



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(April 6, 2025)

Entrance Antiphon:

**Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength**

Response to the Psalm:

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Reader: Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
All: **Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**
**Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
for I am gracious and merciful.**
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Communion Antiphon:

**Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

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

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

MONDAY NO MASS

TUESDAY 09.00am Mass – Rona Carvalho (Intention)

WEDNESDAY 09.00am Mass - Ricky & Sharon Gonsalves (Intention)
Sophia Silveira (Intention)
Simao Dias & Bezmira Dias (Intention)

THURSDAY 09.00am Mass - De Sa (Thanksgiving)
Franson Fernandes (Intention)

FRIDAY 09.00am Mass - Deceased Souls of Hunters Grove

PALM SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (APRIL 13, 2025)

06.00pm Mass – Joaquim Pereira (Intention)
Aramita Surman (RIP)

08.00am Mass – Idalina Menezes (Anniversary)

09.30am Mass – Rylan Fernandes (Intention)

11.00am Mass - Diago Paulo D'Souza (RIP)

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, 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@cliftondiocese.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.

BAPTISM: We welcome into the Church Zara-Rose White and Maia Weston who are being baptised here in St Marys this weekend.

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.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Lucia Mazzotta and Lewis Jackson Roswell who are getting married here at St Marys this Sunday.

ASSIST US TO LIVE, NOT TO DIE: Please pick up a Voting card from the back of the Church and Vote against the Bill at Third Reading. Write the name of your MP and post it. Cardinal Nicole and Bishop Bosco encourages us to vote and support the teachings of the Catholic Church. Voting cards are at the back of the Church. Heidi Alexander MP. Labour. Swindon South Constituency. Will Stone MP. Labour. North constituency.

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.

LAY CHAPLAIN VACANCY - Saint Joseph's Catholic College have an exciting vacancy for a Lay Chaplain effective to start from September 2025. The role is fulltime and during term times only, but we'll also consider candidates interested in part time and flexible working options. Please see the Eteach link here for the full recruitment pack <https://www.eteach.com/jobs?empNo=13362> or contact our HR team for further information at HR@stjosephscollege.net or by phone on (01793) 236053. Deadline for applications is Wednesday 30 April.

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.

PARISH OFFERTORY: The offertory collection last Sunday came to £1854.21 and £500 in standing orders and the Second collection towards Priest Retirement Fund came to £550.97. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

"A single act of love makes the soul return to life." - St Maximilian Kolbe

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings – 6th April, 2025

First reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

‘Behold, I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my chosen people.’

Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings forth chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
‘Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild beasts will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3

*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

Philippians 3:8-14

‘For the sake of Christ I have suffered the loss of all things, becoming like him in his death.’

Brothers and Sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:12-13

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
for I am gracious and merciful.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 8:1-11

‘Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.’

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?’ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, ‘Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.’ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’