



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish website: www.saintmarysswindon.co.uk
Deanery website: www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk
Diocesan website: www.cliftondiocese.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(December 21, 2025)

Entrance Antiphon: **Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

Response to the Psalm: **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel –
Which means, God with us.**

Communion Antiphon: **Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

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

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

22nd MONDAY NO MASS

23rd TUESDAY 09.00am Mass – Souls of Barreto & Fernandes family

24th WEDNESDAY **CHRISTMAS EVE**
05.00pm Mass - People of the Parish
07.00pm Mass - People of the Parish
09.00pm Mass - People of the Parish

25th THURSDAY **CHRISTMAS DAY**
08.00am Mass - People of the Parish
09.30am Mass - People of the Parish
11.00am Mass - People of the Parish

26th FRIDAY 10.00am Mass – Fr Christoph Caldeira (Anniversary)

27th SATURDAY NO MASS

NEXT SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 28, 2025)

28th SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Callum Fernandes (Intention)
08.00am Mass – Joseph Dias & Annie Fernandes (Intention)
09.30am Mass – Jotham Gonsalves (Intention)
11.00am Mass – Private Intention

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.

ALTAR SERVERS please indicate which Mass you will be coming to serve in the list kept in the sacristy.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHURCH EXTENTION: Some volunteers have decided to prepare delicious food or snacks and sell them after every Sunday Mass. 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.

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.

RETRouvaille HELPS MARRIAGE: It can bring hope and healing to relationships.
Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 £1712.48 and £500 in standing orders.

CHURCH EXTENSION: We collected £609.66 through fundraising after each Mass last week through Coffee & Snacks. 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.

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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - A

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive.’

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’ And Isaiah said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD’S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel' —
which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.