



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

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Fr Gregory Griffiths,
Deacon Amgad Gerges

Telephone:- 020 8690 4549 email:- foresthill@rcaos.org.uk



**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (B)
3 JANUARY 2021**

Dear Parishioners

On Wednesday 6th of January, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, we know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation". Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Fr. Habte

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Like Genesis, St John's Gospel begins at the beginning of all things. Before time itself there was only God, present in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Genesis describes the Spirit hovering over the waters and John tells that the Son of God is the Word through whom all things have their being. John is inspired by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News he received from Jesus, namely that Jesus is both God and man, that he became man to offer enlightenment and salvation to all people, and that he has been revealed in his glory as the only Son of the Father. All things were created through him, yet he himself became part of that creation and lived among us. He is the source of all life and the life he offers is enlightenment for all people, clearing away the darkness of our ignorance. He was not recognised by the very people God had chosen as his own, because he did not fit their image of what God should look like and they did not have the humility to question their own beliefs; but to all who accept him, he gives the power to become sons of God. For us, receiving the Gospel message from Scripture and through the Church, whilst accepting the Good News with joy, we too should continue humbly striving to grow closer to God. **PB**

Happy New year!

We wish you all a very Happy New year! 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, Fr Gregory and Deacon Amgad.

I would especially like to thank all those who support the parish throughout the year and in special season of Christmas, Deacon Amgad, Fr. Clive Ross, Altar Servers, Sacristans and Catechists, parents and children who came lead, and read at both the Christmas Family Masses; to our Music Group; Musicians, greeters, Stewards, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist; those who help decorate the Church for Christmas, those who organised the Carol Service; 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 enable us to fulfil its mission.

May almighty God bless and protect you.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

On Wednesday 6th January 2021 we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am and 8:00pm. Do join us for our celebration (there is no need to book in advance). Both Masses will be live-streamed so all those at home can join in our celebration.

COVID PRECAUTIONS IN CHURCH since the opening of the church after the first lockdown, we have been very responsible and careful in respecting the rules given by the government for the safe use of our church. I encourage you to continue doing so over the Christmas time. As you know London has now moved to tier 4, an indication of the seriousness of the spread of the virus. I particularly ask you to take all the precautions when you are in church and when you are exchanging Christmas cards.

OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER

This year, we shall be collecting for the work of Cabrini children's society and Southwark Crisis Fund.

NO BENEDICTION FOR THE COMING TWO WEEKS:-

We will have no exposition of the blessed sacrament, benediction and Rosary for the next two weeks. We will resume on Sunday 17th January 2021.

PARISH CRISIS FUND:- a Big Thank you to all our parishioners for your generous gifts towards our parish Crisis Fund, Because of your generosity we have been able to support 27 families and 67 children over this Christmas season

HEARTFELT THANKS AND A REMINDER THAT THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT LIVES IN US ALL

The job of scrutinising the parish finances after months of covid restrictions did not bring an expectation of 'Good News'. Since late March our church building, the central gathering point of our community, has been either closed or open to considerably fewer of us. Our parish relies heavily on the generosity of Mass attenders. How would we survive?

In fact the pandemic has caused a mobilisation of this community as we have come together in a spirit of heartfelt generosity. We have survived because the beating heart of our parish is you, dear friends.

TREASURE is the focus of the finance committee. With an immediate and unexpected reduction in physical attendance the parish faced the potentially devastating loss of a significant stream of reliable income. Without hesitation or invitation, the parish community has responded, shifting its contributions to bank transfers. At the same time, we saw an instant response to the ongoing need for funds for essential building maintenance and despite the financial uncertainty for so many of our parishioners there was an uplifting and generous giving to the fund created by Fr Habte for the relief of those in dire need.

At our meeting we were reminded by Fr Habte that this parish community has given equally generously of its precious TIME and endless TALENTS – painters, architects, engineers, website engineers, accountants, surveyors, musicians, committee members, the cleaning teams. This list is by no means complete.

