



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

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

Clergy:- Fr Habte Ukbay, Deacon Amgad Gerges

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**Mass Times**

Saturdays 10.30am, 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sundays 9.30am, 11.30am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 9.30am

*(Please note on Thursdays the church will be open for private prayer from 9.30am-10.00am except on Holydays of Obligations & special occasions)*

**Reconciliations** - Saturdays 11-12 noon

**Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

1st & last Fridays of the month after Mass & 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)  
5 November 2023**

Dear Parishioners

Thank you very much for your commitment to our parish.

The Finance Committee and I have been hugely encouraged by the wonderful response to the 'Planned Giving' appeal, and I thank you for your support.

To date, we have received 89 pledge and volunteer forms and continue to receive these each day. We are currently reviewing the details and contacting volunteers to discuss areas of interest and how time and talents can be offered to support the parish.

If you are new to the parish or may have missed the planned giving appeal talks in Sept and October, please pick up a copy of the leaflet in the Narthex or download a copy here [Pledge Form](#) and [Volunteer Form](#) We will be so grateful to receive your assistance which will make a big difference to our parish. Please complete and post forms through the presbytery letter box and we will be in contact with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to discuss with me or email the parish office.

As Catholic stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. It is through parishioners like you that the message of Christ will be spread throughout the community.

Your support enables our parish to remain a living church at the centre of this community, welcoming to all and reaching out to those in need, and enables us to provide ministry to the whole parish. It also allows us to plan ahead with confidence to the future. It is important that we pass this parish onto the next generation in good spiritual and financial health.

Thank you again for taking this opportunity to grow in stewardship and thank you for returning to God some of the gifts He has given you.

God Bless

Fr Habte

**TODAY'S READINGS** - Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10, ! Thessalonians 2:7-9,13, Matthew 23:1-12

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** - In today's Gospel Jesus explain to his followers that none of them can take title or place of God, especially those who lead our Christian communities. Like Jesus, we are called to serve others with love , not to rule others with condemnations as the Pharisees did.

Reading these words the week after the Synod in Rome has finished, it's hard not to be reminded of the example of Pope Francis. The Pope didn't sit on a throne but spent the weeks of the Synod sitting and listening to men and women, the people of God, at round tables. In the second reading St Paul tells us about his own experience of leading a Christian community "like a mother feeding and looking after her children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you...that we were eager to hand over not just the Good news but our whole life as well". St Paul's words and Pope Francis' example are responses to Jesus' call in today's Gospel for his followers to show that leadership in the Christian community is loving service.

Jesus' words about Christian leadership are not just for popes and bishops, priests and deacons, they are for all of us. Through our shared baptism we are all equally called to witness to our faith. We must fulfil this vocation in the world and in the church by serving and loving. None of us can put ourselves first but must stand aside in love to our sisters and brothers, serving our community. This way we will be building a community of love, service and justice, we will be building the Kingdom of God. JD

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Wisdom 6:12-16, ! Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13,

**FR GREGORY** Please remember Fr Gregory in your prayers he is in hospital at present following a fall and is making steady progress in his recovery.

### **POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER**

**For the Pope** - We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

### **BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS**

This weekend we baptised Christie Jack O'Callaghan.

Many congratulations from all at St William of York and welcome Christie to our parish family.



**HOLY SOULS** - In the month of November, the Church offers special prayers for Holy Souls. On the tables at the entrance and exit of the church there are sheets along with envelopes which you can use to make an offering for Mass for your deceased loved ones during the month of November. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the sheets and put your envelope in the Box specially prepared for your Offerings on the Sanctuary. Alternatively you can post your envelopes through the presbytery letter box. Mass offerings for Holy Souls may also be via the contactless device or our website.



<https://donate.mydona.com/st-william-of-york-rc-church>

### **REMEMBRANCE MASS - WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER AT 8.00PM**

We will offer a Holy Mass in remembrance of parishioners who have died in the last year on **Wednesday 8th November at 8:00pm**, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. I would like to invite all parishioners to join us and their families in prayer.

### **CEMETERY BLESSING- REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 2.30PM**

We shall have a Deanery Procession through Hither Green Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023. We assemble from 2.15am at the Main Gate in Verdant Lane and our procession begins at 2.30pm. We recite the Holy Rosary as we walk and pause to sing hymns on the way. We arrive at the far end of the cemetery where after final prayers and hymn we disperse to our family graves inviting the accompanying clergy to visit and pray at the graves of our departed loved ones. Please make use of this opportunity to bless the graves of our beloved ones.

