

St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



PARISH PRIEST

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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 4.30-5.15pm
in church or by arrangement with Fr Jonathan

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11/12 February 2023

Sat 11 Feb *Our Lady of Lourdes*

World Day for the Sick

4.30-5.15pm **Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass** Eddie O'Connor RIP

SUNDAY 12 Feb

6th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)

Psalter week 2

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**

Eric Chandler RIP (Birthday Anniv)

Mon 13 Feb *Feria of 6th Week of Year*

9.30 **Mass** Barbara Shelley Cowin RIP

Tue 14 Feb *Sts Cyril and Methodius*

Patrons of Europe, Feast

9.30 **Mass** Maria Shukla (Thanksgiving)

Wed 15 Feb *Feria of 6th Week of Year*

9.30 **Mass** Denzil Francke RIP

Thurs 16 Feb *Feria of 6th Week of Year*

No Mass day **Gospel: Mark 8.27-33**

Fri 17 Feb *Feria of 6th Week of Year*

Friday abstinence

7.00pm **Mass** James O'Reilly RIP

(2nd Anniv)

Sat 18 Feb *Feria of 6th Week of Year*

4.30-5.15pm **Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass** Peter Amandini RIP

(Anniv)

SUNDAY 19 Feb

7th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)

Last Sunday before Lent. Psalter week 3

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**

Mrs Stephen (Thanksgiving)

WELCOME to Mass today, especially if you have not been for a while. We are pleased to see you, and hope we shall see you again. **Please take this newsletter home**, and use the calendar to help you pray. (Want any advice about apps that might support your daily private prayer? Just ask Fr Jonathan)

PREPARATION FOR MASS 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, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
After the prayer, please keep silent until the bell begins the Mass.

Difficulty remembering? Some seem to be finding the responses of the Angelus after Mass tricky to commit to memory ... think of a mnemonic ...

ABA

The Angel of the Lord ... R/ And she conceived ...

Behold the handmaid ... R/ Be it unto me according ...

And the Word was made ... R/ And dwelt among us ...

Learn the closing prayer and **use** the devotion regularly (when you rise, at noon and in the evening), and your sense of God's *closeness* in your life will deepen, for sure!

AFTER THE 10am MASS ... in the Parish Hall – refreshments (often cakes!) and chance to connect. Everyone is very welcome.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME The **Order of Mass** can be followed in the gold Parish Mass Book – first from **p.7**; then, after the Bidding Prayers – from **p.15**; then, from the Lord's Prayer – **p.56**.

- The **Readings** for today's Mass are to be found **pp.136–39**.
- Today's **psalm response** is, '**They are happy who follow God's law.**'

Reflection Jesus was frequently addressed, both by his disciples and by those who gathered around him to hear him speak, as "teacher." And indeed Jesus was an excellent teacher, not only because he managed to penetrate to the heart of the *issues* that concerned the people of his time, but because he provided them with the skills to understand *themselves* better, and *apply* what they already knew to their day to day lives. Most of the Jews of his day knew the commandments and, on the occasions when he challenged

Pharisees on their knowledge of the law, they were able to recite the basic ten essential items of the Ten Commandments by heart.

But the good teacher always tries to *raise his pupils' game*, so they can not only *understand* but also *pass on* what they have learned. And here we find Jesus taking the commandments as 'raw material', and inspiring the people to attempt a more fulfilling application of them. To capture and understand fully the *spirit* of the commandments not just the letter. And once they had made that *leap of understanding*, Jesus gave them

directions as to how to apply their insights to their conduct and their lives. He focuses here on their relations with their neighbour and duties towards them.

First Reading (OT): Ecclesiasticus 15.15–20 The key words here are the first: “if you wish.” It is as *free people* that we make the choice to observe the commandments of God. It’s something in our will, not first in our feelings. Much contemporary research in the area of psychology and neurology suggests something different. People are the product of their environment, they say. There is the view also that we are genetically determined. For sure, the details of our lives are determined by a complex variety of factors over some of which we have no choice. And yet a final decision rests with each one of us. Of course many things influence such decisions, but we are nonetheless independent moral agents who can exercise control over how we act.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 2.6–10 Paul was an intelligent Jew but he was brought up and educated in the pagan world. So, he knew well the teachings of the “masters of our age.” However, he did not indulge in a discussion of the philosophies that circulated the Mediterranean and near East, especially from Greece and Rome. He insisted that a more ancient wisdom, which came from the God of Israel, was what would lead the people to a greater knowledge and understanding of the truth as God planned to make it known. But even his fellow Jews did not understand what God had been saying to them: otherwise, they would not have put the Lord of glory to death he said. Paul ends his reflections with that great assurance that has given Christians in every generation so much faith in God’s loving providence: what God has prepared for us, the reality for which we are destined, is beyond the capacities of our understanding, and yet is guaranteed to all those whom God loves.

Gospel: Matthew 5.17–37 The Sermon on the Mount would suggest that Jesus raises the bar for our moral behaviour even higher than the Ten Commandments. The challenge is explained by Jesus in today’s quite long passage, in plenty of detail. But the key point is clear. Jesus has no intention of abolishing the old law, but wants to fulfil it—to expand it—with the new!

****Weekday mass times**** There are lists at the back of church, on the tables. This is a simple poll for two weekends. **Please don’t walk past them.** The availability of daily Mass is a great blessing that too few of us take advantage of. Fr Jonathan is looking at the pattern of weekday masses, to enable a greater number to be present. Simply tick the times you would be able to be at Mass.

UPCOMING DATES

Aida Millar *Requiescat in pace* Aida’s body will be received here at St William’s at **7pm on Thursday 23 February** followed by a short form of prayers, and an opportunity to pray for her. After lying here overnight, the Body will be transferred the next day at 9.20am to St Joseph’s (Harrow Weald HA3 5EE) for the Funeral Mass at 10am. All are welcome to both services.

Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. That’s its purpose and its goal. Based on the annual preparation for adult baptisms at Easter, it came to be an annual ‘retreat’ for the whole Church together. Spend some time this week, therefore, consciously preparing yourself to begin Lent well. Don’t let it take you by surprise. Masses at **10am** and **7pm**

Friday 2 March ‘Family Fast Day’ The traditional Lenten disciplines are fasting, prayer and almsgiving. This Family Fast day is an opportunity to express all three in one day! It’s an opportunity, as families or households, to eat simply (or better, to fast!), to pray, and to give at least the value of your daily family meal to support those in need. This year your support, via CAFOD, will give families in Bangladesh – hit hard by the climate crisis – the tools and training they need to fight the effects of changes beyond their control. Please **take an envelope** and **plan to use it.**

Saturday 13 May at 2.30 in the Cathedral the Cardinal will also celebrate the **Annual Mass for Matrimony** for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information and invitations is expected shortly. For now, note the date of this very popular and important celebration.

Readers Rota

11 February 5.30 Jennifer Bourke

12 February 8.00 Rose Okosi

12 February 10.00 Readings Maureen Ruane, Bidding prayers Monika Tabarrok

18 February 5.30 Monica Clifford

19 February 8.00 Freda Adzinku

19 February 10.00 Readings Georgia Nwawulor, Bidding prayers Carol-Anne Chandler

Church Cleaning Rota

18 February Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam and Uzo Ziwannah

25 February Team B: Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby and Indrè Balçaitė