

# St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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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

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**23/24 January 2021**

Saturday 23rd January

5.30pm Patrick & Jimmy Hession  
 RIP

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the parish

10am Peter Amandini RIP

Monday 25th January

The Conversion of  
 St Paul the Apostle

9.30am Sean Murphy RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 26th January

Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops

9.30am Nancy Burn RIP

Wednesday 27th January

NO PUBLIC MASS

Thursday 28th January

St Thomas Aquinas  
 Priest & Doctor

NO LITURGY

Friday 29th January

7pm Carmo Fernandes RIP  
 (Anniv)

Saturday 30th January

5.30pm John McIntyre Intention  
 (Monica)

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Father Jim Duffy RIP

10am Ellis Sammarco RIP

## This weekend - "called, invited and chosen and a job to do"

Last Sunday, in the gospel we heard Jesus say to his first followers - Come and See! This is an invitation we have all received. Not because we are special and perfect, but we are privileged; really privileged. Even in these very tough times-Jesus is stretching out to us. We need to find even a short time in our busy day (or night) just to RECEIVE the words and love of our Lord into our hearts. Notice how the apostles in the gospel this weekend (two sets of brothers - interestingly enough) are busy and hardworking. They were fishermen. Yet when Jesus approaches them and requests that they follow him- the whole direction and impetus of their lives changes. The gospel tells us that 'AT ONCE-they left their nets and followed him'. Observers might raise questions about their willingness to follow Christ so radically. The experience of these first followers is the experience of believers through the ages. Once Jesus is recognised and trusted - then we too realise that we are *CALLED, INVITED AND CHOSEN*. Our lives take on a new shape and we find that a task has been given to us by the Lord "I will make you fishers of men/women."

## Christian Unity Week

Though not being able to gather - the various clergy and ministers from Stanmore haven been in prayerful contact for this special week. Perhaps- the pandemic circumstances prompt all Christians to seek the unity for which Christ prayed - when He said; 'May they all be One'.

## Our Lord Jesus Christ requests a meeting - Mon 25 January: 6pm – 8pm

Jesus wants to encounter us with his MERCY. He invites us in a special way through the Sacrament of Confession. Right now, Confession can't be in the confined 'box'. It is the Sacrament where we simply open up our lives and blemishes; our blessings and our faults - in the presence of the Church's minister. This Monday from 6pm until 8pm – Father Michael will be available in the sacristy on the left-hand side of the church. It allows distancing and discretion. It is an invitation. Though a sinner himself, the priest speaking directly in the name of Christ can lift the burden of our sins and RELEASE our hearts with joy. YOU - ALL are invited!

## 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'

### **The Christmas Crib and Candlemas**

In the current unusual circumstances - the crib has been even more special. A different location kept it central (literally) within the church and on-line. Carol-Anne rose to the new arrangements with adaptability and artistry. It will be dismantled on Monday 1 February - the eve of Candlemas Day. On Tuesday 2 February the feast of the Presentation - at the 9.30am Mass, candles will be blessed and available in careful COVID conditions. They can be taken home after Mass.

**\*\*\*\*\*Opening up for Mass\*\*\*\*\***

*From 23 January weekend Masses will be as normal, ie Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 8am and Sunday 10am (this service in church and online) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2539625604>*

### **Later on February 2 - Bridget McGowan RIP**

Bridget's funeral will take place at 11am - again under COVID restrictions. A woman of faith surrounded by a very loving family, Bridget died on January 10. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord.

### **Father Jim Duffy RIP**

Father Jim Duffy was a retired priest living in Bushey who died recently aged 82. Father Michael administered the Last Rites for Father Duffy - whose funeral took place last week in Rickmansworth parish - where he had been Parish Priest. Since the beginning of the pandemic 18 priests of the diocese have died (though largely not from COVID 19). May they all rest in peace and rise in glory; ordinary 'everyday' priests who served the Lord and His people.

### **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.

### **The future for our children and young people?**

Every day - I am commending our children, young people, undergraduates and 'others' to the care of Mary, the Mother of the Lord. An unknown and unpredictable future needs the mantle of Mary to wrap them and bless them. The Memorare prayer puts it well - 'remember O most gentle mother that never was it known that anyone who asked for your help and protection was left unaided.'

### **A new Administration**

Our American 'cousins' have a new President. Recent political leadership has been challenging - so we hold the United States in prayer at this time. The psalmist often cries out - "spare your people Lord, spare your people". Simple and to the point.

### **Generous deliveries and thoughtfulness**

Father Michael regularly opens his front door and finds 'goodies' left in the porch - by known and anonymous providers. Amazing and abundant; Father's expanding waistline tells its own story! Many, many thanks.

### **Counters Rota**

31 January

Richard Wong, Pearly Jesuthasan

7 February

Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese