

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20/21 June 2020

Saturday 20th June The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary People of the parish
Sunday 21st June 12 th Sunday in Ordinary Time For suffering families
Monday 22nd June Ss John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More, Martyrs Donal Baker RIP
Tuesday 23rd June Joe Lee RIP
Wednesday 24th June The Nativity of St John the Baptist Ron Yep RIP (B Williams)
Thursday 25th June Mary Shine RIP (Crehan)
Friday 26th June Fred Pereira RIP
Saturday 27th June St John Southworth Priest & Martyr Pope Francis
Sunday 28th June Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles For a cure/vaccine for the virus

Welcome home; it has been such a long time !

Your Parish Priest Father Michael writes with great emotion - 'This weekend, at last we begin the opening up of our church. Although we are not yet allowed public/gathered worship (The Mass) – we can at least visit the church, say a prayer and 'feel at home'. All through the time of closure I have been offering Mass daily in the church, praying for the world and specifically for all of you the parish family. I hope you will experience the Lord's welcome - by means of all the Masses and prayers which have gone on. Each one of you, the dear people and families of Stanmore - have been in my heart. I cannot begin to tell how joyful I feel to be able to welcome you back even in these restricted circumstances. We have made a start. The Lord waits for our full return.

Fathers' Day – 12th Sunday of the Year

We have come through a whole cycle of special Sundays and readings, from Easter through to Pentecost, Trinity - completing in Corpus Christi last weekend. Returning to what is called 'ordinary time' with green vestments - the Church's liturgy now begins a long journey right up until Advent at the end of the year. Of course there are also Sundays associated with particular causes and celebrations. At the heart of the Scriptures and at the centre of our faith is a unique word to describe God. While other descriptions and 'labels' may be used: God the Creator, the Majestic, the Merciful, the all Powerful and many more - our Christian faith is wrapped around one central word. God is our **Father** - not in some general over-all way but truly, because being the Father of Jesus - means that in Christ, God is Father to us all. **Fatherhood** is a holy reality and, even in purely human terms, is foundational to our existence and story. ***A really joyful Fathers' Day to all dads, grandfathers and everyone who fulfills fatherhood in one way or another. At this time of a global pandemic it is essential that we keep our eyes fixed on the tender love and mercy of our Father in heaven who ever lives in our hearts.***

BLACK LIVES MATTER

This is a vitally important campaign which must lead to a new way of living and respecting. Though the problems of the USA preoccupy the media - the reality of racism is everywhere; in communities, countries, tribes and families. Racism can find a home in any of our hearts. Yes, it can manifest itself among believers who speak about and believe in the equality of all people made by God. Racism can still be an unspoken 'fall-back' position.

Lives matter! Oriental lives matter. Asian lives matter. European lives matter. BLACK LIVES MATTER. **All lives matter!**

Church Opening Arrangements on Saturdays and Sundays

This weekend, the Church reopened after over 12 weeks closure, and will now be open **each Saturday and Sunday** between the hours of **11am and 1pm**, for short private prayer. Those who wish to visit will be expected to follow the safety measures in place which are:

- Only 9 people are allowed in the Church at any one time,
- Safe distancing is expected to be observed at all times,
- Controlled one-way traffic flow in place, with most of the Church cordoned off,
- Designated pews and positions at the back of the Church are set out for individual prayer,
- Side Altars are closed, with the statues of The Blessed Heart and Our Lady moved either side of the main Altar,
- Toilet facility closed,
- Clear signage and directions in place,
- Hand sanitisers are sited at the Entrance and Exit from the Church for personal use, and those attending are encouraged to wear their own face masks whilst in the Church.

Volunteer Marshals are in attendance to assist and direct Attendees to the designated pews and to ensure that the safety measures are adhered to. Please follow their directions and instructions, including using the hand sanitisers on entry and exit. Like other Churches throughout the country, this is a new, difficult and challenging time. Restricting access to the Church is very much against our Catholic Faith but it is hoped that these measures are temporary, and that it will not be too long before we can again participate in Mass and other Services. Your support and understanding is most appreciated.

Tony Murphy

Finance Committee / Property & Safety Matters

Thank you for all the work!

Preparing for the opening of the church has involved a lot of work. Thank you to Nory and her team who spent days on the deep clean of the whole place. Thank you to Tony and his squad for an enormous amount of preparation and labour. The parish is also grateful to those who have volunteered to be stewards during opening times as well as those who maintain the recommended cleaning between visits. Thank you to everyone willing and involved.

Fred Pereira RIP

Fred moved back to Sri Lanka a few years ago - after many years as an active and supportive parishioner known to generations of people and clergy. Fred died on the eve of his 87th birthday - mourned by his family and many others. May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Media in the church

Hopefully during the course of the coming week - WiFi will be installed in the church. It will mean that Mass and other services will be able to be live-streamed! Though churches are opening up it might be a while before Masses are publicly celebrated - so it will be a useful parish provision. Wider pastoral uses include- allowing people in other places or countries to 'attend' a funeral (for example) or a wedding. Of course, live-streaming from the church is a rather more 'static' experience compared to the presence and participation in our current ZOOM Masses. Thank you to those who have supported this installation.

