

# ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

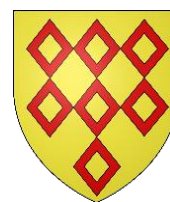
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part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699

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](mailto:stanmoresg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)

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



## 4-5 November 2023 – 31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary	
<b>Sat 4</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>St Charles Borromeo, Memorial</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Ben Donoghue
<b>SUN 5</b> 8am 10am 2.30pm	<b>31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Peace and Justice in Israel-Palestine <b>Parish Mass</b> – Thanksgiving (Pereira family) <b>Blessing of Graves @</b> Clamp Hill
<b>Mon 6</b> 9.30am R: Joyful	<i>Feria of the 31st Week of the Year</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Dominic de Souza (Birthday)
<b>Tues 7</b> 9.30am R: Sorrowful	<i>St Willibrord, Memorial</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Timothy Clifford (Get well)
<b>Wed 1 Nov</b> 9.30am R: Glorious	<i>Feria of the 31st Week of the Year</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Kevin D'Souza RIP (1st Anniversary)
<b>Thurs 9</b> R: Luminous	<b>Dedication of St John Lateran</b> <b>No mass</b> [Gospel: John 2.13-22]
<b>Fri 10</b> 7pm R: Sorrowful	<i>St Leo the Great, Memorial</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Peace in the world
<b>Sat 11</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>St Martin of Tours, Memorial</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Emil Fernando RIP (Anniversary)
<b>SUN 12</b> 8am 10am	<b>32nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mass</b> – for Ann O'Grady RIP <b>Parish Mass</b> – for Clemente Del Ponte

**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 rings, all say: **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, let's now keep silence together until Mass begins.**

♦ **Parents and carers** please do what you need to keep children content and quiet. Do not hesitate to move around at the back of the church. (The service is amplified into the Narthex too.) And, for everybody's safety, please accompany any child who needs to use the toilet. Thanks.

♦ **GIVE for GAZA: a plea from 'Embrace the Middle East'.** The people of Gaza are living through an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Please, can you make a donation, to help in their hour of need?  
Israel's response to 7 October massacre has led to indiscriminate civilian suffering, loss of the most basic human needs, with residents desperate to find safety. Your gift – here in Church this weekend, or at the presbytery in the coming days, or direct at [embraceme.org/gazacrisis](http://embraceme.org/gazacrisis) – will support Embrace's Christian partners in the immediate aftermath of this humanitarian crisis and help to heal the wounds it's caused across Israel-Palestine.

♦ **Reconciliation (Confession)** 20 mins before any week-day Mass; or Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.15pm; or at any time 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** (a free telephone helpline) useful. 4–7pm, Mon, Tues and Fri, on 0800 448 0704 or [catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclisteners@gmail.com)

**Daily Christian art and faith on your phone** Try it; you'll like it. <https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/>

**Prepare for next Sunday's Mass**

<https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/reflections/sunday-gospel> and <https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/>

♦ **The ORDER of Mass** on the new pew Mass Card.

♦ **Today's readings** are to be found on **pp.146-49** of the *Parish Mass Book*. The psalm response is: **'Keep my soul in peace before you O Lord.'**

♦ **Please return**, as soon as possible, any **missio** and/or **Sick and Retired Priests Fund** envelopes – and please Gift Aid your donation: it *automatically* increases it by 25%!

♦ **AFTER the 10am Mass** Nothing as adventurous as last week, but drinks and often cakes, and *always* a chance to catch up and share fellowship.

**REFLECTION on today's Scriptures** The Apostle Paul invites us to draw near to the Gospel "not as the word of a mere human being but – as it really is! – the word of God at work in you" (1 Th 2.13). Thus we can accept with faith the warning that Jesus in the Gospel put to our conscience, in order to conform our way of living to it. In today's passage He rebukes the scribes and the Pharisees, who were the teachers of the community, because their own *conduct* was openly in conflict with the *teaching* they rigorously taught others. Jesus underlines that they "preach, but do not practise" (Mt 23.3). Instead "they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders.

But! they themselves will not lift a finger to move them” (Mt 23.4). Of course, good teaching must be proclaimed; but it risks being contradicted by differing behaviour. Thus Jesus says: “You must do whatever they tell you, but don’t do the things they do. They *talk* they don’t *do!*” (Mt 23.3). Jesus’ own behaviour is exactly the opposite: He is the *first* to practise what He preaches: loving God, loving His neighbours and enemies as Himself. And He can say “the burden is light” and easy because He helps us *carry it* (see Mt 11.29-30).

“Indeed”, says the 12th-century Italian St Bonaventure “no one can teach, or practise, or reach knowable truths, unless the Son of God is present.” Jesus, the God-Man, is our true and only teacher! We are, therefore, called to follow Him who expresses the truth of His teaching through His practice of faithfulness to the will of His Father for Him. He is the first teacher, and trains all the other teachers. And He also condemns vanity, observing that “Everything [the Pharisees] do is done to attract attention.” (Mt 23.5), putting them at the mercy of human approval.

