

St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jonathan Goodall, 1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ
Telephone: 020 8954 1299
Email: stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
<http://swoy.weebly.com>
Registered Charity No 233699

HALL ENQUIRIES: text message to 07973 601208 (Marcello Borgese)
PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP:
Mr Robert Chandler
(r_chandler@sky.com)

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

18/19 March 2023

Sat 18 Feria of Lent

(Commem of St Cyril of Jerusalem)

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass** People of the Parish

SUNDAY 19 March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter week 4

8.00 **Mass** Intentions of Daphne Byron

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**
Nancy Costello RIP

Mon 20 St Joseph Solemnity

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**
Aida Millar RIP

Tue 21 Feria of Lent 4

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**

Private intention of Chinyere Suleiman

Wed 22 Feria of Lent 4

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass and**
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Hazar Iman

Thurs 23 Feria of Lent 4

No Mass day - Gospel: John 31.47

Fri 24 Feria of Lent 4

Friday abstinence

7pm **Stations of the Cross and Mass**
Aida Millar RIP

Sat 25 Feria of Lent 4

Annunciation of the Lord Solemnity

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass of Lent 5**
Leo Desouza RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 26 March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

'Passion Sunday; Psalter week 1

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**
Aida Millar RIP

Gospel: John 11.1-45

WELCOME to Mass today. **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.

- *Please keep silent after the prayer, until the bell begins the Mass.*

ORDER OF MASS See the gold *Parish Mass Book* – start on **p.7**; then, after the Bidding Prayers, go to **p.15**; then, from the Lord's Prayer, **p.56**. The **readings** are to be found **pp.165-168**

Psalms response is **'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.'**

After the 10am Mass ... in the Parish Hall – refreshments and chance to connect. Everyone welcome.

Reflection on today's readings Lent is moving quickly, isn't it? The season rolls along whether we're on board or not. And so, we need to be *intentional* in using the season to grow in our spiritual lives. We can either use this season well, or sit it out and let it pass by. This Sunday—Laetare or 'Rejoice!' Sunday—is a Lenten half-time show, a mini-festival intended to refocus our spiritual energies. And yet, the serious purpose of our Lenten pilgrimage remains very much in mind. Today's slight *pause* is a *reminder of our call to holiness* and the *fast-approaching celebration* of the Resurrection of Christ. For those of Irish family heritage, St Patrick's Day often fulfils the same role. For those who have had a bit of a Lenten false-start, *now is the time* to begin again. Praying, fasting, showing mercy. **Better half-Lent than no Lent at all.**

As we pause, let us ask, what does it mean *to want to be holy?* to long to be holy? God's life is one of joy and communion, not misery or uncertainty. Father, Son and Spirit in a union of blessing and love. Sharing in *that* life is what we were created *for*. Thus, humans are hard-wired for worship, for joy, for mutual acceptance. Humans are created with a *capax Dei*, literally a '*capacity for God*' – we have a 'God-shaped hole' within us. Today's readings focus on this impulse. In our secular culture, an infinite number of things compete to fill this gap. Not being God, *nothing* else can – not even a spouse or a dearest friend. Simple as that. When we cultivate it, such a longing for God in our hearts frees us and helps us to believe, to adore, to hope and to love God, and to make noble sacrifices for others.

First Reading (OT): 1 Samuel 16.1, 6–7, 10–13 The kings of Israel had various understandings of themselves, their relationship with God and their responsibilities to their people. They were sometimes called son, servant, light of Israel, shield and (2 Samuel 5.2) shepherd. David was elected king precisely because he had a *shepherd's* heart. In the psalm, Psalm 23, we can easily see the likeness between God and the king's role of leadership and protection that David and the best of his successors tried to give Israel.

Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 5.8–14 Light is one of humanity's fundamental symbols. In the first-century cemetery that's under the Vatican

basilica there are some of the earliest depictions of Jesus in art, and he is shown as a young (beardless) sun god. Paul contrasts light with darkness. Light he equates with goodness, darkness with the forces of evil.

Gospel: John 9.1 – 41 We often ask questions about human misfortune. Whose fault was it that this man is blind? Can it be attributed to some sort of guilt? But Jesus uses the man's blindness to reveal God's goodness and power. The paste that Jesus uses to smear the eyes of the blind man reminds us of the ash we all received on the first day of Lent. We are challenged to wash away the self-imposed blindness that prevents us from seeing and confronting our true selves.

Today's Offertory Hymn

**AMAZING grace! – how sweet the sound –
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**4 The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**5 And, when this heart and flesh shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.**

**6 When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.**

vv 1–5 John Newton 1725–1807; v 6 John Rees 1828–1900

Next weekend Fr Graham Stokes (parish priest of St John Fisher) will celebrate Friday evening's Stations and Mass, and Fr Guy Sawyer will celebrate the Vigil and Sunday Masses. This is because I shall be doing my various duties as father of the bride at our daughter's wedding. I am immensely grateful to them. Please pray for AnnaMary and Dan that God will bless their marriage with many years. *Fr JG*

On 27 March The 9.30 Mass will be offered for Fr Cormac Rigby, on his year's mind.

PRAY It has been wonderful to see many of you giving more time to be together with the Lord in prayer. May I invite those of you who have not yet done so, to find one of these times to be with the Lord in a new way:

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Begin the day in conversation with the Lord **Monday - Wednesday** 9.00-9.30am, and take time on Saturday **4.30—5.20pm**,
- **Wednesday** immediately after the 9.30am Mass, **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** (an 8-minute devotion)
- **Friday** at 7pm the traditional **Stations of the Cross**, immediately followed by the Mass

FAST and GIVE! 'Family Fast Day' Please return the envelope **today or as soon as possible** to the Presbytery letterbox. Please, fill in **the Gift Aid form** as well. It will increase your donation by **25%**!

Holy Week Worship during Holy Week will be as follows:

Holy Monday to Wednesday – 9am and 6.30pm Adoration, with 9.30am and 7pm Mass

Maundy Thursday – 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet

Good Friday – 10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness beginning here at St William's

12.00 noon Children's Stations of the Cross

3.00pm - Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord. *The church will remain open until 6.00*

Holy Saturday – 8pm Easter Vigil

Planned Giving Envelopes Please collect your box of planned giving envelopes, which will be available in the Sacristy after each of the Sunday Masses starting this weekend.

Drivers be aware Major road works will be starting soon on Marsh Lane and continuing until November.

Readers Rota

18 March 5.30 Martin Rush

19 March 8.00 Amalie Direkze

19 March 10.00 Readings John McIntyre, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger

25 March 5.30 Jennifer Bourke

26 March 8.00 Daphne Byron

26 March 10.00 Readings Monika Tabarrok, Bidding prayers Derrick Pereira & family

Church Cleaning Rota 25 March Team C: Dominick Martins and Elaine & Derrick Pereira

1 April Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris and Beatrice McAdam