



# St Mary's Catholic Church

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**Parish website:**

[www.saintmarysswindon.co.uk](http://www.saintmarysswindon.co.uk)

**Deanery website:**

[www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk](http://www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk)

**Diocesan website:**

[www.cliftdioocese.com](http://www.cliftdioocese.com)

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(DECEMBER 10, 2023)

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Entrance Antiphon: **O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

Response to the Psalm: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**

Communion Antiphon: **Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

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### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

6.00pm (Sat) 9.00am, 10.30am

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 9.30am – 10am and 5pm - 5.30pm

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### THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – Salvador Rodrigues (RIP) Raguel Silveira (Intentions) Blyton De Souza (Intentions) Princia Fernandes (Intentions)
	09.00am	Mass – Caetano Fernandes (RIP) Dominic Gonsalves (Intentions) Zac Rodrigues (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Felix Fernandes (Anniversary) Lucinda Mendes (Anniversary) John O'Connor (Anniversary)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Derick Vaz (Intentions)
<b>Wednesday</b>	09.00am	Mass – Jesus Gonsalves (RIP)
<b>Thursday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Stanley Pinto (RIP) Roy & Beryl Thompson (RIP)
<b>Friday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Mary Joyce (Anniversary) John Joyce (RIP) Sebastian Teles (Anniversary) Joao Bernard Gonsalves (Anniversary) Amaris Goes (Intentiions)

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### SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 17, 2023)

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – Jan & Janina Goc (RIP) Marcos Fernandes (RIP) Athar Fernandes (Intentions)
	09.00am	Mass – Arthur Afonso (Intentions) Esther Faith Fernandes (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Maria Anello (Anniversary) Felicidade & Inacio Fernandes (Anniversary)

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

**READING AT CHRISTMAS:** Would readers please sign up to read at Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & Christmas day. Please print your name on the list at the back of the Church indicating which Masses they are willing to read at.

**CHRISTMAS** - There will be five Masses for Christmas here at St Marys

**Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7pm and 10pm**

**Christmas Day: 9am and 10.30am**

**READERS:** A copy of the readers rota for December 2023 and January 2024 is available at the back of the Church.

**DIED RECENTLY:** Please remember to pray for Tom Mazzotta whose funeral service will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 11am here at St Marys. Please also remember his family in your prayers

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024:** Bishop Declan will be coming to St Marys for confirmation on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024. Application forms are now available and can be collected after Mass.

**FIRST COMMUNION 2024:** Application forms for First Communion are now available. See Fr Michael or any of the Deacons. Any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion must be in year 3 or above.

**V-GOANIZZ** are having their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Singing on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at the Punjabi Community Centre starting at 16.00. It's a free entry and all are invited along with your families to cheer as children sing. Goan snacks will be sold at the event.

**MISSIO RED BOX:** If you would like your Red Box emptied, please bring it to church before the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure your name is on your box. Many thanks for your generosity.

**SWINDON FOOD COLLECTIVE:** Many thanks to all those who contribute to Swindon food bank. Any donations can be left in the basket at the back of the Church.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** The new Gift Aid yellow envelopes (for tax payers) for 2023/24 are ready to collect from the Sacristy. Please ensure you take your correct box as they are all numbered. Non-Gift Aiders (non-tax payers) please take a box of green envelopes.

**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. Michael or contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH OFFERTORY:** Last week the offertory collection came to £1261.73 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOU PRAYERS** all those who are sick especially: Anna Tickner, Peadar Heffron, Sheila Hughes, Christopher and Cath Brown, Julia Harrison, Lena Watson, Cheryl Dawson, Louise Stacey, Irena Fliska, John Ruck, Ruth Sellars, Lucy Murray, Bill O'Donnell, Elizabeth McGill, Andrew McCarthy, Marie Lowe, Gill Young, Connor McLaughlin, Peggy Notley, Peter Hazel, Dawn Connolly-Williams, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Breda Brown, Caroline Borg, Nellie Blake, Valliton Fernandes

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**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.

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

### First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'  
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84(85):9-14(Advent)

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,  
and give us your saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps.

**Second reading****2 Peter 3:8-14***A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation****Lk3:4,6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel****Mark 1:1-8***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.