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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>

## Mass this Sunday: Holy Family (B) 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Today's Readings

*Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3* The Lord promises Abraham and Sarah a son.

*Hebrews 11:18. 11-12. 17-19* It is through faith that Abraham receives the gift of his family.

*Luke 2:22-40* The child Jesus is presented to the Lord in the Temple and blessed by Simeon and Anna.

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am
	10:30am

### Intentions

For Our Parishioners

For Families

For Peace

### Mass This Week

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Mary Mother of God	For Mothers
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***Please note there will be no other Masses this week***

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Peace in the Holy Land

**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.

**Friends of the Holy Land charity song** *Hear Angels Cry* has been released, and fund raised by its sale will go the *Friends of the Holy Land*. You can also support fundraising efforts for the suffering in the Holy Land by buying the song via [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). 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 8<sup>th</sup> January! So please sign up asap.

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

**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](http://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.

### CHRIST'S CHILDHOOD. St Robert Southwell SJ

Till twelve years' age, how Christ His childhood spent

All earthly pens unworthy were to write;  
Such acts to mortal eyes He did present,  
Whose worth not men but angels must recite:  
No nature's blots, no childish faults defiled,  
Where grace was guide, and God did play the child.

In springing locks lay crouched hoary wit,  
In semblant young, a grave and ancient port;  
In lowly looks high majesty did sit,  
In tender tongue sound sense of sagest sort:  
Nature imparted all that she could teach,  
And God supplied where nature could not reach.

His mirth of modest mien a mirror was;  
His sadness temper'd with a mild aspect;  
His eye to try each action was a glass,  
Whose looks did good approve and bad correct;  
His nature's gifts, His grace, His word and deed,  
Well show'd that all did from a God proceed