This time last year we enjoyed a wonderful Carol service. We crammed ourselves into a crowded church, sang together and watched as during a reading of the Christmas story the 4 themes of Wait, Prepare, Rejoice and Love were visually represented in a race. Some might say that we were not prepared for the impact of this pandemic on our lives. I would suggest that you have all shown that our parish community has always been **PREPARED** to generously support and care for each other. As we **WAIT** for more 'normality' to return to our lives let us give thanks and **REJOICE** in the selfless giving of Time, Treasure and Talents by each one of you to your parish family and the demonstration of **LOVE** for each other in every small act.

Carol Kinch, Chairperson of the Parish Finance Committee

SWOY Christmas Productions!

We do hope that you enjoy each of these Christmas performances – they provide a fantastic record of this strange Covid Christmas 2020, but more importantly, a record of the amazing talent, confidence and achievements of our wonderful pupils at SWOY!

Nursery

I'm a Christmas Angel!

https://youtu.be/yh_ka38KkV0

Reception

Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer

https://youtu.be/Pv2iqquv_nw

Year One

Kings are Travelling

<https://youtu.be/bL8OsWQjQmA>

Year Two

The Christmas Story

<https://youtu.be/XBc57bNCjd4>

Year Three

Another Night Before Christmas

<https://youtu.be/RqeVPSI9Bso>

Year Four

Christingle

<https://youtu.be/pLTZ4SRVZaE>

Year Five

Jesus' Christmas Party

<https://youtu.be/29I-YDQadT0>

Year Six

Twas the Night Before Christmas

https://youtu.be/G1WK_t2Peco

We send every blessing to our parish schools, to the Headteachers, staff, governors, pupils and families who have been at the front line supporting one another though a very tough and difficult year.

We wish them all a safe and peaceful Christmas.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO FR HABTE & FR GREGORY

The offering at all Christmas Masses and throughout the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord and up to and including 6th January is your personal offering to the priests of the parish.

Father Habte and Father Gregory thank you in anticipation for your generosity. Please use the red envelopes provided and Gift Aid where possible as the parish will benefit. [Red envelope example](#)

Donations may also be sent directly to our parish bank account details clearly earmarked "[Christmas Offering](#)"

- **NatWest Bank**
- **Sort Code 60-50-01**
- **Account number 79124437**
- **Account name St William of York Reg Charity 1173050**
- **Reference - Your surname/Gift Aid no/Christmas Offering**

Parishioners may also donate their offerings to the priests using this link [JustGiving St William of York](#)

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

STEWARDING - HELP NEEDED:- Thank you so much for all stewards who volunteered to help in January. As the numbers grow during our Sunday Masses, the time to enter into the church is taking longer time. If you are a steward and happen to come to any of our Sunday Masses, please give the stewards on duty a hand to fasten the entering process. **Thank you!**

We will be very grateful for additional volunteers for stewarding at weekday, and weekend Masses. If you are able to help, please contact Mary via email at foresthill@rcaos.org.uk indicating your availability or volunteer using this link to our website [PLEASE VOLUNTEER BY CLICKING THIS LINK](#)
Many thanks in advance for your support.

Gift Aid Envelopes: We received the parish gift aid envelopes for 2020 in April but due to the lockdown, we were unable to prepare the envelopes for distribution. We have noticed that a number of parishioners are currently using old gift-aid envelopes or plain white envelopes for weekly Sunday donations to the church. We have placed the supply of gift envelopes on the table at the exit to the church, please collect your envelopes as you leave, If you need a reminder of your gift aid number, please contact Mary.



HELP NEEDED IN DISTRIBUTING GIFT-AID ENVELOPES:- Please help us to take/deliver gift-aid envelopes for your friends or neighbours, or people who for various reasons cannot come to church at this time of crisis. Thank you!

One-off Gift Aid Donations

There are white envelopes at the back of the church for visitors (and parishioners who are not in our Gift aid scheme) to make donations which can be gift-aided ie for every £1 donated the church can claim an additional 25p. Please remember Gift aid donors must be UK taxpayers.

EVENING PRAYER FROM THE DIVINE OFFICE

A small group of parishioners say Evening Prayer together via Zoom on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm and also Wednesday 6th January this week. Evening Prayer is one of the "Hours" of the Divine Office, prayed by ordained and lay members of the church around the world. It includes a hymn, psalms, a reading, the Magnificat and prayers and lasts about 15 minutes. We share the words on screen so you don't need your own copy, or we can send you a copy if you prefer. If you don't have a computer or tablet, you can join by phone. Contact liturgy.swoy@gmail.com to find out more.

