



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

(DECEMBER 8, 2024)

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:

**What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.**

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.**

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 – Salvador Rodrigues (RIP) Ricky Gonsalves (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – Jack Guiry (Anniversary)
	09.30am	Mass – Deceased members of Afonso family
	11.00am	Mass - Intentions of the Rodrigues family (living and deceased) John Edward O'Connor (Anniversary)
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	09.00am	Mass - Thanksgiving
Wednesday	09.00am	Mass - Augustin Fernandes (Anniversary) Clifton Gonsalves & Serry Afonso (Intention)
Thursday	09.00am	Mass - Derek Vaz (Intention)
Friday	09.00am	Mass - Roy & Beryl Thompson (RIP)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 15, 2024)

SUNDAY (Sat)	06.00pm	Mass – Sebastian Teles (RIP) and all deceased members of the Teles family Stellan Da Silva (Intention) Anna Rodrigues (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – People of the Parish
	09.30am	Mass – Adriel Da Cunha (Intention) Amaris Goes (Intention)
	11.00am	Mass - Mary Joyce (Anniversary) John Joyce (RIP)

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, Caroline Borg, Nellie Blake, Martin Connolly, Colin Sobers

READERS ROTA for Christmas Masses. Please sign your name on the rota stating which Mass you are able to read. List kept at the back of the Church.

CHRISTMAS DAY: On Christmas day there will be five Masses here at St Marys. On Christmas Eve there will be Mass at 4.30pm, 7pm and 10pm. On Christmas day there will be Mass at 9am and 10.30am.

RECENTLY DIED: Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Eddie Duffy – husband of Pat Langley-Poole. His Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 11.15am, here at St Marys. Please also remember his family in your prayers.

There will be **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** on every Wednesday after 9am Mass until 11am.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2025: The enrolment forms for children wishing to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2024 are now available. Children must be in year 3 or above to make their First Communion. Young people must be in Year 10 and above to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The last date for registration is 6th January 2025.

ADVENT KNITTED ITEMS: The Knit & Natter Group have been busy knitting items 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 Future in Our Hand <http://fiohnetwork.org/> Registered Charity Number 104795. This is charity which funds projects in India – to help abandoned street children with shelter, food and education Cameroon – to support a clinic for the disabled Sierra Leone-supporting environmental education, The items are available after Mass this weekend. Many thanks to all the knitters for our wonderful efforts.

THE NEW LECTIONARY: The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts. The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages and to provide a text for use at Mass that is easier to read. It will mean that you notice a change to the rhythm of the readings we have grown used to, a change in phrases that we are so accustomed to. If you use a Missal with the readings in it, whilst the selection of readings remain the same the translation will differ. We will begin using the New Lectionary on December 1st.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: Fr Francis Colaco of St Peter's is leading a pilgrimage to Fatima from 6th – 10th May 2025. The cost of this pilgrimage will be £769.00 per person sharing a room. This includes 5 days and 4 nights with half board in a 3* hotel in Fatima. If you are interested, please contact Eileen Mochan on 07469 940371 ASAP. Alternatively, you can contact All Saints Travel on 01793 881166 or 07703059009. To book online www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/FM0987 Poster on the notice board.

AID TO CHURCH IN NEED (UK) has launched an Open Letter campaign calling on Foreign Secretary David Lammy to make persecuted religious communities priority recipients of UK Overseas Development Aid (ODA). They need your help to reach their goal of 10,000 signatures, which will trigger a response from the Government. Please sign their open letter today: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/red-wednesday-advocacy-letter>.

Together, we can help Christians and other religious minorities trapped in modern slavery, extreme poverty and worse.

BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE CARD: Follow the link below to update your passport if you got Biometric Residence Card (BRC). <https://www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details>.

CHRISTMAS CAKES: A delightful selection of homemade Christmas Cakes and Sweets will be sold after each Sunday Mass. Come enjoy the season's sweetest treats and help us make this holiday season brighter for all. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Church.

V-GOANIZZ presents their 5th Annual Christmas Carol Singing 2024 on the 15th December from 2.30pm onwards at the Punjabi Community Centre SN2 8AZ. It's a free entry for everyone. Please come and enjoy the festive season. For further details please see the poster at the back of the Church.

PILGRIMAGE WALK carrying the Pilgrim Cross began as a Catholic student pilgrimage and has evolved into ecumenical endeavour. Which will take place on Friday 11th – Sunday 20th April 2025 from Oxford to Walsingham, 100miles. Those who would like to take part please contact by email: studentcross.oxfordleg@gmail.com Poster on the board.

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 £1404.36 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

*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.*

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

- Pope Benedict XVI

SUNDAY LITURGY

A reading from the Prophet Baruch

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness from God;
put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting.
For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.
For your name will for ever be called by God:
'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'.
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height
and look towards the east
and see your children gathered from west and east,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went forth from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain
and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

***What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.***

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

***What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.***

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!'
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.

***What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.***

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

***What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.***

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

***What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.***

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

The Gospel of the Lord