



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Diocesan website: www.cliftondiocese.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(December 14, 2025)

Entrance Antiphon: **Rejoice in the Lord always;
and again I say, rejoice.
Indeed the Lord is near.**

Response to the Psalm: **Come, Lord, and save us.**

Gospel Acclamation: **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.**

Communion Antiphon: **Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

6.00pm (Sat) 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday – Thursday after 9am Mass
(No Confession on Friday)

Saturday after 9am Mass and from 5pm - 5.30pm

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

14th SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Janina & Jan Goc (RIP)
08.00am Mass – Ana Rodrigues & Stellan D'Silva (Intention)
09.30am Mass – Mary & John Joyce (RIP)
11.00am Mass – Amaris Goes (Intention)

15th MONDAY **NO MASS**

16th TUESDAY 09.00am Mass – Marcos Fernandes (RIP)

17th WEDNESDAY 09.00am Mass – Arthur Afonso (Intention)

18th THURSDAY 09.00am Mass – Roy & Beryl Thompson (RIP)

19th FRIDAY 09.00am Mass – Princia Fernandes & Edward Pereira (Wedding Anniversary)
11.00am Requiem Mass – Paul Lynch

20th SATURDAY 09.00am Mass – Steven & Melissa Fernandes (Wedding Anniversary)

NEXT SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 21, 2025)

21st SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Ranvil Cardozo (RIP)
08.00am Mass – Johan Peter Pereira (Intention)
09.30am Mass – Raphael Fernandes (Intention)
11.00am Mass – Maria Clarina Santana Gonsalves

Church cleaning every Friday, after the Morning Mass. Your help would be much appreciated

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all those who are sick especially: Peter Hazel, Anna Tickner, Peadar Heffron, Sheila Hughes, Christopher and Cath Brown, Julia Harrison, Lena Watson, Cheryl Dawson, Louise Stacey, Irena Fliska, John Ruck, Emmanuella Ruck, Elizabeth McGill, Andrew McCarthy, Marie Lowe, Gill Young, Peggy Notley, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Nellie Blake, Tommy Fox

CHRISTMAS DAY: Christmas Masses here at St Marys will be: On Christmas Eve there will be Mass at 5pm, 7pm and 9pm. On Christmas day there will be Mass at 8am, 9.30am and 11am.

READERS ROTA for Christmas Masses. Please sign your name on the rota stating which Mass you are able to read. List kept at the back of the Church.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHURCH EXTENTION: Some volunteers have decided to prepare delicious food or snacks and sell them after 6pm Mass on Saturday. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Natasha Vas at 07720982226. How You Can Help? You can support by buying the food and raise funds for the Extension of the Church. Your generosity and involvement - together, we can make a meaningful difference! **So far we have raised £10250 through fund raising events and donations for the Extension of the new Church.** The meeting we had on Thursday 11 was very fruitful. We discussed the plan and also how we should begin fundraising. If you have any ideas please speak to Fr Dominic.

PENITENTIAL RITE: There will be priests who will sit for confessions on Friday 19, December 2025 from 5 -7pm.

CONFESSIONS: Tuesday – Thursday after 9am Mass **(No Confessions on Friday)**
Saturday after 9am Mass and from 5pm - 5.30pm

RECENTLY DIED: Please remember to pray for the souls of **Baby Zion** - Funeral Service is on Wednesday 17TH December 2025 at 9.30am at Kingsdown Crematorium and **Paul Lynch** – Requiem Mass is on Friday 19th December 2025 at 11am. Please also remember their families in your prayers.

ADVENT KNITTED ITEMS: The Knit & Natter Group have been busy knitting items for Advent with a small message of hope. We hope they may spread a little joy this season. This year we are asking for a small donation to charity raising money for Swindon Prospect Hospice. The items are available after Mass during Advent. Many thanks to all the knitters for your wonderful efforts.

FIRST COMMUNION 2026: The enrolment forms for children wishing to receive First Holy Communion in 2026 will be available to collect from the sacristy. Children must be in year 3 or above to make their First Communion. Last day for submitting either forms will be January 5th, 2026.

CONFIRMATION 2026: Young people must be in Year 9 and above to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please make sure the forms are duly filled with all the details. We will need the full address of the Church including Post Code/ Pin Code you were baptised in. Last day for submitting either forms will be January 5th, 2026.

PARENTS MEETING for First Communion candidates will be on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 10am in the Church.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE: Bishop Bosco is to celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14, February (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2026 please do let us know. You just need to send names to: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating. Poster at the back of the Church.

V-GOANIZZ: is organising their 6th Annual Christmas Carol Singing on December 21, 2025, at the Punjabi Community Centre, Kembry Park. This is a free event open to all. Come and show your support for our talented children as they perform beautiful carols in celebration of the birth of Christ. Bring your family and friends, and let's come together in the spirit of joy and community. on December 21, 2025 at 14:00hours onwards at Punjabi Community Center, Swindon SN2 7BB

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you have changed your address since registering as a parishioner, you are now able to amend your entry yourself through the Parish website. On the home page, scroll down to 'Parishioner Registration' and follow the link. Please select 'Change of Address' (there is no need to re-register).

GIFT AID: Those Parishioners who gift aid their offering to the parish and do so through a standing order will soon receive a letter asking them of Clifton parishioners are asked to change their mandate to pay St Mary's Parish. You will soon receive a letter telling you what you need to do.

GIFT AID DONATIONS: Anyone who wishes to start donating weekly/ monthly either through Gift Aid envelopes or direct debit/ Standing order/ through offertory envelope donations order may ask for a form or speak to Fr. Dominic or the Parish Office.

COLLECTION: Offertory collection last Sunday came to £1730.28 and £500 in standing orders. The second collection which was towards Poor Missions of the Diocese came to £105. Many thanks for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS: The first Mass intention will be printed in the Newsletter. The other Mass Intentions shall be prayed for and the names will be read on the requested day but will be offered somewhere else. Please put your Mass intention in the envelope and add your phone number and drop in the box provided at the back of the Church two weeks in advance. Do not use the card machine for Mass intentions.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The Parish statue of our Lady of Fatima is available for people to take to their home for prayer and for special occasions. For booking contact: **Natasha Vas** on Mobile 07720982226 after 4.30pm until 8pm.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - A

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

‘God himself will come and save you.’

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
‘Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Sion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3

*Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
or: Alleluia.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
or: Alleluia.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
or: Alleluia.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

or: Alleluia.

Second reading

James 5:7-10

‘Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.’

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’