**‘REMEMBERING ST WILLIAM OF YORK’** Oral history project - What does it mean to be a parishioner at St. William of York? We are launching a new oral history project called ‘Remembering St. William of York’. This aims to commemorate the Parish through the voices and memories of its parishioners. We would love for as many parishioners as possible to get involved and tell their stories about our Church and its community. If you would like to take part or want to learn more, please email Sarah Limb at [se.limb598@gmail.com](mailto:se.limb598@gmail.com) Sarah will be telling us more about the project at all Masses weekend of 11 & 12 November.

### **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024 - SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2023**

If your child is in Year 10 or above and they would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be an information meeting for Candidates & Parents in the church on **Sunday 5th November 2023 at 6pm**. The preparation sessions will commence in January 2024.

### **PARISH CAROL SERVICE, SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER**

It's not long until Advent and it's never too early to plan! There'll be a meeting to think about and plan the Parish Carol Service on **Thursday 9th November, 8pm**, in the Lower Hall. Please come along and share your thoughts and ideas on how we can make our Parish Carol Service a real celebration involving the whole parish. To find out more, contact us at [liturgy.swoy@gmail.com](mailto:liturgy.swoy@gmail.com)

### **THURSDAY PARISH SINGERS**

The Parish Singers will not be meeting on Thursday 9th November.

### **ARCHBISHOP’S APPEAL SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND**

The Archbishop’s Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Archbishop’s Appeal 2023.

Find out more, or donate online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal)

or:

- Scan the QR code on the right using your phone camera
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Archbishop’s Appeal envelopes at the back of church.
- Contactless device in the Narthex

Thank you in advance for your generosity of heart





## RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH

It is a great pleasure to share that we have once again started the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, journey in faith (RCIA) in our parish since September, this year we have 4 enquirers.

The Rite calls the community of the faithful to be engaged and involved in this process. The journey and the process of initiation takes place within the larger community of the faithful. We would like to invite all members of our parish community to accompany those who embarked on the journey and the Parish RCIA team by offering prayer, support, and example for those who are seeking Christ.

This year we are running two separate but converging sessions fortnightly, we would love to welcome you at any time, therefore, we like to invite you to come and join us either on Tuesdays at 8:00pm or Fridays at 7:30pm. The programme overview is available in the narthex or download a copy [HERE](#) The Friday sessions sometimes may join the one on Tuesdays, If you would like to come on a Friday, Please let us know by email at [foresthill@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:foresthill@rcaos.org.uk)

## CHIEF SCOUT BRONZE AWARD (TOP BEAVER SCOUT AWARD)

The Beaver Scouts have been busy this term, especially Christiana - Congratulations she was awarded her Chief Scout Bronze Awards by the District Commissioner last Thursday. This award shows that they are adventurous, have helped their community and have learnt about the world. It also means that they have gained skills, worked in a team, completed all their Challenge Awards and at least four Activity Badges. Well done to Christiana! She's starting Cubs this week too.



We currently have a few spaces for new members aged 6 to join our Beaver Colony. Check out our website <http://www.12thforesthill.scoutsonline.co.uk/>

Adults - if you have a skill you could share with us, please get in touch. We all love learning. Could you be one of our volunteers?

Get in touch if you would like to find out more [ahesketh@12thswoyscouts.org](mailto:ahesketh@12thswoyscouts.org)

Akela/Antonieta Hesketh  
Lead Volunteer





## HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Last year at this time we launched the “make an angel” project. We had a tremendous response and at the Carol Service we had a host of angels for everyone to take home. This year we want to spread a little love by giving everyone at the carol service a heart to take home and hang on their Christmas tree.

So we need you to get busy- knit, crochet or stitch a heart! Please pick up a flier with a knitting and a crotchet pattern and a heart template that you could use to make a heart out of felt or other fabric.

If you don't have yarn or needles please help yourself from the supply in the Narthex.

If you would like to share ideas while you get creating, please come along to **Café York at 10.00am on a Wednesday morning (straight after the morning Mass)**. There will be tea and biscuits!

Please leave your completed hearts in the basket in the Narthex by **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

If you want to know more please contact Maureen Swift on 0776 5428299

**THE DEDICATION OF ST GEORGE'S** The Solemnity of the Dedication of St George's commemorates the original consecration of the Cathedral in 1894 and is an opportunity for us to gather as parish community and give thanks to God for this house of prayer. Our celebration of the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral is on Tuesday 7 November. In addition to the usual weekday Masses, there will an additional **Solemn Mass at 6pm on Tuesday 7 November**, celebrated by Canon Edward Perera with the Cathedral's Chapter of Canons. Canon Michael Branch will be installed as a Chapter Canon in this Mass.

