

# St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



## 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 4.30-5.15pm**  
in church or by arrangement with Fr Jonathan

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4/5 February 2023

**Sat 4 Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

**Mon 6 Feb St Paul Miki &**

*Companions, Memorial*

9.30 **Mass** Donny Annessa

**Tue 7 Feb Feria of 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Year**

9.30 **Mass** Maria Shukla (Thanksgiving)

**Wed 8 Feb St Josephine Bakhita,**

*Memorial*

*Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking*

9.30 **Mass** Dennis Allman RIP (Anniv)

**Thurs 9 Feb Feria of 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Year**

*No Mass day* **Gospel: Mark 7:24-30**

**Fri 10 Feb St Scholastica, Memorial**

*Friday abstinence*

**No Mass** **Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

**Sat 11 Feb Our Lady of Lourdes**

*World Day for the Sick*

4.30-5.15pm **Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass** Eddie O'Connor RIP

**SUNDAY 12 Feb**

**6th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)**

*Psalter week 2*

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**

Eric Chandler RIP (Birthday Anniv)

**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. **Please take this newsletter home** and use the calendar to help you pray.

**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.

**FIFTH 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.133—35** Today's **psalm response** is, '**The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.**'

**Today is also designated 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.*"

**Reflection** We're not that long out from our next General Election. Party positioning has begun. During the campaign all political parties will make extravagant promises regarding how much better life would be for all of us if they were in power. We live in a world where the pressure of expectation is

beyond what most of us can bear: we must be fitter, eat healthier food, have more "quality time" for our spouses/partners/children, we must savour more of the many attractive experiences life today has to offer. An increasing number of people are questioning this relentless pursuit of all the modern world has to offer, not least because of its vastly unequal impact on the poor and on the climate. Nonetheless the pressure to maximise everything—our talents, our health, our wealth, our experiences—is very much a feature of the society in which we live.

Paul the Apostle, probably the figure from early Christianity about whom we know most, knew he was talented and learned. And yet ... he was not shy about admitting his failings, his sins, or his imperfections, and he was very open with those communities to which he wrote about his sufferings as well as his joys, failures as well as successes. The gospel passage presents us with two of the most striking images Jesus used to explain how he expected his followers to make their presence felt in the society of their day: *salt*, which becomes invisible once absorbed in a liquid yet transforming the total taste experience by enabling the original elements to taste more like themselves – vegetables, meat, fruit; and *light*, highly visible yes, but not attracting attention to itself but rather illuminating the darkness that gathers when light is absent. Jesus wants his disciples/followers to *be everywhere* and to *transform their world*. But not for themselves alone—maybe not for themselves at all!—but about the way they can make the lives of others different and better.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 58.7–10** Once the exiled Jews returned from Babylon to Israel they rebuilt the Jerusalem temple and resumed their religious rituals. Alas, their massive neglect of those who were poor and needy was shameful. All our cities today have their homeless population, people sleeping in doorways, people begging. So, nothing is new! But the message from Isaiah is that observance of religious rituals are of no use if we neglect the indigent and the needy. That is why so many Christian organisations do so much to alleviate the plight of the poor both, at home not only overseas.

**Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 2–5** Paul is not shy of his failings or his incapacities. Indeed, in view of how God had revealed himself in Jesus, his awareness of his weakness, and the depth of his needs, is, he believes, his strength. He does not draw attention to himself but rather to Jesus Christ, whom he proclaims as Saviour and Lord.

**Gospel: Matthew 5.13–16** The contrasting images of salt and light are deliberately chosen by Jesus. Both *enable a transformation*: in taste, or vision.

**\*\*Weekday mass times\*\*** The availability of daily Mass is a great blessing that too few of us take advantage of. Fr Jonathan wants to look again at the pattern of weekday masses to enable a greater number to be present, especially in relation to work or family commitments. There are lists at the back of church, on the tables. This is a simple poll for two weekends. *Please don't walk past them*. Tick the times you would prefer / be able to be at Mass, morning and evening.

**Adult Confirmations** Have you been confirmed? If not would you like to be? It's a simple question. Some have expressed an interest in preparation for the **22 April** confirmation in the Cathedral. If you would like to join, please speak to Fr Jonathan as soon as possible.

## UPCOMING DATES

**Aida Millar *Requiescat in pace*** Many of you will be aware of Aida's recent death and want to know details of her funeral, to pray for her and to express our love and support to Ray and her family. The funeral Mass will take place at **St Joseph's (Harrow Weald HA3 5EE) at 10am on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**—where Aida was involved in worship and catechesis. Aida's body will be received into St Joseph's the evening before, at 7pm. Funeral Masses are public acts of worship, and you are most welcome to attend.

**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.

## Thank you from Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass a couple of weekends ago and were delighted by the total given – a terrific £484.57. This will feed 25 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. However, our **'Double the Love'** campaign means all donations (up to £1.5 million) will be matched, so the parish effectively doubles the number of children being fed from 25 to 50! Please continue to pray for our work. God bless you all.

## Readers Rota

4 February 5.30 John McIntyre    5 February 8.00 Daphne Byron    5 February 10.00 Robert Chandler

11 February 5.30 Jennifer Bourke    12 February 8.00 Rose Okosi

12 February 10.00 Readings Maureen Ruane, Bidding prayers Monika Tabarrok

## Church Cleaning Rota

11 February Team C: Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira

18 February Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam and Uzo Ziwanah