Evening Prayer this week - Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 6pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81391776863?pwd=STIHaktOb2xvNlByTnp3cUVoSjR3UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 9177 6863

Password: 061154

Join by phone

Dial 020 3695 0088

Enter meeting ID: 813 9177 6863 #

Enter password: 061154

CAFOD CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Prayers and resources for children's liturgy catechists and for families who aren't able to attend church in person at the moment.

Join us at 10am this Sunday for our next virtual children's liturgy.

Follow the link and click on "Enter the series" to register. If you can't join us live, a recording will be available to watch afterwards. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

COLOUR & SHAPE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

For families and catechists this may be useful:

<https://abdiocese.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6ad3715cf61665df736c264a6&id=447cc8676d&e=e6a06def80#RedWednesday>



Christmas Message: Pope Francis

The theme of the Pope's Christmas message looks at how Jesus was born for everyone, "the Son that God has given to the entire human family".

Pope Francis gave his traditional Christmas message and Blessing Urbi et Orbi - To the City of Rome and the World - offering words of hope and consolation, saying a birth is always a source of hope, and "this Child, Jesus, was born 'to us' - without any borders, privileges or exclusions."

[Read more](#)

Pope Francis: There can be no peace without a culture of care

In his message for the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to the international community to foster a 'culture of care' by advancing on the "path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations." "There can be no peace without a culture of care," the Pope stresses in his message for the 54th World Day of Peace marked **on 1 January 2021**. [Read More](#)

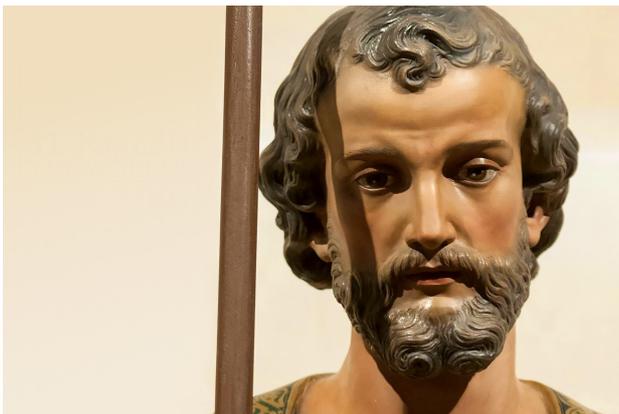
Pope to UN Climate Summit:

'Now is time to change direction'
Pope Francis sends a video message to participants in the UN's virtual climate summit, and highlights the Holy See's efforts to promote a "culture of care" in order to combat climate change.

[Read More](#)



Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. [Read more](#)

Helping the Homeless this Christmas

The St Vincent de Paul Society – the SVP as it's known – has addressed some of these acute needs by producing 11,500 life-saving packs of useful items for the homeless. Vinnie Packs, as they're called, provide cold weather essentials for people sleeping rough on our streets.

[More information](#)



Write to your MP to prevent the legalisation of assisted suicide

Right to Life UK has issued an e-Action campaign, asking people to write to their Member of Parliament to ask for their commitment to preventing the legalisation of assisted suicide.

[Read more](#)



FINANCES

If you would like to continue supporting the Parish during this very difficult time, you can post your donation in a sealed envelope through the presbytery letterbox or you can make an online donation - as a “one-off payment” or set up a standing order to make regular weekly or monthly donations.

Thank you to all those who have increased their regular donations to the parish. Any donation you are able to make will be greatly appreciated during this time.

Our parish bank details are as follows:-

- **NatWest Bank**
- **Sort Code 60-50-01**
- **Account number 79124437**
- **Account name St William of York Reg Charity 1173050**
- **Reference - Your surname/Gift Aid no**

JUSTGIVING

Parishioners who usually use gift aid envelopes or cash donations may also do so online via using this link [JustGiving St William of York](#) or access via the parish website. Please note donations are credited to the Diocese central charity bank account in the first instance and then reallocated to our parish so it is important to add our parish name and location when donating.

SWOY FAMILIES IN NEED CRISIS FUND

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support to our Families in need Crisis Fund. To date we have received **£9,795.00**, in donations and **£920.00** in Supermarket food vouchers a grand total of **£10,715.00**. Please continue to contact Mary by telephone 020 8690 4549 or email foresthill@rcaos.org.uk if you are able to make a donation.

