



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

(March 22, 2026)

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: **With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption**

Gospel Acclamation: Reader: Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
All: Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. 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
Tuesday – Thursday after 9am Mass
(No Confessions on Friday)
Saturday after 9am Mass and from 5pm – 5.30pm

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

21st SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Filomena Fernandes (RIP)
08.00am Mass – Caetano Marques & Regina Rodrigues (RIP)
09.30am Mass – Vailanka Coelho (Intention)
11.00am Mass – Archie & Thelma Hemphill (Thanksgiving)

23rd MONDAY **NO MASS - Silent Adoration – (9am-11am)**

24th TUESDAY 09.00am Mass – Anthony Rodrigues (Intention)

25th WEDNESDAY 09.00am Mass – Private Intention
11:30am Funeral Service – Christopher Nicholls

26th THURSDAY 09.00am Mass - Socorro Pereira (Thanksgiving)

27th FRIDAY 09.00am Mass – Lawrence Palha (RIP)

28th Saturday 09.00am Mass – Joshuel De Sousa (Intention)

NEXT SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (MARCH 29, 2026)

29th SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Rosaria Gonsalves & Francisco Pereira (Intention)
08.00am Mass - Vance Coelho (Intention)
09.30am Mass – Catarina Britto (Intention)
11.00am Mass – Sheldon Pereira (Intention)

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

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, Gill Young, Peggy Notley, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Nellie Blake, Tommy Fox

RECENTLY DIED: Please remember to pray for Christopher Nicholls who died recently. His Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 25th, March at 11.30am here at St Mary's Church. Please also remember his family in your prayers.

LENTEN RETREAT: There will be Lenten Retreat here in St Marys' on 28th March led by Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson Starting with 9am Mass followed by Praise and Worship, Word of God and Adoration.

GIFT AID FORMS: Parishioners who took Gift Aid forms after last month's Sunday Mass appeal are kindly asked to return them to the parish office as soon as possible so we can begin claiming the additional 25% Gift Aid from the Government.

OFFERTORY GIFT AID: The very best way for parishioners to help us is to set up a standing order, as it provides a regular and largely predictable income, with minimal processing costs. St Mary's have two Offertory accounts; one for your regular offertory giving and one for the Church Development Fund.

If you are a UK taxpayer your offertory contribution can be Gift Aided, whereby the parish can claim, from the UK Government, an extra 25% on every donation you make at no cost to you. This is an extremely important part of the church's finances and to achieve this all that is required is for a Gift Aid declaration form to be completed and signed alongside the standing order instructions.

For all Non-UK taxpayers, all that would need to be completed is the standing order instructions. Forms can be collected from the Parish office.

GIFT AID ON CANDLES: We can now claim Gift Aid on candles lit on the stand in front of the Church. In order to claim this you will need to put your details on the card reader and tick the gift aid box.

CHURCH EXTENSION: The last week Collection + Fundraising came to £183.33. Some volunteers have decided to prepare delicious food or snacks and sell them after every Sunday Mass. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Natasha Vas on 07720 982226.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 6.30pm and on Friday after 9am Mass during Lent.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE: There will be confessions on Tuesday 31st March from 5pm – 7pm here in St Mary's Church.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

THE KNIT & NATTER GROUP have been busy knitting Lenten Crosses for lent. This year we are asking for a small donation to charity raising money for our church extension. The items are available after Mass during Lent. Many thanks to all the knitters for your wonderful efforts.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you have changed your address since registering as a parishioner, you are now able to amend your entry yourself through the Parish website. On the home page, scroll down to 'Parishioner Registration' and follow the link. Please select 'Change of Address' (there is no need to re-register).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION last Sunday came to £1866.76 and the second collection towards priest retirement Fund came to £ 314.60 Many thanks for your generosity.

MISSIO: The **MISSIO Red Boxes** are ready to collect from the Sacristy.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Mass scaling, travel survey and more. Help with office work. We are also looking Eucharistic Ministers/ readers to help out during Sunday Masses.

MASS INTENTIONS: The first Mass intention will be printed in the Newsletter. The other Mass Intentions shall be prayed for and the names will be read on the requested day but will be offered somewhere else. Please put your Mass intention in the envelope and add your phone number and drop in the box provided at the back of the Church two weeks in advance. **Please do not use the card machine for Mass intentions.**

READERS: On Wednesday at 7pm there will be Readers practice. Those who are reading during the Holy Week. Check the list in the sacristy, if you are one of the reader.

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

First reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

‘I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.’

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.

For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

‘The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.’

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25a, 26

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

‘I am the resurrection and the life.’

At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.’ After saying these things, he said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.’ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out.’ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.