St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



PARISH PRIEST

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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

28/29 January 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 28 Jan

4.30-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Vigil Mass

Patrick, Jimmy and all the deceased members of the Hession family

SUNDAY 29 January

4th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)

Psalter week 4

8.00 Mass People of the Parish

10.00 Parish Mass and Angelus

Roque Dias RIP

Mon 30 Jan Feria of 4th Week of Year

9.30 Mass Francis Rebelo RIP

Tue 31 Jan St John Bosco, Memorial

9.30 Mass Emma Annessa

Wed 1 Feb Feria of 4th Week of Year

9.30 Mass Anicetio Barretto RIP

Thurs 2 Feb

The Presentation of the Lord

No Mass day Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Fri 3 Feb Sts Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore of Canterbury, Memorial Friday abstinence

7.00pm Mass Alessia Annessa

Sat 4 Feb Feria of 4th Week of the Year 1st Saturday 4.30-5.15pm **Confessions** 5.30pm **Vigil Mass** People of the Parish

SUNDAY 5 Feb

5th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)

Psalter week 1

8.00 Mass Elvira & Tony D'Souza

10.00 Parish Mass and Angelus

Paul Boyle RIP (Anniv)

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME and use the calendar to help you pray.

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.

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 (often cakes!) and chance to connect. Everyone is very welcome.

FOURTH 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 in the gold Parish Mass Book on **pp.130-32**

Today's psalm response is: How happy are the poor in spirit. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection The three scripture readings this week fit together unusually well. At the centre stands the *Gospel*, with the Beatitudes – a very famous passage which can only truly be understood from the viewpoint of the life and destiny of Jesus Christ himself. Behind that stands the *first reading*, from the prophet Zephaniah, which reveals the history that Jesus takes up and completes. The *second reading* reveals the results in the Church, the people that God has deliberately shaped according to the person of Jesus: according to His attitudes, to "the *mind* that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2.5).

First Reading (OT): Zephaniah 2.3, 3.12—13 The disciples could not have understood Jesus when he gave them the Beatitudes, had they not had some understanding to base them on from their ancient Jewish heritage. Israel firmly understood wealth as valuable, and poverty as lacking in value. That said, they also understood (as the scriptures show) that the poor have the advantage of hoping for and expecting everything from God; while the rich run the risk of relying on themselves, their possessions and achievements; and the even bigger risks of oppressing the poor out of greed, and robbing the poor of what little they have. Such things were a violation of the old covenant. However! What the old testament knows nothing of is voluntary poverty. Nor does it know anything about voluntary mourning, or

voluntary renunciation of violence. To this we must wait for Jesus of the Beatitudes.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 1.26—31 This reading from St Paul shows exactly what it means to follow Christ the teacher of the Beatitudes. Paul lists various features of Jesus's attitudes: foolishness (in contrast to intellectual strength), weakness (which cannot defend itself in the face of power), lowliness (which cannot be refined and distinguished). God chose all of these things to equate them with the wisdom of Christ's Cross, which overwhelms human power with divine weakness. For Christian believers to "glory in the Lord" (that is, to be able

to find their fulfilment and confidence in Jesus,) is a gradual experience of following and understanding Jesus's way of the cross and resurrection. It is what we mean when we ask in the Angelus prayer to be "brought by his passion and cross to the glory of His resurrection".

Gospel: Matthew 5 .1-12 In this Gospel passage Jesus is specifically teaching His disciples: that is, He is teaching those who are ready not only to listen to Him, but also to accompany Him. Far from being a generalised spirituality, imprecise and acceptable to modern men and women, the Beatitudes are totally Christ-centred. They are a pure expression of Jesus's own personal mission and destiny. It is He who has become poor for our sake; He is the non-violent man against whom the world's violence rages. He is the one who hungers and thirsts to see God's justice prevail. He has the pure heart that always hears and sees the Father. He is the one who has been persecuted by the whole world because he embodies God's righteousness and loving-kindness. He is the truly blessed one. Jesus is painting a self-portrait, which is a prophecy of our portrait also.

Have you been confirmed? It's a simple question. If not please tell Fr Jonathan.

Holy Father's prayer intention for January has been for all educators – that they may be "credible witnesses, teaching connection rather than competition". Looking ahead, in **February**, he asks us to pray for all parishes like our own, "that placing communion at the centre, they may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity, and welcome towards those most in need".

CAFOD is looking for volunteers in the Westminster diocese. Could you help raise awareness about CAFOD's work tackling poverty and injustice? Maybe explore the idea this **Wednesday**, **1** February, from 2.30-4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE? Contact Tony for details on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020 8449 6970.

5 February is Racial Justice Sunday. One of humanity's greatest challenges today is to end racism. As a result of social and economic problems many countries are experiencing protests linked to racial discrimination. We need to pray for the building of a world of authentic justice and true peace.

The theme chosen for 2023 is "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church." Material for thought and prayer can be found at https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday

Please use this prayer daily this week: "Almighty God, you created each person in your image and likeness, help us to recognise you in each person. As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism lead us this day to walk, pray and work together in justice and peace. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord."

Also, next Sunday the Cathedral Choir School is opening its doors to families interested in chorister places for boys in Years 2, 3 or 4 at school. If you know a Catholic family with a musically gifted son of that age you may be making a wonderful connection for them. Interested families are invited to contact Lucy Auger to register. Telephone 020 7798 9081, or email lauger@choirschool.com or visit www.choirschool.com for more information.

Wednesday 8 February is a day of prayer for Victims of Trafficking. It's the feast of St Josephine Bakhita. Kidnapped at the age of seven, she was bought a dozen times over the next decade. Her story is fascinating, and her prayers powerful! Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwbOZGfJYQ4

Saturday 11 February 2023, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the 31st World Day of the Sick. There will be a **Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2.30pm**, celebrated by the Cardinal, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Please let Fr Jonathan know by the end of Tuesday 31 if you want tickets. Tickets are in three categories:

- 1. Wheelchair users who require anointing
- 2. Walking sick users who require anointing
- 3. Those <u>assisting the sick</u>, who do not require anointing.

Please indicate the number of tickets you want in each category.

22 February is Ash Wednesday – start Lent as you mean to finish it! Plan to be at Mass at 9.30am or 7pm.

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

Readers Rota

28 January 5.30 Martin Rush

29 January 8.00 Amalie Direkze

29 January 10.00 Readings Derrick Pereira & family, Bidding prayers Patrick & Joseph Arthur

4 February 5.30 John McIntyre

5 February 8.00 Daphne Byron

5 February 10.00 Robert Chandler

Church Cleaning Rota 4 February

Team B: Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Vere Massy and Indré Balčaité

11 February

Team C: Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira