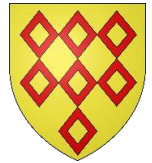


ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ | 020 8954 1299 (Presbytery and Office) |
part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699



Parish Priest: **The Revd Fr Jonathan Goodall** jonathangoodall@rcdow.org.uk

Administrator: Mrs **Frances Bright** (10am-5pm Wednesday) stanmore@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding Representative: Mr **Robert Chandler** 020 8207 3509 / stanmoresg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk

Hall Manager: Mr **Marcello Borgese** 07973 601208 (enquiries by text, with full name and preferred dates)

9–10 March 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent ‘Laetare!’

“He who lives in the truth, comes to the light” *John 3.21*

This week’s Masses, Intentions and Rosary	
Confessions Before or after any week-day Mass; or before or after the Saturday Vigil (from 4.45); or by appointment at any point in the week.	
Sat 9 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Lent 3</i> Vigil Mass – for Pat & Patricia Coyle (Good health)
SUN 10 8am 10am R: Glorious	4th SUNDAY of LENT ‘Laetare!’ Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – for Maria Ivonne Rebelo RIP (Birthday remembrance)
Mon 11 9.30am 7.00pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Lent 4</i> Mass – for our Confirmation candidates Lent Group 3 “Praying with scripture; Praying within history”
Tues 12 9.30am R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of Lent 4</i> Mass – for our First Holy Communion candidates
Wed 13 9.30am R: Glorious	<i>Feria of Lent 4</i> Mass – for the Christians of Ukraine
Thurs 14 R: Luminous	<i>Feria of Lent 4</i> No mass [Gospel: John 5.31-47]
Fri 15 7pm R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of Lent 4; Commem. of St David</i> Stations of the Cross and Mass – for ceasefire and aid for Gaza <i>Friday abstinence</i>
Sat 16 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of Lent 4</i> Vigil Mass –for the people of the parish
SUN 17 8am 10am R: Glorious	5th SUNDAY of LENT ‘Passion Sunday’ Mass – for Alec Moody RIP Parish Mass – for Martina Murphy RIP

Remember, Mass Intentions don’t need to be for the departed: the *living* also need the prayer—parents, kids, grand-kids and friends

Votive lights burn this week
at *Our Lady*: for Joseph O’Reilly RIP (Anniversary)
at *St William & St Catherine*: for Tony Dimonaco RIP

- ♦ **Baptism, Confirmation** (First Communion), **Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage**: all by appointment – please contact Fr Jonathan
- ♦ **Funerals**: by arrangement with Fr Jonathan through your chosen Funeral Director
- ♦ **Northwick Park Hospital**: for a chaplain, contact 020 8967 5130
- ♦ **Returning to faith?** or to the Church? You may find **Catholic Listeners** useful on 0800 448 0704 (a free telephone helpline) 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri
- ♦ **Sign up** for the **Catholic Bishops News Service** - www.cbcew.org.uk/newsletter-signup/

A WARM WELCOME, especially if you are new to the parish. **Please take this newsletter home.**

- ♦ **Parents and carers** please do what you need to keep children content and quiet. Feel free to walk them at *the back of the church*, but please do not let them distract others. (The service is amplified into the Narthex too.) And, for everybody’s safety, *please accompany* any child to the toilet. Thank you
- ♦ **AFTER the 10am Mass** there is a **special open meeting**: see over →
- ♦ **The ORDER of Mass** can be found on the new pew Mass card.

FOR SUNDAY’S MASSES

- ♦ **Before Mass** **ALMIGHTY** and everlasting God, **You hate nothing that You have made, and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.** *Please, unless you under 7, stay silent now until Mass begins.*
- ♦ **Scriptural readings** are to be found on **pp.166-169** of the *Mass Book*.
- ♦ **During the Psalm all say:** ‘O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!’
- ♦ **All sing:** **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.** God loved the world so much that He gave His *on-* ly Son: So that everyone who believes in Him has *e-* ter- nal Life. **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

♦ **After the Dismissal:** *Ave, regina caelorum*



**Hail, Queen of Heav’n, beyond compare,
To whom the angels homage pay;
Hail, Root of Jesse, Gate of Light
That opened for the world’s new Day.**

**2 Rejoice, O Virgin unsurpassed,
In whom our ransom was begun,
For all your loving children pray
To Christ, our Saviour, and your Son.**

Priest
All

Vouchsafe that I may praise thee, O sacred Virgin
Give me strength against thine enemies

Together **BE FOR US, O merciful God, a defence against our weakness, that we who commemorate the holy Mother of God, may, by the help of her intercession, rise from our iniquities, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Easter is coming! Rejoice!

BRIEF REFLECTION on today's scriptures Human relationships have become very complex in recent years, not least because of the increase of 'blended' families: 'Patchwork' families (as the Germans call them). But with God things are way simpler. He loves us without limit: period. St Teresa (Avila) put it this way: 'The Lord never takes his eyes off you. Even if you stray away from Him, you can be sure his gaze is still fixed on you.' Today's readings are about turning our backs on love.

First Reading (OT): 2 Chronicles 36.14-16, 19-23 A key moment in Jewish history. Like the exodus through the Red Sea, the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple, and exile to Babylon, define what it means to be Jewish. Because they were themselves responsible. They had adopted the lifestyle of pagan nations, and turned their backs on their God. Yet there was hope - if they learn, convert, rebuild the shattered relationship with God. Confronting failure, acknowledging sins, turning away from love of the world, rebuilding relationship with God ... that's Lent.



Jesus and Nicodemus

Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 2.4-10 Our salvation is God's work. We live in a relationship with him. We are saved by His grace. Yet we must co-operate with Him, by being pro-active in responding to God's love, and to human love and need for love.

Gospel: John 3.14-21: 'God is love.' 'But that's just theology!' I hear you

cry. 'Well yes', I reply, 'until it's made of flesh and blood'. Christ in flesh and blood challenges us, like Nicodemus, to love like He loves, to love with the love of the Father, who in these last weeks of Lent, comes more and more into the foreground of Jesus's life, and of our thinking.

In just three weeks time the whole Church is due to renew our baptismal vows. Baptism means death to sinning, so that we can live a new life in Christ. So, folks, it is time to prepare your Easter confession if, at Easter, you are to hear Christ's words 'Peace be with you.' In the way the disciples heard them.

Confession is all in the preparation. Preparation and examination of conscience - a prayerful internal conversation - requires a place of peace and quiet. It can be five, fifteen, fifty minutes, longer, depending ... on where your soul is in relationship with God. More time might be needed if you have recently begun to live the faith actively, or if you are currently fighting a grave sin. I will provide a couple of forms of examination next week to help - to give grist to your mill.

But, to get us all thinking, here's one, based on the Beatitudes (each contrasted with the deadliest sins). It's simple but searching, if you're serious about forgiveness. Do use it.

NB Children who have begun to receive Holy Communion should also confess. So there will be a form for kids, to help them too.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

➤ Am I living in denial of my dependence on God? (Pride)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

➤ Am I trying to evade or avoid the pain and suffering in my life? (Acedia - being listless, bored or apathetic)

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

➤ Do I lack inner stillness, and push others away as a consequence? (Anger)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

➤ Do I desire things for myself more than I desire the wellbeing of my neighbour? (Gluttony)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

➤ Am I seeking to be in control (of other people), rather than letting go? (Avarice)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

➤ Do I want my desires to be satisfied through something created, or never want them to be satisfied by being directed towards God? (Desire)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

➤ Do I see the wellbeing of others as a threat to my own wellbeing? (Envy)

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

➤ Do I see things from a merely human perspective, or from God's perspective? (Despair)

♦ **Lent course: Heart in Pilgrimage** During Lent I'm offering some sessions on prayer, to support Lenten resolutions, **Mondays, in church, 7-7.50 pm. Please come!** This Monday (11th), "Praying with scripture; Praying within history"

♦ **Reminders** Funeral Mass for **Margaret Robinson** @ St Joseph's, 10am tomorrow; for **Ray Kulanthai** @ Holy Rood, Watford WD18 0PJ, 12 noon on 21 March

♦ **Resurrection Flowers** After the simplicity of Lent, it is always lovely to have flowers again in church. If you want to contribute an Easter lily for a loved one, for the feast of the Resurrection, as a sign of your hope and praise for them, please put £5 per person with their name(s) in the envelopes provided ... **before Palm Sunday.** Thank you.

♦ **Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony** on 25 May at 2.30pm in the cathedral. So far we have received no interest in tickets, so presumably no one with big anniversaries, or lots of couples but no thanksgiving! Please, names and wedding date, with full postal address and email (or phone number) **to Frances by 10 April.**

♦ **Marian Pilgrimages**

7-14 June to Fatima 'A Day With Mary' Pilgrimage See <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or adwmary.uk@gmail.com

19-26 July to Lourdes with the Diocese 1) Be a pilgrim; 2) Assist pilgrims; 3) Sponsor a sick pilgrim. Ring 020 7798 917 or see rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/

4-12 Sept to Italy 'A Day With Mary' Pilgrimage see above

Readers

9 Mar	5.30pm	Jennifer Bourke
10 Mar	8am	Amalie Direkze
	10am	Patrick Arthur, Pereira family
16 Mar	5.30pm	Daniela Amasanti-DeBono
17 Mar	8am	Daphne Byron
	10am	Nwawulor family, Robert Chandler

Church Cleaning Rota

16 Mar **Team C** Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira

Volunteers are sought to clean the church on 23 March. The usual rota will resume with Team A on 30 March.

Weekly Almsgiving on 03/03/2024

Loose Plate	£ 437.28
Envelopes	£ 427.01
Standing Orders & Online	£ 883.12
TOTAL	£1747.41