



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MARCH 30, 2025)

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: **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Reader:** Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
**All: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

Communion Antiphon: **The Lord anointed my eyes:
I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.**

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 – John Rosario (Intention) Mariana D'Souza (RIP) Deceased relatives of Gomes and Fernandes family Georgina Acuna Rivera (RIP)
	08.00am	Mass – Luis De Sa (Intention)
	09.30am	Mass – Domingos De Araujo (Anniversary)
	11.00am	Mass - People of the Parish
MONDAY	NO MASS	
TUESDAY	09.00am	Mass – Romao Pereira (RIP)
WEDNESDAY	09.00am	Mass - Camilo Fernandes (Intention)
THURSDAY	09.00am	Mass - Simon Szczerkowski (RIP)
FRIDAY	09.00am	Mass - Deceased members of the Coutinho and Cardozo families

SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (APRIL 6, 2025)

	06.00pm	Mass – Nyla Britto (Intention) Reeny Fernandes (Intention) Celina Colaco (Intention)
	08.00am	Mass – People of the parish
	09.30am	Mass – Antonetta Pereira (RIP)
	11.00am	Mass - People of the Parish

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

JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF HOPE: Bishop Bosco invites us to the Jubilee Celebration of Hope on Saturday 19th July at Downside School & Abbey. Mass will be celebrated at 3pm by Bishop Bosco and the Abbot of Downside Dom Nicholas Wetz OSB. There will be workshops, etc. In addition to the refreshment breaks, a free two-course lunch will be provided – this will be by ticket only (a lunch box will be provided for children/ young people) There will be Maximum of 300 tickets for this including children. Poster at the back of the Church. There will be a coach leaving St Mary' Church. Booking through Eventbrite is essential. Please register via this link: <https://jubileedayofhope.eventbrite.co.uk> for your free ticket. For the purpose of catering to the right numbers, a printed or mobile ticket from Eventbrite is required for the day. If you have difficulty accessing Eventbrite please email: adulthoodeducation@clifondiocese.com Poster at the back of the Church.

WELCOME: We welcome Fr Peter Smith to our Parish. Fr Peter is from the Diocese of Birmingham and will be helping with Sunday Mass for the rest of Lent and Holy Week.

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 10th April at 12noon
Margaret's Requiem Mass is on Friday 11th April at 10.45am
Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Rodney Wilkinson who has died recently. His funeral service will be here at Kingsdown Crematorium on 7th April at 12.45pm. Please keep his family in your prayers.

HOLY WEEK READERS: If anyone is able to read during the Liturgy on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Masses please sign your name on the list at the back of the Church indicating at which liturgy you are able to read.

READERS ROTA for April and May is available at the back of the Church.

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.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE is on 22nd 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.

SECOND COLLECTION: This Sunday we have a 2nd collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund for our diocese. This annual collection helps support our sick and retired priests. It allows us to help retired priests living on their own with rental costs and utility bills; it goes towards care home fees where needed; and also enables us to help with medical costs. We currently pay out over £300,000 per year to support our sick and retired priests. Your generosity is much appreciated, and we do hope that you are able to make a generous donation.

PARISH OFFERTORY: The offertory collection last Sunday came to £1750.39 and £500 in standing orders. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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*

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings – 30th March, 2025

First reading

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

‘God who through Christ reconciled us to himself.’

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

'Your brother was dead, and is alive.'

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'"

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."'