

St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST
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(Marcello – via text message)

MASS TIMES

Sunday
8.00 am & 10.00 am

Weekdays
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday No Mass
Friday 7.00 pm
Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Confessions on Saturdays 4.15-5.15pm in church,
or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

21/22 May 2022

Saturday 21 May

17.00 Rosary
17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Nora Balfe (101st birthday)

SUNDAY 22 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

8.00 Mass People of the parish

10.00 Mass
Marzena & Slawek (30th
wedding anniversary 25th April)

Monday 23 May *Easter feria*

11.00 Funeral Mass for
Bertila D'Souza

Tuesday 24 May *Easter feria*

9.30 Mass & Rosary
Sr. Teresa Nolan

Wednesday 25 May

St Bede the Venerable

9.30 Mass & Rosary
Frankie Quinn

Thursday 26 May

Ascension Day

7pm Mass with hymns
People of the parish

Friday 27 May

St Augustine of Canterbury
No Mass

Saturday 28 May *Easter feria*

No Mass of the day
16.15-17.15 Confessions
17.00 Rosary
17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Nancy & Michael Quille RIP
(Anniv)

SUNDAY 29 May

Seventh Sunday of Easter (Yr C)

8.00 Mass People of the parish

10.00 Parish Mass
To give God thanks for life

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C – Luke)

The readings for today's Masses are to be found in the *Parish Mass Book*, pages 274—5

The Second Vatican Council, which had such a big impact on the faith of those members of the congregation old enough to have lived through the years 1962—5, and their dramatic aftermath, is now history. It was one of about twenty major church councils in the two-thousand year history of the Church. Today we learn of the *first* one, which was held in Jerusalem in apostolic times.

It gathered a small group of people, some of whom had known Jesus and experienced him risen from the tomb before his ascension, and who had to tackle the *enormous* problems which arose in primitive Christianity, reconcile the differences that arose between them, and believe that the Spirit would guide them in the right direction. As the third millennium moves forward, the Church has multiple crises to face, many of which are on the front pages of our newspapers or make the headlines on the TV News, yet we must resolutely press forward, believing in the God-given (indeed God-shaped) character of the Church and its future, believing too that the Spirit is with us to guide us in difficult and challenging times. Just as the early Christians did!

First Reading (NT): Acts 15.1—2, 22—9 That some non-Jews ['pagans'] were receiving Baptism in the dispersed communities where Jews lived among other nations around the Mediterranean, both shocked and angered some in the mother church of Jerusalem. In its earliest days Christianity was regarded less as a new religion than yet another sect within Judaism. Paul went to Jerusalem to argue the case of those who had converted directly from the pagan religions of Asia Minor and Greece without first embracing the Law of Moses and observing the customs that such an embrace would appear to require. This was the first ecumenical council of the Church. Paul persuaded his fellow Jews in Jerusalem to compromise, and to welcome Gentiles, while also asking certain concessions of them as well. The Holy Spirit was active in effecting a courageous and transforming agreement, thus giving a *great* boost to the missionary endeavour of Paul and his companions across the Gentile (the non-Jewish) world.

Second Reading (NT): Revelation 21, 10—14, 22—3 When the prophet Ezekiel was writing the *original* temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed; and he claimed that God had left the holy city entirely – deserted it. By the time John wrote this passage the Jerusalem temple had been razed to the ground again, and the city of Jerusalem destroyed (in 70 AD), this time by imperial Roman army. As the first century came to a close many Jews must have felt the same as in Ezekiel's day, that God had abandoned the city. And perhaps Christians too mourned the loss of the temple. John borrows the language used five centuries earlier by Ezekiel to describe how God *restores* His temple to describe the new relationship between God and humanity, no longer on earth but in heaven. He depicts heaven as the new Jerusalem, where there will be not be a temple because God and 'the

Lamb' (the crucified and risen Christ) will be fully present and their light will illumine the whole city day and night.

Gospel: John 14, 23—9 This reading is a yet another extract from Jesus' teaching during the evening of His 'Last Supper' and, with the Jerusalem temple now gone (something Jesus predicted rather something he himself actually saw happen nearly forty years after his death), God would dwell with his people through the power of his Spirit. Jesus promises that the Spirit will be sent and he will be '*another* advocate'. He will act as our 'counsel for the defence'—or as St Basil puts it, our 'inseparable companion' against an unbelieving world.

Prayer of Preparation for Mass

After this prayer until the bell at the start of Mass is an opportunity to pray silently together in preparation.

ALMIGHTY GOD, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you and worthily praise your holy name; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ascension Day - Thursday

This solemnity, which is a holy day of obligation, falls on 26 May this year – Thursday. There will be a Mass with hymns at 7.00 pm.

Confirmation

After the uncertainties of the pandemic some people have been asking about confirmation. I am very pleased to say that Bishop John Sherrington has reserved **25 September 2022** to come to celebrate Mass for us and to confirm both young people and adults who, after proper preparation, may ask for this sacrament.

Please would you spread the word? to anyone you know may want – or *ought to be* – confirmed, and to any family who regularly comes to Mass here with children over 13 or 14. They should in the first instance contact me and Frances on stanmore@rcdow.org.uk. Frances and I will gather names. The preparation course will probably be for an hour on a Monday or Tuesday evening – yet to be decided.

Returning to Mass at Pentecost

Following their Spring meeting the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales made an announcement about the so-called "Sunday Obligation":

"Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded, and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed.

"The challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. *We therefore believe that the reasons that prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.*

"We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation."

First Holy Communion 26th June

Please keep our First Holy Communion children in your prayers as they make their preparations. This weekend they will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation when they make their first confession. Dylan, Gustave, Jedwin, Kevin, Lorenzo and Taison will receive their First Holy Communion during the 10am Mass on Sunday 26th June. This will be followed by our traditional Communion Breakfast Celebration in the Parish Hall. The congregation is invited to join their families and guests in the Hall for a cup of tea and to congratulate the children as their certificates are presented to them.

Readers Rota 21 May 5.30pm Jennifer Bourke 22 May 8am Georgina Martins
22 May 10am Readings Ray & Alex Kulanthai, Bidding prayers Robert Chandler
28 May 5.30pm Lily Meghji 29 May 8am Rosemary Chukwulobelu
29 May 10am Readings Monika Tabarrok, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger

Counters Rota 22 May Walter Acuti, Beatrice McAdam
29 May Eddie Whittaker, Anthony Owolabi, Mary Kehoe

Church Cleaning Rota 28 May Tm B: Tim Goodger, Monica O'Shea, Laura Willoughby, Vere Massy, Indre Balcaite
4 June Team C: Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira and Elvira De Souza