## TRAINING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS

We welcome all children in Year 4 and above who have celebrated their First Eucharist to join our parish serving team. We will be running a training session

for new servers on **Saturday 11th November, 11.00am-12.15pm** and again on

**Saturday 25th November at 4.00-5.15pm**. The number of children we can have at

the session is limited, so please email us at [swoy.altarserving@gmail.com](mailto:swoy.altarserving@gmail.com) to let us

know if you are coming. This helps us to plan the session and know how many

children to expect. If you cannot come, please let us know and we will try to arrange

another time. If you would like to start serving at Mass, you need to come to a

training session first.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of

**Maria Bottone RIP**

**Funeral at St William of York at 11.00am on Wednesday 8 November 2023**

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

**MASS ATTENDEES**

**14/15 October -265 22/23 October - 262 28/29 October - 250**

**PARISH DIARY**

<b>Sun 5 Nov 2.50pm for 3pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation 2 Session</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Sun 5 Nov 3pm</b>	<b>1st Rec Parents Meeting</b>	<b>School Hall</b>
<b>Sun 5 Nov 6pm</b>	<b>2024 Confirmation programme Information Meeting</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Mon 6 Nov 8pm</b>	<b>Baptism Course Session 1</b>	<b>Lower Hall</b>
<b>Wed 8 Nov 10am</b>	<b>Hearts for Christmas</b>	<b>Cafe York</b>
<b>Wed 8 Nov 8pm</b>	<b>Remembrance Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Thur 9 Nov 8pm</b>	<b>Parish Carol Service Planning Meeting</b>	<b>Lower Hall</b>
<b>Fri 10 Nov 9.30-12pm</b>	<b>Mother's &amp; Toddlers</b>	<b>Cafe York</b>
<b>Sat 11 Nov 9.15am</b>	<b>Instrumentalists</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Sat 11 Nov 11.00-12.15pm</b>	<b>Altar Server Training</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Sun 12 Nov 2.15pm for 2.30pm</b>	<b>Cemetery Procession Blessing of Graves</b>	<b>Hither Green Cemetery</b>

We will have one Sunday Mass at 10.30am on 26th November 2023 on the Feast of Christ the King and our usual two Sunday Masses at 9.30am and 11.30am on the First Sunday of Advent on 3rd December . The 9.30am on Sunday 3rd December will be a Family Mass.

We hope to see many children and families at these Masses.



**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**Saturday 4 November 2023**

**18:00** Holy Souls - For the Parishioners

**Sunday 5 November 2023**

**09:30** Clemencia Charles RIP Anniversary

**11:30** Madeleine (Ruth) Branigan RIP (live-streamed)

**Monday 6 November 2023 - Feria**

**09:30** Costello & Leen Families RIP

**Tuesday 7 November 2023 -**

**The Dedication of the Cathedral Church of St George**

**09:30** David McCormick RIP

**Wednesday 8 November 2023 - Feria**

**09:30** Peggy Walsh (FM)

**11:00** Funeral of Maria Bottone RIP

**20:00** Remembrance Mass

For all our loved ones who have died in the last year  
(live-streamed)

**Thursday 9 November 2023 - The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica**

**09:30** Private Prayer

**Friday 10 November 2023 - St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church**

**09:30** Annie Maguire RIP

**Saturday 11 November 2023 - St Martin of Tours, Bishop**

**10:30** Joyce Araba Bondziwa Gibson RIP

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**Remembrance Day**

**Saturday 11 November 2023**

**18:00** Nancy Willis RIP

**Sunday 12 November 2023**

**09:30** Holy Souls - For the Parishioners

**11:30** Madeleine (Ruth) Branigan RIP

(FM) Foundation Mass

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

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





**St William of York**  
Catholic Primary School

Brockley Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PS

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Lynch Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Mayers

## Starting School in September 2024?

**Come and visit our lovely small school!**

**Visits and tours by appointment!**

Email: [admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk)

Telephone: 020 8690 2842

Please contact the school office for more information.

Experienced, and enthusiastic teaching staff. Forest School sessions.

Lovely children, parents, staff and school community!

One form entry, small, friendly and inclusive.

Only one class in each year group.

We know every child, and family, by name!

We celebrate and develop your child's unique gifts and talents.



**Ofsted (Oct 2022) - GOOD  
with 4 out of 5 OUTSTANDING areas.**

Quality of Education	GOOD
Leadership & Management	OUTSTANDING
Personal Development	OUTSTANDING
Behaviour & Attitudes	OUTSTANDING

Wraparound care available from our Breakfast Club and After School Club Provider

We are a Catholic primary school.

However, we accept Non-Catholic children, and ALL religions are welcome!

We celebrate diversity and are an inclusive and welcoming school!

