

# ST WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC CHURCH

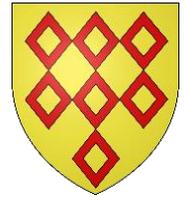
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part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity number 233699

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)



## 16—17 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### This week's Masses, Intentions and Rosary

<b>Sat 16</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>St Cornelius and Cyprian, Memorial</i> <b>Mass</b> – David Monblatt RIP (Anniversary)
<b>SUN 17</b> 8am 10am R: Glorious	<b>24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mass</b> – for the people of the parish <b>Parish Mass</b> – Fahrin (Private intention) [Annual Mass count begins next Sunday]
<b>Mon 18</b> 9.30am R: Joyful	<i>Feria of 24th Week of the Year</i> <b>Mass</b> – Patrick & Deidre Kehoe RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Tues 19</b> 9.30am R: Sorrowful	<i>St Januarius, Martyr</i> <b>Mass</b> – for Roseline Nwojeh (for healing and a good job)
<b>Wed 20</b> 9.30am R: Glorious	<i>St Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Martyr</i> <b>Mass</b> – Maria Shukla (Thanksgiving)
<b>Thurs 21</b> <b>No mass</b> R: Luminous	<b>St Matthew, Feast</b> [Gospel of the Day: Matthew 9.9-13]
<b>Fri 22</b> 7pm R: Sorrowful	<i>Feria of 24th Week of the Year</i> <b>Mass</b> – Kevin O'Toole RIP (Wedding anniversary remembrance) <i>Friday abstinence</i>
<b>Sat 23</b> 5.30pm R: Joyful	<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina [Padre Pio], Priest</i> <b>Mass</b> – Alec Moody RIP
<b>SUN 24</b> 8am 10am R: Glorious	<b>25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mass</b> – Charmaine Pereira RIP (Birthday remembrance) <b>Parish Mass</b> – for the people of the parish [Annual Mass count begins today]

- ◆ **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](mailto:catholiclisteners@gmail.com)



Come to Church ready to listen. Prepare for **next week's Mass** readings (*Isaiah 55.6-9; Philippians 1.20-24; Matthew 20.1-16*) with [wednesdayword.org](http://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 rings, pray together:** 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.*

◆ **During Mass**, parents and carers, please feel free to do what you need to keep children content and quiet. Do not hesitate to move around church with them. (The service is amplified 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.128-131** of the *Parish Mass Book*. And the psalm response is: **'The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger, and rich in mercy.'**

◆ **AFTER the 10am Mass**, join us in the church hall, for drinks, often with cakes, and a warm welcome.

### REFLECTIONS on today's Scriptures Ecclesiasticus 27.30-28.7; Romans 14.7-9; Matthew 18.21-35

Great readings this week! But you have to be prepared to come at them honestly. It's a bit of a bumpy ride.

Few parables in the gospel have such force as the one we hear this Sunday – the Unforgiving Servant. No-one could raise the slightest objection to it – not even those who tell me they don't sin could. Almost no other parable confronts us so dramatically with the resilience of our sinful lovelessness! We judge others by a much higher standard than we want to be judged, ourselves. We constantly think about what we are owed, without giving much of a thought about the hugeness of the debt God has forgiven us. Weekly, even daily, even more often, we absent-mindedly pray the petition of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive ..." thinking, "one day I'll fathom out what that means". And we fail to think how reluctantly we give up even a scrap of our earthly sense of the justice owed to us, even though God has

waived His heavenly judgement on us!

The reading from the Old Testament recognises all of this in forensic detail: "A man nurses anger against another, and then expects compassion from the Lord!" Can you believe it? Even to the old testament mind this was an utter impossibility. Thus the writer (often called Sirach) appeals not to human feelings, but explicitly to God's covenant, that is the basis of God's forgiveness of Israel's sins. "Think of our covenant with the Most High", he says, "and forgive others' faults! Remember! Remember! Remember! judgement, death, the commandments, and overlook any offence done to you!"

Our second reading builds on this foundation, but the light of Christ's death and resurrection. It's not as if we who judge others even belong to ourselves! We owe our *existence* to God's *creative* goodness; we owe our *future happiness* to His *forgiving* goodness! When St Paul says, "None of us lives for himself", it means two things: you didn't make yourself. Everyone exists because God made him or her. More than that, we owe ourselves even *more* profoundly to the One who has already paid our debt. We are debtors in the deepest sense!

