



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(DECEMBER 17, 2023)

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

Response to the Psalm: **My soul rejoices in my God.**

Gospel Acclamation: **The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring 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) 9.00am, 10.30am

CONFESSIONS

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

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY (Sat)	06.00pm	Mass – Jan & Janina Goc (RIP) Marcos Fernandes (RIP) Athán Fernandes (Intentions)
	09.00am	Mass – Arthur Afonso (Intentions) Esther Faith Fernandes (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Maria Anello (Anniversary) Felicidade & Inacio Fernandes (Anniversary)
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	09.00am	Mass - Melrick Fernandes & Merveny Crasto (Intentions) Paulo Fernandes & Eleca Rodrigues (Intentions) Princia Fernandes & Edward Pereira (Intentions) Sonia Fernandes & George Rodrigues (Intentions)
Wednesday	09.00am	Mass – Ruth Carvalho (Anniversary) Jotham Gonsalves (Intentions) Jolyen D'Souza (Intentions)
Thursday	09.00am	Mass - Angelo Scisci (Anniversary) Johan Peter Pereira (Intentions)
Friday	09.00am	Mass - Flavia De Sa (Intentions) Belarmina & Camilo Fernandes (Wedding Anniversary)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 24, 2023)

SUNDAY (Sat)	06.00pm	Mass – David Mascarenhas (RIP) Gregory Machado (RIP) Elsie Gracias (RIP)
	09.00am	Mass – Cathy & Tom Campbell (RIP) Jake Alex Menezes (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Cruz & Sophia Silveira (Thanksgiving)

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

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

Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7pm and 10pm

Christmas Day: 9am and 10.30am

CONFESSIONS: On Christmas Eve confessions will be in the morning from 9.30am – 10am.

BAPTISM: We welcome into the Church Dominic Blaj who is being baptised this week here in St Mary's Church.

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 Tomasi Mazzotta whose funeral service will be held on 19th 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 23rd 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.

THANK YOU: You will notice that all the kneelers in the Church have been restored with new covers. With many thanks to the parishioners who did the work and contributed the cost to the parish.

V-GOANIZZ are having their 4th Annual Carol Singing on the 17th 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 30th 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.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: If you want to subscribe to 'The Universe Catholic' Weekly Newspaper Contact Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

PARISH OFFERTORY: Last week the offertory collection came to £1259 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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, Andy Cavilla

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

First reading

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

Second reading **I Thessalonians 5:16-24**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Is61:1(Lk4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel **John 1:6-8,19-28**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.