



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 – Year C

Gaudete Sunday

(DECEMBER 15, 2024)

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

Response to the Psalm: **Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Gospel Acclamation: **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim 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) 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

CONFESSIONS

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

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY (Sat)	06.00pm	Mass – Stellan Da Silva (Intention) Anna Rodrigues (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – Special Intention Sebastian Teles (Anniversary)
	09.30am	Mass – Adriel Da Cunha (Intention) Amaris Goes (Intention)
	11.00am	Mass - Mary Joyce (Anniversary) John Joyce (RIP)
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	09.00am	Mass - Marcos Fernandes (RIP) Esther Fernandes (Intention) Remy Faleiro (Anniversary)
Wednesday	09.00am	Mass - Ludivico De Souza (Anniversary) Dominic and Priscilla Gonsalves (Intentions)
Thursday	09.00am	Mass - Melrick Fernandes and Merveny Crasto (Intentions) Leela Dharmasena (RIP) Gerard Jansz (RIP)
Friday	09.00am	Mass - Ruth Carvalho (RIP) Jolyen D'Souza (Intention)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 22, 2024)

SUNDAY (Sat)	06.00pm	Mass – Brian Fernandes and Joella Cardoso (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – Flavia De Sa (Intention)
	09.30am	Mass – Felicidade and Inacio Fernandes (RIP)
	11.00am	Mass - Angelo Scisci (RIP)

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

MASS: On Saturday 21st December there will be Mass at 11am for the first Anniversary of the death of Maria Santana Clarina Gonsalves. All are welcome to come to this Mass.

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.

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

WEDDING: Congratulations to Nnamdi Iwuji and Chikamma Oluoma who are married here at St Marys this weekend.

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.

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 £1215.45 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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, Nicola Campbell

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.

"Advent reminds us it's never too late to begin again."

Pope Francis

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
'Fear not, O Sion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.