



St Mary's Catholic Church

Tovey Road Swindon SN2 1LQ
Tel: 01793 535089



Parish Priest: Fr Michael McAndrew - Email: swindonstmarys@me.com

Fr John Salter

Deacon Elias Fernandes

Deacon Terry Aspell

Deacon Paul Thompson

Assistant Priest- John.Salter@Cliftondiocese.com

Parish Administrator - eliasfernandes@mail.com

terry.aspell@cliftondiocese.com

paul.thompson@cliftondiocese.com

Parish website:

www.saintmarysswindon.co.uk

Deanery website:

www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk

Diocesan website:

www.cliftondiocese.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

(DECEMBER 22, 2024)

Entrance Antiphon: **O gates, lift high your heads, grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!**

Response to the Psalm: **Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.**

Communion Antiphon: **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.**

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 – 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)

MONDAY NO MASS

TUESDAY - CHRISTMAS EVE

04.30pm Mass – All People of St Mary's Parish
 07.00pm Mass – All People of St Mary's Parish
 10.00pm Mass - All People of St Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY

09.00am Mass – All People of St Mary's Parish
 10.30am Mass – All People of St Mary's Parish

THURSDAY 10.00am Mass - Alda Gracias Flor (Anniversary)
 Antonio De Souza & Ida Sequeira (Intention)

FRIDAY 10.00am Mass - Ivanka De Araujo (Intention)
 Valente De Souza & Reema Dias (Intention)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 29, 2024)

SUNDAY (Sat) 06.00pm Mass – Gloriana Silveira (Anniversary)
 Jotham Gonsalves (Intention)
 08.00am Mass – Shamir Fernandes (Thanksgiving)
 09.30am Mass – People of the Parish
 11.00am Mass - Joaquim Braganca (RIP)

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

READERS list for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is at the back of the Church. We are still in need of readers for the Mass at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. If you are able to read at that Mass please speak to Fr Michael.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 £ 1413.89 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.

"If Christ is the day that never fades, Mary is its dawn, shining with beauty."

St. John Paul II

The Liturgy

A reading for the prophet Micah

Thus says the Lord:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord

***Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

***Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

***Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

***Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

Alleluia.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord