

St. William of York Catholic Church



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 4.15-5.15pm in church,
or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

Pentecost (Year C)

4/5 June 2022

Saturday 4 June *Easter feria*

17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Spadoni Family

SUNDAY 5 June

*Including Prayers for
HM The Queen*

PENTECOST (Year C)

8.00 Mass People of the parish

10.00 Mass

Rogue Dias RIP

Monday 6 June

*Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church, Memorial*

9.30 Mass

Piedade Dias RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 7 June

*10th Week of the Year, feria,
Weekday Lectionary, Year 2*

9.30 Mass

Sr. Rosanna

Wednesday 8 June *Feria*

9.30 Mass

Yvonne McDonald

Thursday 9 June Our Lord Jesus

Christ, the Eternal High Priest
No Mass

Friday 10 June *Feria*

No Mass

Saturday 11 June *St Barnabas*

the Apostle, Memorial
No Mass of the day

16.15-17.15 Confessions

17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the Parish

SUNDAY 12 June

Most Holy Trinity (Year C)

8.00 Mass End of cruelty
to animals

10.00 Parish Mass
Fidelis – for full recovery
from stroke

Solemnity of PENTECOST (Year C – Luke)

The readings for today's Masses are to be found in *Parish Mass Book*: pp.294–97
The Easter season comes to a close today. Having focused during Lent on ourselves and our relationship with God, with a view to improving it. And also having celebrated in Holy Week, with great intensity, the paschal mysteries of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. In the fifty days since Easter we have been deepening our appreciation of the *new life* into which Jesus was born through the Easter experience, and on what His living and abiding presence among us means for us as individual disciples and for the Church as a whole. As we celebrated the Ascension we, like Christ's apostles before us, became aware that the mission that Jesus set out to accomplish had not been *completed* when He left us (that will only happen at the close of the age) but that He has empowered *us*, as His disciples, to be the heralds of His kingdom, and to take on *for ourselves* the task of evangelising ourselves and our world. The theme of the gospel today is fullness of the life that is ours once God's Spirit takes possession of our hearts. In fact, that mission with which we were entrusted at the Ascension can only be realized once we are overshadowed by the Spirit. And *that* is why Pentecost (already a festival day on which the Jews of Palestine celebrated harvest) marks a new departure for the Church. Driven, pushed by the Spirit (which manifested itself as a mighty wind), with our hearts aflame with the Spirit's love (which appeared on the heads of the disciples as tongues of fire), we are challenged to preach the Good News, for which the Spirit would be our 'Advocate'.

First Reading (NT): Acts 1–11 We are living in a *mono-linguistic* culture. We may hear different languages being spoken in shops, in the streets, on the bus or in the doctor's surgery, yet they make little impact on us because English is the second language – the *lingua franca* – of the whole of humanity. I used to work in the Church of England's continental diocese; and life in most EU countries is different. On the Continent you quickly realise that the ability to speak French or Italian or Spanish or German is an *empowerment*. It opens doors. It enables you to speak to people in their *own* language; and for the spreading of the Good News this is a very great gift indeed. This reading from the *Acts of the Apostles* informs us about just how many foreigners were in Jerusalem at the Pentecost which followed Jesus' death and how the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak about the wonders of God in such a way that everyone understood them, and had the impression they were being spoken to in their own language. (There may *not* have been a *lingua franca* in first century Jerusalem.) We too can be agents of the Good News as most of us have from birth the most-spoken language in the world. But do we profit from this gift, the charism, to spread the Good News and bear witness to our faith?

Second Reading (NT): Romans 8.8–17 Paul outlines for the Christians of Rome all the capacities and graces they are capable of experiencing once they appreciate and engage the fact that the Spirit of God *dwells within them*: it empowers them to bear witness, to evangelise but also to nurture a new

relationship with Jesus, His (that is, our) Father, and the world He came to save.

Gospel: John 14.15.–16, 23–26 We are always keen to learn, we always like to be taught and are generally receptive to new lessons. The Spirit is our teacher.

Prayer of Preparation before each Sunday Mass

After this prayer until the bell at the start of Mass is an opportunity to pray silently together in preparation.

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, so that we may truly love you and worthily praise your holy name; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confirmation – Last call

Bishop John Sherrington has reserved **25 September 2022** to come to celebrate Mass for us and to confirm both young people and adults who, after proper preparation, ask for this sacrament.

This includes anyone who regularly comes to Mass here and wants to be – or *ought to be* – confirmed, including young people 13 or 14 or above. They should in the first instance contact Fr Jonathan and Frances on stanmore@rcdow.org.uk. Frances and I will gather names. The preparation course will probably be for an hour on a Monday or Tuesday evening – yet to be decided.

'An invitation, not an imposition'

Today sees the return of the Sunday and Holy Day "obligation" on all Catholics to attend Mass. "Most people", said our bishops recently, "have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons that prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation *no longer apply*."

The *Canon Law* of the Church says (§1167): "Sunday is the pre-eminent day for the liturgical assembly, when the faithful gather "to listen to the word of God and take part in the Eucharist". And the *Catechism* (§2181) supports that rule of life: "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason or dispensed by their own pastor."

But is this all too strict? The candid answer is no, for two reasons.

We are God's first, and the Sunday obligation *helps to orient our lives spiritually*. We very easily forget that it was 'very early in the morning on the *first* day of the week', Sunday, that the women discovered Jesus's empty tomb. Sunday is not, for Christians at any rate, the 'week-end'. The Sunday Mass *prepares us for the days ahead* and *sets the spiritual tone for the week*, filling us with God's word and grace so we might glorify the Lord with our lives. It's *not an after-thought* – a way of relaxing after a busy week. By *starting* our week with the Sunday liturgy, we profess publicly, with our whole being, that we are sons and daughters of God and members of His Church.

And secondly the obligation is an *invitation*, not an *imposition* – "**Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ!**", said Pope St John Paul II. "Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that He may cast light upon it and give it direction." Jesus said, much more directly, "Without me, you can do nothing." (John 15.5)

Any exceptions? Yes, of course, as was hinted above. When you are *not free* to attend Mass because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or infants, or some legitimate fear – this is *not* a breach of the Sunday obligation.

Fr JMG

Masses this week

Fr Jonathan will be away from the parish from Thursday 9 until Friday 17 June. There will be no Friday Mass this week. The Masses next weekend will be celebrated by one of the Mill Hill Fathers. All messages for Fr Jonathan to Frances Bright in the parish office on 020 8954 1299 or Stanmore@rcdow.org.uk, please.

Readers Rota	<u>4 June 5.30pm</u>	Martin Rush	<u>5 June 8am</u>	Daphne Byron
	<u>5 June 10am</u>	Readings Aude & Eduardo, Bidding prayers		Carol-Anne Chandler
	<u>11 June 5.30pm</u>	Noreta Reece	<u>12 June 8am</u>	Rose Okosi
	<u>12 June 10am</u>	Readings Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers		Aude & Eduardo

Counters Rota 5 June Richard Wong
12 June Amal Graham, Marcello Borgese, Valerie Cihak

Church Cleaning Rota

11 June Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam and Zizo Ziwannah

18 June Team B: Tim Goodger, Monica O'Shea, Laura Willoughby, Vere Massy and Indre Balcaite