



# 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)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

(MARCH 23, 2025)

Entrance Antiphon:

**My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.**

Response to the Psalm:

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious.**

Gospel Acclamation:

**Reader:** Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
**All:** **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**  
**Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**  
**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

Communion Antiphon:

**For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.**

### 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

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – Francisco Pereira (RIP) Rosario Gonsalves (RIP) Eliza D’Cunha (RIP) Adele Dias (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – Jose Vas (Thanksgiving)
	09.30am	Mass – Veylonie Fernandes (Intention)
	11.00am	Mass - Cruz & Sophia Silveira (Intention)
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	09.00am	Mass – Neezan Pereira (Intention) Presley & Rozann (Thanksgiving) Cruciano Joao (RIP)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	09.00am	Mass - Lourencinho Gonsalves (RIP) Brian D’Silva (Intention)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	09.00am	Mass - Chrysilla De Sa (Intention)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	09.00am	Mass - Ariana Goes (Intention) Izaias Fernandes (Intention) John Torpey (Anniversary)

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (MARCH 30, 2025)

<b>SUNDAY (Sat)</b>	06.00pm	Mass – John Rosario (Intention) Mariana D’Souza (RIP)
	08.00am	Mass – Luis De Sa (Intention)
	09.30am	Mass – Domingos De Araujo (Anniversary)
	11.00am	Mass - People of the Parish

**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

**RECENTLY DIED:** Please remember in prayers the repose of the soul of two of our parishioners, Margaret McMullan and Catherine Darragh who have died recently. Margaret and Catherine are sisters. Catherine's Requiem Mass is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon  
Margaret's Requiem Mass is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10.45am

**RECENTLY DIED:** Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Dolores Grillo who has died recently. Her funeral service will be at Kingsdown Crematorium on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 12 Noon. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**PRAYER SERVICE AND HOME MISSION** led by Bro Jose Karaikose and team from AFCM Birmingham. On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March Prayer service will start after 6pm Mass here at St Mary's Church. There will be Rosary, Praise and Worship, Talks, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Healing Service. All are welcome.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** 73 of our Children have now begun their preparation to receive their First Communion. Please keep them in your prayer.

**CONFIRMATION:** Bishop Bosco is coming to our Parish in July to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Registration is now complete and 66 of our young people will be confirmed. Please keep them in your prayer.

**LENTEN CROSSES KNITTED ITEMS –**

The Knit & Natter Group have been busy knitting items for Lent.

This year we are asking for a small donation to charity raising money for Swindon Prospect Hospice. The items are available after Mass during Lent. Many thanks to all the knitters for your wonderful efforts.

**MUSIC AT MASS:** Deacon Terry's move will mean that we no longer will have an organist at the 9.30am Mass. Do we have any musicians or singers who can help at this Mass? Any ideas please speak to Fr Michael.

**MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE** is on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 for 7 nights and is £829 per person. For more details, please contact Mario Pereira: 07985 553325. Rosie De Sa 07424716644. Poster on the notice 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:** The offertory collection last Sunday came to £1680.25 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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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, Emmanuella Ruck, Elizabeth McGill, Andrew McCarthy, Marie Lowe, Gill Young, Peggy Notley, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Caroline Borg, Nellie Blake, Martin Connolly, Nicola Campbell, Tommy Fox

**Prayer of thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion**

*Eternal Father, I kneel before you this day with a grateful heart  
because you have allowed me to receive  
the Body of your Son, Jesus, in Holy Communion.*

*As I go forward from this Holy Mass, help me to fear nothing,  
knowing that you are always guiding me  
and that Our Lady constantly intercedes for me.  
Make me aware of your presence, this day and always. Amen*

*"Your accumulated offences do not surpass the multitude of God's mercies:  
your wounds do not surpass the great Physician's skill." 'St. Cyril of Jerusalem'*

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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.

## Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025

### First reading

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

‘ “I Am” has sent me to you.’

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, ‘I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.’ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.’

Then Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: “I AM has sent me to you.”’ God also said to Moses, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: “The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.’

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### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

The LORD does deeds of justice,  
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

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## Second reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

### The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

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## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
Repent, says the Lord,  
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

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## Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

### ‘Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’

And he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, “Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?” And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’