

ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

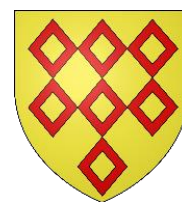
1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ | 020 8954 1299 (Presbytery and Office) | stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699

Parish Priest: **The Revd Fr Jonathan Goodall**

Administrator: Mrs Frances Bright (10am-5pm Wednesday)

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

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



26—27 AUGUST 2023 – 21st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary

Sat 26 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Blessed Dominic Barberi, Memorial</i> Mass – David Monblatt RIP (Birthday remembrance)
SUN 27 Aug 8am 10am R: Glorious	21st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Ps Wk 1 Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – Lawrence Desouza RIP (Anniversary)
Mon 28 9.30am R: Joyful	<i>St Augustine of Hippo, Memorial</i> Mass – for Matthew Allman
Tues 29 No mass R: Sorrowful	<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist, Memorial</i> [Gospel of the Day: Mark 6.17-29]
Wed 30 R: Glorious 9.30am	<i>Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, Memorial</i> Mass – Mary Brightwell RIP (Anniversary)
Thurs 31 No mass R: Luminous	<i>St Aidan of Lindisfarne, Memorial</i> [Gospel of the Day: Matthew 24.42-51]
Fri 1 No mass R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of 21st Week of the Year</i> [Gospel of the Day: Matthew 25.1-13] <i>Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Care of Creation; Friday abstinence</i>
Sat 2 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>Feria of 21st Week of the Year</i> Mass – Vincent Dias RIP (Anniversary)
SUN 3 Sept 8am 10am R: Glorious	22nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Mass – for the people of the parish Parish Mass – Vicki Armstrong RIP (Anniversary)

- ◆ **Reconciliation (Confession)** 20 mins before any weekday Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at anytime by appointment
- ◆ **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Friday after Mass until 8pm
- ◆ **Baptism, Confirmation** (First Communion), **Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage**: all by appointment – please contact Fr Jonathan
- ◆ **Funerals**: by arrangement through Funeral Directors

Northwick Park Hospital: for a chaplain contact 020 8967 5130

Returning to faith? or to the Church? You may find **Catholic Listeners** useful. (It's a free telephone helpline.) 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, on 0800 448 0704 or catholiclisteners@gmail.com



Prepare for **next week's Mass** readings – **Jeremiah 20.7-9; Romans 12.1-2; Matthew 16.21-27** – with wednesdayword.org

A WARM WELCOME to Mass today, especially if you are new to the parish. **Please take this newsletter home** and use the calendar in your daily prayer.

◆ **Before Mass, when the tower bell begins to ring**: 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. *Please, now keep silence together until Mass begins.*

◆ **Parents and carers**, during Mass please feel free to do what you need to keep children quiet and content. Do not hesitate to move around with them. (The service is “piped” into the Narthex too.) And, for everybody's safety, please accompany any child who needs to use the toilet while you're in church. Thanks.

◆ **The ORDER of Mass** is in the **orange Parish Mass Book**. Start on **p.7**; then, after the Creed, go to **p.15**; and then, from the Lord's Prayer, go to **p.56**.

◆ **Today's readings** are to be found **pp.120-22** of the **Parish Mass Book**. And the psalm response is:

Your love, O Lord, is eternal.

Discard not the work of Your hands.

◆ **AFTER the 10am Mass**, there continue to be drinks in the Hall during August.

REFLECTIONS on today's Scriptures - Jesus' public ministry was, according to the different gospels, between 2.5 and 3.5 years – St John seems to have the longest time frame. But by the time the events described in today's gospel occurred Jesus had been heard and seen by a large number of people in the territories of Galilee, the Decapolis, Samaria and Judea. It is natural then, that Jesus should want to gauge what people were making of Him. There were signs of popularity and of opposition. He was by no means always successful; and increasingly there were indications of failure. So He asked those who knew Him best, and knew the people of Galilee best, what impression He and His teaching were making. What was the word on the streets? Given that, when it came to religion, most Israelites would turn to characters in the Scriptures, they found Jesus most like Elijah (who was expected to return, anyway), Jeremiah or one of the major prophets. That answer will have pleased Jesus. At least he was in the right company! But what of the disciples' own opinion? Peter did not disappoint Jesus: 'You', he said, are the Christ 'Son of the living God.'

