR code, via the secure link on our webpage [DONATE WITH DONA](#)



or directly to our parish bank account details below:-

- NatWest Bank, Sort Code 60-50-01, Account number 79124437
- Account name RCAS Forest Hill
- Reference - Your surname/Gift Aid no/Christmas Offering


If you will be away at Christmas, please use the red envelope and put it through the letter box of the presbytery whenever you can. Many thanks

## OCTAVE HOZANA ONLINE RETREAT

managed by the lay community of St Benedict

**Christ is born! Welcome Him into your hearts and homes by praying with the Scriptures this Christmas Octave**

The programme everyday, from Christmas to New Year's Day, receive:

- The daily Gospel 
- A meditation
- A prayer to conclude



<https://hozana.org/t/PTNAs> To subscribe click "Sign up"

The Lay Community of St Benedict was born in 1971 of the vision of the monks of Worth Abbey who invited young people to share in their experience of the monastic life. Today, 50 years later, we are an ecumenical community whose members meet and pray daily online, and meet physically in small local and regional groups, inspired by the Gospel. The legacy of St Benedict and Benedictine spirituality remain hugely relevant to the challenges facing us today and form the bedrock of our ecumenical life.

### **OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER**

This year, we shall be collecting for the work of the Catholic Children's society, supporting disadvantaged children and families in need within our schools and parishes in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can be.

**NEXT SUNDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY**, our Masses honouring the Mother of God, will be Saturday Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm, Sunday 9:30am and 11.30 am on New Year's Day.

### **THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2023**

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

### **2023 CALENDAR AVAILABLE**

The handy-sized Missio wall-calendar is available in the narthex in good time for next year – so please take one home. The picture on the front shows Sr Mary in Sri Lanka with a group of children in a project that Missio supports to enable them to go to school and playgroups. More details are in the calendar, which displays a full month at a time. Missio again thanks the parish for their generous donation for World Mission Sunday appeal amounting to over £600.

### **2023 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY**

Please use link below to access the 2023 Southwark directory which includes the Diocesan Calendar, Parishes, Mass times, Priests, Schools, Societies, Holy Days of Obligation and other useful information:-

[\*\*2023 Southwark Directory\*\*](#)

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will close from Tuesday 27th December and re-open on 3rd January 2023. The answer machine will be switched on and messages will be responded to. In an emergency, please come to the presbytery and if no answer at the door, please leave a written message. Thank you

**This newsletter is for two weekends. Please do not destroy it too soon!  
Our next newsletter will be issued for the Baptism of the Lord on  
Sunday 9th January 2023.**

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

**Herrintta Ihagbedua RIP**  
(sister of Anne Orieso)

**Joyce Précieux RIP**  
(mother of Irene)

Please pray for the families and friends of Herrintta & Joyce at this difficult time.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace.  
Amen

#### **MASS ATTENDEES**

3/4 Dec - 417    10/11 Dec- 251    17/18 Dec - 235

#### **PARISH DIARY**

<b>Sunday 8 Jan 3pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation 4th Session Parents Meeting</b>	<b>Church School Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 8 Jan 6pm</b>	<b>Confirmation 1st Session</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wednesday 11 Jan 8pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Saturday 14 Jan 9.15am</b>	<b>Instrumentalists</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Saturday 14 Jan 10am</b>	<b>Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	<b>Church</b>

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (A)**

**First Christmas Mass of the Nativity**

**Saturday 24 December 2022**

**18:00** Peter Hann RIP 3rd Anniversary

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Sunday 25 December 2022**

**Midnight** For the Parishioners **(live-streamed)**

**09:30** Family Mass

Adrian McGurran RIP

**11:30** Fr Tom Creagh-Fuller RIP 3rd Anniversary **(live-streamed)**

**Monday 26 December 2022 - St. Stephen, the first Martyr**

**10:30** Rita Tildesley RIP

**Tuesday 27 December 2022 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

**10:30** Herrintta Ihagbedua RIP

**Wednesday 28 December 2022 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**10:30** Adrian McGurran RIP **(live-streamed)**

**Thursday 29 December 2022 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr**

**10:30** Tim Dempsey RIP

**Friday 30 December 2022 - THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

**10:30** Mercy Ibini Birthday blessings

**Saturday 31 December 2022 - Seventh day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

**10:30** Yvonne Orieso Birthday Thanksgiving

**SOLEMNITY of MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (A)**

**World Day of Peace**

**Saturday 31 December 2022**

**18:00** Peter Hawick RIP

**Sunday 1 January 2023**

**09:30** Bridie Costello RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners **(live-streamed)**

Please access the live streaming by visiting:

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)

Reconciliations - Saturday 11-12 noon

**SOLEMNITY of MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (A)**

**World Day of Peace**

**Saturday 31 December 2022**

**18:00** Peter Hawick RIP

**Sunday 1 January 2023**

**09:30** Bridie Costello RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners **(live-streamed)**

**Monday 2 January 2023 - St Basil**

**10:30** Jessie Comerford (FM)

**Tuesday 3 January 2023 -**

**09:30** Anne Orieso Thanksgiving to God

**Wednesday 4 January 2023 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**09:30** Joy Devitt RIP **(live-streamed)**

**12:15** Funeral of Joyce Precieux RIP

**Thursday 5 January 2023 - Feria of Christmas Time**

**09:30** Anne Delaney RIP

**Friday 6 January 2023 - The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**10:30** Roisin McGill RIP

**20:00** For the Parishioners **(live-streamed)**

**Saturday 7 January 2023 - St. Raymond**

**10:30** Etheldreda White (FM)

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

**Saturday 7 January 2023**

**18:00** Nicola Rolt

**Sunday 8 January 2023**

**09:30** Adrian McGurran RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners

Please access the live streaming by visiting:

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)

Reconciliations - Saturday 11-12 noon