

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Clapham

Clapham Park Road, Clapham London SW4 7AP

Served by the Redemptorists since 1848

Rector: Very Reverend Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR

Parish Priest: Fr Casper S Mukabva CSsR

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Peter Morris CSsR & Fr Royston Price CSsR

Parish [clapham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:clapham@rcaos.org.uk) Parish Secretary 020 7498 3005

[www.stmarys-clapham.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-clapham.org.uk)

Facebook @StMarysClaphamCSsR

Community members CSsR: Rev Fr Maurice O'Mahony, Fr Casper S Mukabva, Fr Peter Morris,

Fr Royston Price, Fr George Webster & Br David Nyamuronda

Monastery 020 7498 3005

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Rachel Duncan, Safeguarding Representative: [claphams1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:claphams1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Sunday Masses: 5.30pm (Sat Vigil), 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon

Weekday Masses: 7am and 12.30pm; Saturday Masses: 9.30 am and 12.30 pm

Novena - 7pm Wednesday

Confessions on Saturday 10 am-10.30 am, 4.45 pm-5.15 pm

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



As we gather on this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgical calendar draws us closer to the fulfilment of God's promise; the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The readings today echo with the anticipation and eagerness that characterised the hearts of those awaiting the Messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel unveils a profound moment of divine intervention. Mary's fiat, her resounding "yes" to God's plan, exemplifies a surrender to the unexpected and a trust in God's providence. As we approach Christmas, let us reflect on Mary's openness and ask ourselves: How can we emulate her spirit of humility and receptivity

in our lives? This small town of Bethlehem becomes a symbol of God's ability to bring forth greatness from the most unassuming places. As we navigate the busyness of this season and the rest of this year, let us remain attentive to the unexpected ways God may be working in our midst. As the Advent wreath's fourth candle is lit, it reminds us that the time of waiting is nearly complete. The accumulated glow signifies the increasing light of Christ dispelling the darkness. In these final days of Advent, let us be intentional about creating moments of stillness and reflection, allowing the light of Christ to illuminate our hearts and minds. In our eagerness for Christmas, may we not overlook the transformative power of waiting and preparing. Let the joy of anticipation fill our hearts as we await the dawning of God's promise in the form of a tiny, vulnerable child born in Bethlehem. May this Advent season be a time of spiritual awakening, and may our hearts be ready to receive the gift of God's love incarnate in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Fr Casper S Mukabva CSsR  
Parish Priest

The office is usually open from 10.00am-2.00pm during the week but closed at weekends.  
PLEASE NOTE THE EMAIL ADDRESS IS [clapham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:clapham@rcaos.org.uk) for all church related queries.

Please pray for those who have gone home to God including Marie Jose, Ronald George Lopez Nazal, Menandro Nabong Sr and Phil McLaughlin and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Frank Fogarty, Mary King, Eithna Keating, Ann Marie Ryan, Mike & Mary Hughes and Michael Kearns Sr.

May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Maryann Riordan, Olive King, Lucy Scarlatti, Eileen Kearns and Robert Bowles.

Please make sure you have the sick person's consent before you ask for prayers for them and please let us know if they have recovered and no longer need our prayers.

### Dates for Your Diary

24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

25 December - The Nativity of The Lord

28 December - The Holy Innocents

31 December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### Financial contributions last Sunday

Plate: £657.20 Gift Aid Envelopes: £259.05

Card: £912.90

Thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Council **Cake Sale** last Sunday raised £207.15 towards church funds. We hope you all enjoyed the cakes you bought.

Watch "The Surprise", a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton online this Christmas. Sunday 24th December, 3.30pm

[www.ewtn.co.uk](http://www.ewtn.co.uk) or on sky 586.

For GK Chesterton prayers see

[www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk)

MARY'S MEALS would also like to thank everyone for their response to their foreign currency initiative. £451.84 was raised.

### IMPORTANT

PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS. WE WILL RE-OPEN ON WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY, 2024

THERE WILL BE NO 7 AM MASS FROM

TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER UNTIL

MONDAY, 15 JANUARY

PARISH SURGERY

Parish Surgery is held on Mondays from 4 to 6 pm. If you need to speak to a priest, please come along - no appointment necessary. If you need a school form signed, the child to whom the form applies must be in attendance.

SVP would like to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity. The collection last Sunday raised more than £2,000!

Thank you all again.

### ACE OF CLUBS

If you would like to take part in the Ace of Clubs Sponsor a Christmas Meal appeal, then please scan the QR code below. A donation of just £2 covers the cost of one meal.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER – 8.00 am, 10 am, 12 noon,  
6.00 pm (the "Children's Mass"), 11.30 pm Carols, 12 Midnight Mass

MONDAY, 25 DECEMBER – 8am, 10.00 am, 12 noon

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER – 12.30pm

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 7 am MASS FROM 26 DECEMBER UNTIL  
15 JANUARY, 2024