EMPLOYEE CHARITY MATCHING SCHEME

We are very grateful to a number of parishioners who have set up a Charity Matching scheme with their employers and are now making regular monthly donations to the parish and the Families in Crisis Fund. A charity matching scheme doubles the donation of the individual from the company's own resource up to a pre-determined level. We are aware banks, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, telephone companies and car manufacturers are known to offer Charity match-funding schemes. Please contact Mary if you are willing to set up a matching scheme with your employer and she will be pleased to assist in the provision of information required for these purposes.

COLLECTION FOR FOOD BANK & SCHOOL RESOURCES

Please continue to drop off items at the collection point outside the school hall each Wednesday from 10am - 2pm.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY WITH YOUR DONATIONS!

NEEDING ASSISTANCE

Members of our parish community in difficulty who may need some assistance please contact the SVP via Mary at foresthill@rcaos.org.uk or call 020 8690 4549, if you like to contact me directly please e-mail at habteukbay@rcaos.org.uk or call me on **07307 869565**. Also people who might not need any financial or other assistance but might benefit from a volunteer to pick up the shopping or collect a prescription, please contact Mary as we have many stand by volunteers willing to assist you.

MASS INTENTIONS

We will be pleased to accept Mass Intentions for 2021 by envelope to the presbytery or via telephone **020 8690 4549** or email to the parish office [**foresthill@rcaos.org.uk**](mailto:foresthill@rcaos.org.uk)

Mass offerings may be sent to the presbytery with your intention or sent directly to our bank account, please remember to include your gift aid number.

Our parish bank details are as follows:-

- **NatWest Bank**
- **Sort Code 60-50-01**
- **Account number 79124437**
- **Account name St William of York Reg Charity 1173050**
- **Reference - Your surname/Gift Aid no**

MASS INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (B) Saturday 2 January 2021 18:00 Cassie McGlynn RIP
Sunday 3 January 2021 09:15 For the Parishioners 11:30 Peter Flanagan RIP
Monday 4 January 2021 Feria of Christmas Time 09:15 Peter Hann RIP
Tuesday 5 January 2021 Feria of Christmas Time 09:15 Ernest & Sheila Cappoci RIP
Wednesday 6 January 2021 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Holyday of Obligation 10:30 Nell McHale RIP 20:00 For the Parishioners
Thursday 7 January 2021 Feria of Christmas Time 09:15 Nell McHale RIP
Friday 8 January 2021 Feria of Christmas Time 09:15 Anne Orieso Personal Intention Fr John Pledger (FM)
Saturday 9 January 2021 Feria of Christmas Time 10:30 Cliff Sutton wellbeing
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B) Saturday 9 January 2021 18:00 Sean Garvey RIP Sunday 10 January 2021 09:15 For the Parishioners 11:30 Nancy & Michael O'Connor RIP

* (FM) = Foundation Mass

Pray to St. Joseph and ask for his guidance and protection for yourselves, your families and for the Church. Imitate St. Joseph in his virtues, his fidelity, his constancy, his love, his gentleness, his strength, his courage and his faith.



**St. Joseph, patron of men, of husbands and fathers
pray for us!**

Pray for our Parish Family,

St. Joseph, patron of workers, pray for us!

St. Joseph, protector and guardian of families pray for us!

**St. Joseph, patron and defender of the Universal Catholic
Church, pray for us! Pray for us,**

Amen

Pope Francis' 2021 Monthly Prayer Intentions

JANUARY

Intention for Evangelization: – Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



FEBRUARY

Universal Intention: – Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

MARCH

Intention for Evangelization: – Sacrament Of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

APRIL

Universal Intention: – Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

MAY

Universal Intention: – The World Of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

JUNE

Intention for Evangelization: – The Beauty Of Marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

JULY

Universal Intention: – Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

AUGUST

Intention for Evangelization: – The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

SEPTEMBER

Universal Intention: – An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

OCTOBER

Intention for Evangelization: – Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

NOVEMBER

Universal Intention: – People Who Suffer From Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

DECEMBER

Intention for Evangelization: – Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

His Holiness Pope Francis (31st January 2020)