



# 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.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

(FEBRUARY 25, 2024)

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Entrance Antiphon: **Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.**

Response to the Psalm: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Gospel Acclamation: Reader: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
All: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**  
**From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!"**  
**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

Communion Antiphon: **This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.**

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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 – Inacine Rodrigues – (RIP) Isabela Blaj (Intentions)
	09.00am	Mass – Lourenco Fernandes (RIP) Piedade Camilo (RIP)
	10.30am	Mass – Merlyn Aguiar (Intentions)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	09.00am	Mass – Caetano & Piedade Fernandes (RIP)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	09.00am	Mass - August & Nazir Goes (Intentions)
<b>Thursday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Terezinho Cardozo (RIP)
<b>Friday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Peggy Millard (Anniversary) Helen O'Brien (Anniversary)

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### SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (MARCH 3, 2024)

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – Marie & Henry Cini (RIP) Norah Dias (Intentions)
	09.00am	Mass – Liora Da Cunha (Intentions) Edwin Coutinho (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Frazer D'Costa (Intentions)

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

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**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, Lucy Murray, Bill O'Donnell, Elizabeth McGill, Andrew McCarthy, Marie Lowe, Gill Young, Connor McLaughlin, Peggy Notley, Dawn Connolly-Williams, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Breda Brown, Caroline Borg, Nellie Blake, Andy Cavilla

**SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD:** The second collection after Mass today is from the proceeds from last Friday fast day and is for the work of Cafod.

**RECENTLY DIED:**

Please pray for the soul of Matthew Smith who has died recently. His Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** There will be Stations of the Cross each Sunday during Lent and will begin at 4pm followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 5pm.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** During Lent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday after morning Mass until 11am. There should always be someone present, during this time of prayer.

**LITURGY OF RECONCILIATION:** Bishop Declan invites you to join him during this season of lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It will be held at one of the five venues across the diocese as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage. He will lead us in prayer and spend some time hearing confessions. There will also be several Priests available to hear confession in English and in Konkani. Please make a note of this special liturgy and make it a part of your Lenten preparation for Easter. Poster at the back of the Church with all details.

**ST CATHERINE'S QUIZ NIGHT-** Friday 1st March 7pm at St Catherine's School, Davenwood, SN2 7LL.

Over 18's only. £3 per ticket. Enjoy licenced bar, snacks and raffle.

Go to website for tickets- <https://www.pts-events.co.uk/friendsof-stcatherines>.

**SEEKING GOD:** A monastic experience for men & women aged 18-35 from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard Brownhill, Stroud. For details contact Sr. Hilda on 01453 883084 or email: [brownhillbookings@bernardine.org](mailto:brownhillbookings@bernardine.org) - *Poster on notice board at the back of the Church.*

**NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH** (10-18 March 2024) at St Joseph Church, Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, with a special Novena Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessings on the work of the missionary outreach, and for intentions for all who support the work. For contact details and information see poster at the back of the Church.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024 - 23rd August to 30th August :** The Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes is taking place this year in late August with pilgrims coming from all over the Diocese to embark on this journey. Details can be found on the Diocese website Lourdes | Clifton Diocese or by contacting [lourdes@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:lourdes@cliftondiocese.com) /0117 902 5590 for an information pack. Please be aware the deadline for deposits is 31st March 2024, with payment is full by 31st May 2024. See Poster at the back of the Church.

**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 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 mobile 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

**PARISH OFFERTORY:** Last week the offertory collection came to £ 1128.20 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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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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***Ten tips for Lent from Pope Francis***

***Do you want to fast this Lent?***  
***Fast from hurting words and say kind words.***  
***Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.***  
***Fast from anger and be filled with patience.***  
***Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.***  
***Fast from worries and trust in God.***  
***Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.***  
***Fast from pressures and be prayerful.***  
***Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.***  
***Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.***  
***Fast from grudges and be reconciled.***  
***Fast from words and be silent so you can listen***

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Lent

**First reading**                      **Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18**

*A reading from the book of Genesis*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm**                  Psalm 115(116):10,15-19

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.*

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted,'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Second reading**                  Romans 8:31-34

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation**                  Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

## Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord