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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole

The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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<https://www.Instagram.com/roystoncatholic>

Nativity of The Lord (B) 25th December 2023

Nativity of The Lord

Monday 25 th	9:00am	Mass of Christmas Dawn	Peace in Ukraine
	10:30am	Mass of Christmas Day	The Homeless
Tuesday 26 th	12 noon	St Stephen	The Walsh Family
Wednesday 27 th	9:15am	St John	Kathleen McHugh (Int)
Thursday 28 th	9:15am	Holy Innocents	Marie Sawyer (Int)
Friday 29 th	12 noon	St Thomas Becket	The Mission of our Parish

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Peace

Christmas Volunteers Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer to contribute to our celebrations this Christmas. Thank you to our musicians and singers, our flower arrangers, our cleaners and all who are contributing to our worship and the service of our neighbours.

Fr Philip and Jane warmly thank all of you who have shown so much generosity in your cards, prayers and gifts. May you all be blessed this Christmastime.

The Sisters would like to send their heartfelt thanks and Christmas blessings to everyone who sent them cards and good wishes.

The Westminster Yearbook 2023-2024
(containing the 2024 Liturgical Calendar)
Copies are now available to purchase for £5 in the sacristy.

Parish Office Please note that the parish office will be closed this week

Letter from the Latin Patriarchate of

Jerusalem. Please read the copy of the letter from our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land which is on the notice board and please hold them in your prayers.

Friends of the Holy Land charity song

Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, *Hear Angels Cry*. The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity. Cardinal Vincent and Pope Francis have both welcomed the song, and proceeds from its sale will go to the *Friends of the Holy Land*. Pope Francis expressed that his hope was that the song "will inspire many people this Christmas to pray for a new flourishing of fraternal solidarity, reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land." You can watch *Hear Angels Cry* on [YouTube](#). The song is also streaming on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#). You can also support fundraising efforts for the suffering in the Holy Land by buying the song via [Amazon](#). More information at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-prays-bethlehem-song-can-inspire-solidarity-reconciliation-and-peace-in-the-holy-land-this-christmas/>

2025 Jubilee preparation: We have been asked in 2024 to focus on Prayer as we prepare for the Jubilee year. The Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation is offering a **Lent Programme 2024: "We Dare To Say"** This is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. The course has been specially prepared for the Year of Prayer, see poster for more details. As Ash Wednesday is only eight weeks away, we need to get our resource orders in very soon. Please can you sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy if you would like to part. We must order booklets by the 8th January! So please sign up asap.

Christmas Offering If you are a taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope. There should be a few in each pew.

Crib Offering 2023 Please consider donating at the Crib to support the Catholic Children's Society. The CCS brings God's message of hope and love to disadvantaged children and families. They are helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via their website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Sacristy. Thank you for your support.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December For Persons with Disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST. St Robert Southwell SJ

Behold the father is his daughter's son,
The bird that built the nest is hatch'd therein,
The old of years an hour hath not outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now begin,
The word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is, and force doth faintly creep.

O dying souls! behold your living spring!
O dazzled eyes! behold your sun of grace!
Dull ears attend what word this word doth bring!
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace!
From death, from dark, from deafness, from despairs,
This life, this light, this word, this joy repairs.

Gift better than Himself God doth not know,
Gift better than his God no man can see;
This gift doth here the giver given bestow,
Gift to this gift let each receiver be:
God is my gift, Himself He freely gave me,
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.

Man alter'd was by sin from man to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh;
Now God is flesh, and lies in manger press'd,
As hay the brutest sinner to refresh:
Oh happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew!