It's more astonishing still that that doesn't make us servants or prisoners: just the opposite! the king in

the parable *freed* the servant whose debts he wrote off. If we owe ourselves to Christ, we are owing ourselves to *Divine* love, that has loved us "to the very end" (Jn 13.1). We are released, enabled, energised, to be able to love and forgive. For every man, woman, *and child*, that is the most wonderful freedom!

"Resentment and anger are hateful things, yet sinners don't half hug 'em, tight!" says the Old Testament. The end of the gospel speaks of the king's *anger* as he throws the unforgiving servant into prison, handing him over to the justice that he had insisted on for himself.

What is this anger of God? It is what a loveless person makes out of God's infinite love. To put it another way, it is the effect that God's love produces in a *loveless* person – someone who shuts the doors of his heart to God's mercy out of a self-centred understanding of debt and forgiveness. He condemns *himself*, clearly condemns himself, just like the man who would not listen to challenge in last week's gospel. God's love judges no one. The verdict is a man's own refusal to accept God's love (Jn 3.18-20; 12.47-48. St James's summary is crystal clear: "Judgement is *merciless* to the man or woman who has not shown any mercy; but mercy *triumphs* over all judgement." And the Lord Himself says, "the ruler you use to measure with, will be used on you!" (Lk 6.38)

**DON'T FORGET!** the **Parish Barbecue** after the 10am Mass **next week**.

**'Catholic Classics' podcast** on the Confessions of St Augustine starts 2 Oct. See this to discover more: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVZ\\_HJq5xJQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVZ_HJq5xJQ)

**Pope Francis asks us** during **September** to pray, "for those people living on the margins of society, in inhumane conditions; that they may not be over-looked by institutions, and never considered of lesser importance." *Lord, graciously hear us!*

**Please help** Yuri and Viktoriia today. "One of my closest friends near Bakhmut is asking me for help" writes Yuri. "They urgently need a pickup truck for the local people, goods and supplies. Help me to reach out to Ukraine." *Please respond to Yuri.* **Envelopes for donations are in the Narthex, or use BACS:** Viktoriia Vrublevska | 2461466 | 30-94-87.

**Next month** the Vatican will host the first of two *major* global assemblies, crucial for the future of the Church. The Cardinal has written a Pastoral Letter about this, which will be read in Church today. **Copies are available for you to take away as you go.**

**In town on Wednesdays? During September,** Our Cathedral is offering its annual **Grand Organ Festival**. "The sheer impact is *unforgettable!*" 7.30-8.45pm. Two more left ... this week and next.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** Friday 6 October **Please take an envelope and plan to Fast.**

**Catholic senior schools Open Days:**

**St Joan of Arc** 5 October 5-8pm; and 6 Oct 9-11.30am

**St Dominic's 6<sup>th</sup> Form College** 14 Oct 9.30am-3pm

**Christian Art** Have a smart phone? tablet? home or work computer? Would you like a daily one-minute reflection the day's gospel paired with a thought-provoking work of art, to cut through all those emails and give you some sanity and relief? Then you need Christian Art. It's fabulous; it's acclaimed internationally; it's run by a new priest of our diocese. "Our goal is to help people grow closer to God through the magnificent pairing of art and the Christian faith." **Do use it!**

<https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/>

**The annual Mass attendance** count happens at this time of year: statistical figures gathered by the diocese and the Vatican. Four Sundays, beginning next week.

**Readers rota** 16 Sep 5.30 Noretta Reece

17 Sep 8.00 Freda Adzinku  
10.00 Tim & Mel Goodger,  
Robert Chandler

23 Sep 5.30 Lily Meghji

24 Sep 8.00 Audrey Da Costa  
10.00 Nwawulor family,  
Monika Tabarrok

**Church Cleaning rota** 23 Sep Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam  
30 Sep Team B: Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Indrè Balçaitė and Viktoriia Vrublevska

**Just in case you've forgotten ... Parish Barbecue** after the 10am Mass next week. Perhaps really fast before Mass? (!) **Come hungry!**