



# 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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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(MARCH 10, 2024)

Entrance Antiphon:

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

Response to the Psalm:

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!**

Gospel Acclamation:

Reader: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
All: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

Communion Antiphon:

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.**

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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 – Albert Leitaio (RIP)
	09.00am	Mass – Caetan Godinho (Anniversary) Maria Pereira (Intentions) Aaron Vales (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Rosa Florinda Fernandes (Anniversary) Nazia Goes (Intentions)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Ashvin Fernandes (Thanksgiving)
<b>Wednesday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Mariquinha Vas (Anniversary)
<b>Thursday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Divine Fernandes (Intentions) Kenneth Gonsalves (Intentions) Calida Gonsalves (Intentions)
<b>Friday</b>	09.00am	Mass - Rose Townsend (RIP) Jeannie Robinson (RIP) Paulo Fernandes (Intentions)

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### SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (MARCH 17, 2024)

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – Bernard McGuinness (Anniversary)
	09.00am	Mass – Victor & Antonina Melynychuk (RIP) Crecilda Crasto (Intentions)
	10.30am	Mass – Jamie Donnelly (RIP) Thelma & Archie Hemphill (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

## HOLY TRIDUUM

**28th March – HOLY THURSDAY – Mass at 8pm (Watching until 10pm)**

**29th March – GOOD FRIDAY – 3PM - LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

**30th March – 6pm EASTER VIGIL MASS**

9pm Easter Mass with renewal of Easter promises

**31st March – EASTER SUNDAY – Mass at 9am and 10.30am**

**READERS:** There is a list at the back of the Church for people to sign up to read on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Masses (*Please indicate which Mass you are able to read at Easter*).

**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.

**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.

**LOST AND FOUND:** A carrier bag full of personal items has been found in the Church. Speak to one of the Deacons or Priest if it belongs to you.

**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 £ 2039.16 and £500 in standing orders. The Second collection which was towards Cafod came to £979.85. 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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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday

First reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

**The word of the Lord**

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 136(137):1-6

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.  
‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys!

## Second reading Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation Jn8:12

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

## Gospel John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.  
No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.  
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.  
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,  
for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord