

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 OF LENT

25/26 March 2023

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

Mon 27 *Feria of Lent 5*

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**

Fr. Cormac Rigby RIP (Anniv)

Tue 28 *Feria of Lent 5*

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**

Aida Millar RIP

Wed 29 *Feria of Lent 5*

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass and**

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

'Bridie' Stapleton RIP (1st Anniv)

Thurs 30 *Feria of Lent 5*

No Mass day - Gospel: John 8.51-59

Fri 31 *Feria of Lent 5*

Friday abstinence

7pm **Stations of the Cross and Mass**

Private intention of Chinyere Suleiman

Sat 1 April *Feria of Lent 5*

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**

5.30pm **Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday**

Norma Croos RIP

SUNDAY 2 April

PALM SUNDAY *Psalter week 2*

8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish

10.00 **Procession and Parish Mass**

Kevin D'Souza RIP (Birthday Anniv)

WELCOME to Mass today. **Please take this newsletter home**, and use the calendar to help you pray.

FIVE MINUTES before 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, unless you're under about 7 years old. ****

After the 10am Mass ... in the Parish Hall – refreshments and chance to connect. Everyone welcome. Plenty of time to talk!

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.171–73**.

The **psalm response** is '**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**'

REFLECTION on today's readings There are only two weeks to go until Easter, and the Bible readings of this Sunday all speak about resurrection. It is not yet the resurrection of Jesus, which bursts in at Easter with complete newness, but our own resurrection, to which we aspire and which in rising from the dead Christ himself gave to us. Death is like a great wall, which prevents us from seeing beyond it. Yet our hearts reach out beyond this wall, and even though we cannot understand what it conceals, we nevertheless think about it and imagine it, expressing with symbols our *desire for eternity*.

First Reading (OT): Ezekiel 37.12–14 600 years before Christ the Prophet Ezekiel proclaimed to the Jewish people, exiled *far* from the land of Israel, that God would open the graves of the dead and *bring them home* to rest in peace. This aspiration – to be buried together with their forebears – is the longing for a "homeland" which welcomes us at the end of our earthly toil. This idea does not yet mean a *personal* resurrection from death, which only appears towards the end of the Old Testament. Among Christians too, faith in resurrection to eternal life is often accompanied by doubts and confusion because it always concerns a reality beyond the limits of our reason, and requires an act of faith.

Gospel: John 9.1–41 In today's Gospel we listen to the voice of faith from the lips of Martha, Lazarus' sister. When she says to Jesus: 'I know that my brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day', He repeats 'I AM

the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live'. This is something new that exceeds every previous hope! Christ tears down the wall of death, and lives the full, eternal life of God. Death ceased to have any power over Him. The raising of Lazarus is a sign of Jesus's authority over physical death's power to end human life.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 8.8—11 However we do not only die physically. There is another death, which cost Christ His hardest struggle, the Cross. It is *spiritual* death and sin which threaten to ruin the existence of every human being. To overcome this death, Christ died; and His resurrection is not a return to *past* life, but an opening to a *new* life, a “new land” united at last with God’s Heaven. Therefore, St Paul writes: ‘If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit who dwells in you’ (Rom 8:11).

Gratitude Thanks to Fr Graham Stokes (St John Fisher), Fr Michael, our former parish priest, and Fr Guy Sawyer, for all their help over this weekend. Thank you for all your good wishes for AnnaMary and Daniel’s marriage today (25th). Please pray that God will bless them with many years. *Fr JG*

Washing of the Feet As last year – please, gentlemen especially, make your feet available!! It’s not much to do for Jesus. Volunteer sheets in the narthex. Please sign up.

HOLY WEEK 2023 Worship during Holy Week will be as follows:

2 Apr Palm Sunday – 8.00 am Mass (no procession); 10.00am Palm Procession and Mass

- Please come early!! We will begin at 10 in front of the Church.

3-5 Apr Monday to Wednesday

9am Adoration and Confession / 9.30 Mass

6.30pm Adoration and Confession / 7pm Mass (followed on Monday by Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*)

6 Apr Maundy Thursday – 8.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper and Washing of the Feet

7 Apr Good Friday – 10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness beginning here at St William’s. (Fr Jonathan is preaching)

12.00 noon Children’s Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

8 Apr Holy Saturday – 8pm Easter Vigil – the Church’s principal service of the year

9 Apr Easter Day – 8.00am Mass, 10.00am Mass

May Procession The annual Procession in honour of Our Lady will take place at the diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Sunday 14th May at 3pm. The preacher will be Fr Alan Robinson.

You? or a young man you know ...? On Wednesday 12th April, there will be an Open Evening at St James, Spanish Place W1U 3DE for men interested in learning about a sense of calling to the priesthood. The 6pm evening Mass will be followed in the social centre by a presentation and refreshments. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street. God *never* ceases to call priests, the question is, who *responds* ... Happy to talk personally about vocation at any time. *FrJG*

A PARISH PILGRIMAGE? ... to the Holy Land? To gauge parish interest in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, late this year or early next, would you sign the notice on the tables in the narthex. Unlike most tours, we would *begin* in Bethlehem ...

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes The Cardinal will lead the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage from 21—28 July. Places are limited. To avoid disappointment, go to www.rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/ for further details and a link to Tangey Tours to book. Or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.

Let’s talk migration Legal or illegal, migration is certainly high up the political agenda. This last week our Bishops Conference published a ‘Catholic response’ to the current crisis, which is gaining international endorsement, widespread coverage and positive comment. It’s called *Love the Stranger*. This moral and political touchstone issue for our country is one on which the churches need to make their view known. Please read it, and share the link with your non-church friends. Pop www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/ into your web browser.

CAFOD Thank you for your family fast day donations to CAFOD, which totalled £684.75.

Readers Rota

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

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

8 April Team B: Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Indrė Balčaitė and Viktoriia Vrublievska