

St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jonathan Goodall, 1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ
Telephone: 020 8954 1299
Email: stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
<http://swoy.weebly.com>
Registered Charity No 233699

HALL ENQUIRIES: text message to 07973 601208 (Marcello Borgese)

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP:
Mr Robert Chandler
(r_chandler@sky.com)

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

25/26 February 2023

Sat 25 Feb *Feria of Lent*

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass**

Fr. James Anthony Boyle RIP

SUNDAY 26 Feb

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter week 1

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**

Aida Millar RIP

Mon 27 Feb *Feria of Lent 1*

9.00am **Adoration**

9.30 **Mass** Mr Kevin and

Mrs Geraldine Desouza RIP

Tue 28 Feb *Feria of Lent 1*

9.00am **Adoration**

9.30 **Mass** Claudette Wadood

Wed 1 March *St David Patron of Wales*

Feast 9.00am **Adoration**

9.30 **Mass and Chaplet of Divine**

Mercy

Vicki Armstong (Birthday Anniv)

10.30 Funeral Mass Peter Pienarosa

Thurs 2 Mar *Feria of Lent 1*

No Mass day **Gospel: Matthew 7.7-12**

Fri 3 Mar *Feria of Lent 1 – Lent fast day*

7.00pm **Stations of the Cross and**

Mass Albertas Povilaitis RIP

Sat 4 Mar *Feria of Lent (Commem St Casimir)*

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass** Intentions of Lily

SUNDAY 5 Mar

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter week 2

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**

Fiona and Serena Ching

WELCOME to Mass today. **Please take this newsletter home**, and use the calendar to help you pray.

LENT: PRAY, FAST, GIVE

TODAY: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 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.151–154**
- Today's **psalm response** is, **'Have mercy on us Lord, for we have sinned.'**

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.

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

Reflection on the readings Today we accompany Jesus into the desert. Since Ash Wednesday we have been beginning our Lenten (that is 'springtime') fast. It's for all Christians, from the youngest to the oldest, but appropriate of course to our age, health and circumstances. Who isn't aware that every day we face temptations? and we're very alert to the fact that the Lord's call to conversion of heart (which we heard on Ash Wednesday: Matt 6.1-6, 16-18), and his instruction to Fast, Pray and Give requires changes to our lives. The traditional Lenten observance involves changes to our outer behaviour, but that's why Jesus stresses that God sees what is done in secret – because it's inner conversion and change that matters. Living in a fast-changing world, we are easily made to feel insecure. Temptations are ever present; advertising feeds our fears of missing out. One of the greatest temptations is to lose our trust and faith in God, and put it in things, people, or securities. Lent's spiritual challenge is to us to deepen our faith in God and to submit ourselves to His will.

First Reading (OT): Genesis 2.7–9, 3.1–7 It is the *temptation* story in this reading which seizes our immediate attention, especially in the light of the Gospel narrative recounting Jesus' desert temptations. But this passage also contains one of the two creation stories, in particular that of us human beings. On Ash Wednesday we were reminded that we were *created* out of dust and that ultimately into dust we shall *return*. God has fashioned us with his own hands. Dust itself is without form, it slips through our fingers, it is lifeless. And yet in God's hands, dust can be transformed, into a being destined for eternal life – the human being. Out of nothing we have been

fashioned into something, each one a unique person, each infinitely precious to God.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 5.12–19 This excerpt from Paul's great letter to the Church community in Rome presents us with a summary of the salvation drama. Through one man (Adam – all humanity) sin entered the world, the relationship established by God at the dawn of creation had been fractured; and through another man, born from above but who called *himself* 'Son of Man', victory was won over sin and the relationship with God restored.

Gospel: Matthew 4.1–11 This Gospel passage today helps us to think afresh about the role of temptation in our lives and what it did for Jesus. Is this story one of low-level temptation (like we might be drawn by chocolate early in Lent when we had decided to forego chocolate for 40 days)? Isn't this more of a crisis of Jesus's meaning or purpose? And if so, isn't temptation more significant for us than we normally allow? In the OT all the great figures, Adam, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Job, Jeremiah, had been put to the test by God. Just before the pandemic there was great debate over the way the Holy Father approved an alternative wording for the Italian text of the Lord's Prayer: 'do not let us fall to temptation'. Yet, this morning we hear St Matthew say very clearly 'Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.' He identified unconditionally with us. Indeed the author of the Letter to the Hebrews understood that '[Jesus] himself *suffered* when He was tempted, and so He is able to *help* those who are being tempted.'

UPCOMING ...

PRAY!

Extra opportunities for worship during Lent – keep an eye on the weekly diary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday - Wednesday 9.00-9.30am, and Saturday (alongside Confessions) 4.30–5.20pm

Wednesday immediately after the 9.30am Mass, **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** (a 10-minute devotion)

Friday at 7pm **Stations of the Cross**, immediately followed by the Mass

FAST!

Friday 2 March CAFOD 'Family Fast Day' **Please take an envelope**, and plan ... This Family Fast day is an opportunity as a family or household to net three in one day! fasting, praying and almsgiving! to eat simply (or fast!), to pray better, and to give to others. This year your support will give families in Bangladesh – hit hard by the climate crisis – the tools and training they need to fight changes beyond their control.

GIVE!

Don't forget to collect envelopes for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal – which all goes to needy individuals, families or communities in the archdiocese. Or the 2 March CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal to support hard-hit people in Bangladesh.

Grateful for your marriage? Are you – or any couple you know – celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year? 5, 10, 25, 30, 40 or even more, years? The Cardinal invites you to a Thanksgiving Mass on 13 May 2023 at 2:30pm in the Westminster Cathedral. "It is an occasion where joy, gratitude and also the deep emotions of a shared journey are celebrated. During the liturgy the couples will be invited, in a simple way, to renew their marital commitment and we shall pray for them and their families." Please give Fr Jonathan **your names and postal or email address by 1 April**, so that you can receive a formal invitation around Eastertime.

Fancy some social time?

Each Friday from 10.30 till noon a **St William's social group meets** in the Hall. It's simply an opportunity to spend time with each other, and to get to know each other better. A variety of activities takes place (Bingo is extremely popular!) but we have also had art activities and short talks (about, for example, ultra-processed food, inheritance tax, accessing your GP, mobile libraries). People who do not worship at St William's are very welcome – **please spread the word** – but the group is guided by our Catholic faith. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided each week. If you have a skill you think may be useful for a Friday activity, or an expertise on a subject that may be of interest, please approach one of the Helping Hands members or contact Frances (on 020 8954 1299 or stanmore@rcdow.org.uk) who will pass on your message.

Monthly service of song and prayer at St John's Open to everyone. Marcello and Daniela play with the band. Next service Sunday 12 March at 5pm. Refreshments provided afterwards.

Readers Rota

25 February 5.30 Lily Meghji

26 February 8.00 Audrey Da Costa

26 February 10.00 Readings Tim & Mel Goodger, Bidding prayers Patrick & Joseph Arthur

4 March 5.30 Noretta Reece

5 March 8.00 Georgina Martins

5 March 10.00 Readings Derrick Pereira & family, Bidding prayers Maureen Ruane

Church Cleaning Rota 4 March Team C: Dominick Martins and Elaine & Derrick Pereira

11 March Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris and Beatrice McAdam