

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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 (Marcello – via text message)

Mass - Sunday
 Sat 5.30pm (1st Mass of Sunday)
 Sunday 8am & 10am
 Weekdays
 Mass Monday Tuesday & Saturday 9.30 am
 Thursday As announced
 Mass on Friday 7pm
 Confessions: Saturday 10am – 10.30am & on call

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6/7 February 2021

Soft power and hard evidence - this weekend

The media often reflects on 'soft power' in terms of personalities who though they have no Power (with a capital P) - nevertheless they can effect and affect public opinion and causes. In the UK perhaps various members of the Royal family might exercise really strong influence with support for various needs and charities - even though they have no effective power. Clearly we see many examples of 'soft' impressive attraction in the words, actions and miracles of Jesus. Latterly we have heard about his preaching and calling of the apostles; his healing and teaching. Each of us can recall many examples in the Scriptures; but we mustn't miss out on the strong and 'hard' moments in the ministry of Jesus. Last Sunday, he exorcised an evil spirit from a man possessed. This Sunday he again casts out devils. It is a temptation for modern people to perhaps regard such 'works of Christ' as medieval. Yet, one of the things that the pandemic is teaching us is perhaps we are not quite as clever and sophisticated as we previously thought. Humbly we have to step back and, accepting the 'soft' teaching of Jesus, we also need to accept with trust the power Jesus Christ has over evil forces and circumstances. (Father Michael)

Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lent 2021

Later this month on February 17 we will observe ASH WEDNESDAY. It begins the holy season of Lent - this year under COVID restrictions. Masses will be at 9.30am and 8pm. This year - priests are not allowed to touch or mark the foreheads of those attending. Instead, after Mass - Father Michael will be in the car park (weather permitting). Maintaining social distance, Father Michael will SPRINKLE ashes on the top of the head of each person. Yes, there is something very significant about the dark mark of ash visible on our foreheads - but for this year we have to look after and protect each other.

During Lent **on Friday evening at 7pm we will have Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion.** In other words - not a Mass but still our Lenten observance and sharing in the powerful **Way of the Cross.**

"Let us Dream - the path to a better future" Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh; a highly readable book. Father Michael writes - 'This book, written since the start of the pandemic, is not too long, accessible and full of wisdom. It very much reflects the life and thinking of our present Pope who has emerged in the world of fake news and false leadership - as a respected global figure. The Holy Father has many profound reflections on

Saturday 6th February St Paul Miki & Companions Martyrs 5.30pm Bridie Giblin RIP (Fadian)
Sunday 7th February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8am Chris Taylor RIP (Austin) 10am People of the parish
Monday 8th February 9.30am Dennis Allman RIP
Tuesday 9th February 9.30am Chris Taylor RIP
Wednesday 10th February St Scholastica, Virgin NO PUBLIC MASS
Thursday 11th February 1pm Funeral – Chris Taylor
Friday 12th February 7pm Chris Taylor (Alana)
Saturday 13th February 5.30pm Thanksgiving for faith and life (Maria)
Sunday 14th February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8am For all victims of COVID-19 10am Eric Chandler RIP (Birthday)

the pre COVID world and values and the future under God's grace. I would like to use it for reflection during the season of Lent. Would you like to have a copy? Let me know by email or a phone message. It will cost only £10 - the parish will cover the extra and postage. Let me know please'

Chris Fanning – senior Diocesan surveyor

After many years of faithful and dedicated service - Chris is retiring. He will be truly missed - having been an ardent servant of the Gospel and the parishes of the diocese for so long. There is hardly a roof or drain (or any other corner) across the diocese which has not come under the view of Chris. The priests of the diocese greatly appreciated the assuring presence of Chris because he always turned up in a parish in order to 'help'. Certainly, Stanmore wishes health and happiness - to both Chris and his wife. May the Lord bless his many years of generous dedication.

Our parish sympathy and prayers - forthcoming funerals

Chris Taylor RIP

Father Michael writes - "the death of dear Chris is not only a great loss for his wife Peggy and the family, it is also a real sadness for the parish. In countless ways Chris was deeply involved in the life of Saint William of York for many years. Over time, there was hardly a rota on which Chris' name did not occur. Working alongside various priests and parishioners, organising Christmas Fairs and Summer events, social gatherings in the hall and in the old wooden hall which used to stand behind the church - Chris did an immense amount of unseen pastoral work. He visited people and helped out where he could, always with generosity and discretion. Above all, Chris was a man of faith and prayer. Daily Mass was part of his regular practice in later years. From my point of view, as one of the Parish Priests who had the privilege of knowing him - I found him respectful and good humoured. He was wise and willing! He will be greatly missed. Chris had a holy and peaceful death; again I was blessed to be able to administer the Last Rites. The whole parish extends our sympathy and prayers to Peggy, the family and all who mourn his passing. Dear Chris, 'well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord.' **Funeral: 11 February at 1pm** under COVID restrictions.

James O'Reilly RIP

Jim and his wife Kathleen - long term parishioners - were very much part of the parish. Regular in their practice of the faith - Jim spent the last few years at home, looked after by Kathleen and the family as well as visiting carers. There was almost always an O'Reilly / Boyle bench full at Mass. Truly Jim was a good, decent and honest man. Now- may he know the bright light of heaven. The funeral of James O'Reilly will take place on Tuesday 16 February beginning with Mass in the church at 10am - with COVID restrictions.

Church Safety Arrangements

- Face Masks must be worn at all times whilst in the Church,
- Please observe safe distancing and no intermingling between households,
- Follow the one-way traffic flow system that is in place,
- Please follow the direction of the Marshals on the seating arrangements, and stay in the assigned pew seat; a restricted number of 42 remains in place which will be adhered to.
- Holy Communion is distributed after the final Prayers and Blessing, with Parishioners expected to exit the Church, not returning to their seat,
- The Toilet facility remains out of use,
- Hand sanitizers are sited at the Entrance and Exit from the Church for personal use,
- If you are feeling unwell, suffering from a cold or cough, please do not attend Church.

Counters Rota

7 February Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese
14 February Eddie Whittaker, Anthony Owolabi, Mary Kehoe
21 February Richard Afonso, Walter Acuti, Beatrice McAdam