It is good to reflect from time to time on how well we know Jesus and, even though for those who remember

Catechism answers as to Jesus' identity, it is always good to ask what has Christ come to mean—what does he mean now—to me personally? How different is that from my understanding in years past? I am sure that if a group of St William's people were to sit and talk together about Jesus's question, 'Who do you say that I am?' there would be some measure of agreement, but also some surprising differences, depending on how well each one of us actually knew Jesus, and how much each one had put our knowledge to the test in their life experiences. Our views would also depend on growing in the relationship with Christ, and whether we held on to unexamined or mistaken assumptions about him. What the Scriptures at today's Mass invite us to do is to reflect on the picture of Jesus that emerges, and ask what makes sense to us.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 22.19–23 When they were editing their gospels, and reflecting on Jesus, how much did Mark, Matthew or Luke, or John, turn to the writings of the prophets. There are hints in this prophecy of both the role that Peter is commissioned to play in the encounter at Caesarea Philippi, and of the figure of God's Anointed himself, the Messiah/Christ.

Prayer to learn in August:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You!
And I ask pardon for those who do not believe,
do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

Please note that there is no Mass here on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday of the coming week.

Mass intentions We need to widen the range of our parish intercessions – and the scope of our trust in the Lord. Please pick up from the Narthex a copy of the letter about Mass intentions.

Westminster Abbey While Fr Jonathan is away please ask Tony Murphy for the 'Church Pass' for free entry to the Abbey (4 adults or 2 adults and children)

1 Sept to 4 October every year is now kept, a period of prayer and action on climate and the environment. See Season of Creation.org, and the Pope's Message at laudatosimovement.org/news/message-of-pope-francis-for-creation-day-2023/

And since 1 September is a **Friday**—a day of abstinence—*please* join me in keeping a fast-day for the Church's leadership on these global challenges, especially as the election draws near. Why? Because prayer matters and prayer is effective.

Help needed in Uganda Many of you will know a good friend of the parish, Fr David Masaba Kolo, of the Diocese of Gulu, who used to minister here each August in pre-pandemic days. He is now Dean of Gulu Deanery, which in part explains why he can no longer visit our diocese. He is anxiously looking for help with repairs to his car which is essential to his deanery pastoral work. He needs around 350GBP. If you would like to help him, his bank details can be obtained from Juliet or Dominick Martins (020 8385 7669).

Second Reading (NT): Romans 11.33–36 Son of the Living God? Is that because it was impossible to talk about Jesus without describing what the Israelites had come to understand about the Almighty Himself? That it was impossible to penetrate His motives, to plumb the depths of His wisdom? to tell Him what He did not already know? Jesus not only mirrored His Father, He revealed new things about Him.

Gospel: Matthew 16.13–20 One of the issues down the centuries which has caused most friction among Christians, especially with the Orthodox, is how to understand the authority that Jesus and the Gospels seem to confer on Peter (and his successors). The question is a lively one today, as Pope Francis is suggesting, as Peter's successor, that the basis of the authority of the Church of Rome and its bishop has to be broadened so as to be more inclusive of the faith of other bishops and the lay faithful, and its outworking should be more 'synodical', more mutual. What is clear from this gospel extract is that it was on account of his unambiguous proclamation of faith in Jesus's divine (and therefore eternal) origin that Peter had authority at all.

Next Saturday - Westminster Youth Ministry **Summer Picnic** is bringing a taste of World Youth Day for 12s-35s who were unable to attend earlier this month. A day of fun, prayer, testimonies and Mass (11 am – 4 pm) at SPEC Retreat Centre, 125 Waxwell Ln, HA5 3EP. Sign up at youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/world-youth-day-summer-picnic/

An opportunity to help Ukraine Many of you will know Yuri, Viktoriia and their children who have been worshipping with us for this past year. We all hear appalling daily news reports from Ukraine, reminding us of this country's darkest days during the Second World War. They hear daily from friends defending themselves against brutal and deadly aggression. "My two brothers are in the war", writes Yuri. "One of my closest friends, near Bakhmut, is asking me for help. They urgently need a pickup truck for the local transportation of people, goods and supplies, but it will be very difficult for us to raise these funds alone. I am asking for your help to reach out and help Ukraine." There are envelopes for donations in the Narthex, or if more convenient use BACS: Viktoriia Vrublievska | 24614662 | 30-94-87.

Ever get worried about scams? On **Fri 8 Sept**, 10-12, a local police community support officer will give a talk (in the Hall) on cybercrime. Welcome.

Readers rota

26 August	5.30	Martin Rush
27 August	8.00	Amalie Direkze
	10.00	Monika Tabarrok, Maureen Ruane
2 September	5.30	Martin Rush
3 September	8.00	Daphne Byron
	10.00	Maureen Ruane, Carol-Anne Chandler

Church Cleaning rota 2 Sep Team A Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam
9 Sep Team B Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Indrè Balčaitė, Viktoriia Vrublievska