Dear friends, the Lord Jesus presented himself to the world as a servant, completely stripping himself of power so as to give, on the Cross, the most powerful lesson of humility and love. That example makes credible His teaching, “He who is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Mt 23.11).

**Last week’s Parish Mass** Fr Munnelly writes: “I am so very grateful for last Sunday - such a joyful celebration of my Golden Jubilee. I could not imagine a more suitable occasion. Stanmore is in my heart and in my prayers. With my respect and gratitude, Fr Michael.” And I would like to thank all those who, with Claudette, got together to provide, serve and clear-up after the celebration lunch. Fr J

**November prayer intention** For November it is for himself that the Pope asks our prayers: “For the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission as Bishop of Rome, with the help of the Holy Spirit.” We’ll include this each week at Mass.

**Blessing of Graves** Clergy will be available

- at **Carpenders Park, today** at 1.30
- at **Alperton on 11 November** at 12.30pm; and
- at **Clamp Hill on 12 November** at 2.30.

If you prefer, Fr Jonathan will be available to bless graves today at Clamp Hill from 2.30; because he’s away, burying his parents’ ashes next weekend.

**10-17 November** Fr Guy Sawyer will be celebrating the Masses. Please give him your customary warm welcome.

**Holy Souls** are ‘holy’ because their faith in Christ is known to God and can no longer sin. They are saved, and are awaiting a merciful judgement and the fullness of God’s presence. St John Chrysostom said: ‘*Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.*’

Forms and envelopes for the **names** of your departed loved ones, together with the **free-will donation** you deem suitable, are available in the Narthex. Please place them in the locked box at the Communion rail. Names will be placed on the altar, and remembered at each Mass during the month.

**Week-long votive lamps** From Advent Sunday, 3 Dec, we shall launch a new prayer initiative here that happens in many other parishes. A week-long lamp (£10 per lamp) will burn for your intentions in one of three places: the altar of Our Lady, or in the Sanctuary. The intention will appear in the Newsletter. Separate envelopes will be available.

**RIP Bill Gabriel** Some of you may have known Bill, or Jean his wife. Bill died suddenly last week. Funeral details in due course.

**Here ... and Hereafter** Last Wednesday, All Saints’ Day, we contemplated “[God’s] holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother” (Preface, All Saints). With our hearts still facing toward *that* ultimate reality, for the rest of November we now commemorate those who have “gone before us with the sign of faith, and rest in the sleep of peace” (Euch. Prayer I): believers who do not, yet, enjoy the company of the saints.

It is *very important* that we Christians view death and the afterlife in the light of what we are taught in the Scriptures. St Paul, writing his earliest letter, said “We do not want you to have the kind of grief that other people have, people who do not have any hope” (1 Th 4.13f). Today, something else is needed: for Christians to speak openly, to be evangelistic, about the reality of death and eternal life (which are subject to any number of superstitious and muddled ideas) so that Christian truth doesn’t risk being one illusion among others.

Pope Benedict wrote in one encyclical, “Do men and women of our time still *long* for eternal life? Or has earthly existence become their only horizon?” All of us want a ‘blessed life’, happiness. We are attracted to it. The expression ‘eternal life’ gives a *name* to this longing. This is what we hope and await from our being with Christ. This is why the Church invites us to pray for our beloved deceased and to pause at their graves in the cemeteries.

**Calling parents and godparents!** Starting in **January**, there will be preparation classes for **First Confession and Holy Communion** in May. *Application forms in the Narthex.*

But we are *all* responsible for passing our faith to the young. How else will it grow? So, if you know a Catholic family that has a child currently in school-year 3 or above, *please give them a form, with some encouragement.* If you have a child of that age – speak to Carol Anne after any 10am Mass or just fill out the form, *ideally this month.*

**Certificates of Catholic Practice** for School Applications

This is an important document, but please do not cause embarrassment by requesting a certificate if you are not attending Mass here regularly. If you have recently moved into the area, your *previous* parish priest can easily provide certification. Applications for children who are not Catholic, or are non-practising, can still be made *without* a certificate, under different admission criteria. For full criteria see [education.rcdow.org.uk/governance-admissions/admissions-guidance/](http://education.rcdow.org.uk/governance-admissions/admissions-guidance/)

**Did you know** that an informal **Over-60s’ group** – the ‘Yorkies’ – meets 10-12 noon on Friday morning in the Hall. You’d be made most welcome!

**Music at the 10am Mass.** We need to grow the choir for Christmas. Could you help by singing, or by playing a musical instrument? Rehearsal in church 10 am (till 11 latest) Saturday morning. Again, you’ll be welcomed!

#### Readers rota

4 Nov	5.30pm	Jennifer Bourke
5 Nov	8am	Freda Adzinku
	10am	Patrick & Joseph Arthur Derrick Pereira & family
11 Nov	5.30pm	Noretta Reece
12 Nov	8am	Audrey Da Costa
	10am	Tim & Mel Goodger, Robert Chandler

#### Church Cleaning rota

<b>11 Nov Team B</b>	Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Indrè Balçaitė, Viktoriia Vrublievska
<b>18 Nov Team C</b>	Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira