

# St. William of York R.C. Church



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22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

29/30 August 2020

Saturday 29th August  
 Passion of St John the Baptist

5.30pm David Blatt RIP

Sunday 30th August  
 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am For a vaccine for the virus

10am People of the parish

Monday 31st August

9.30am Crescent Fernandes RIP  
 (Crehan)

Tuesday 1st September

9.30am Marius RIP (Cristina)

Wednesday 2nd September

Sandra Balogh RIP  
 NO PUBLIC MASS

Thursday 3rd September  
 St Gregory the Great  
 Pope & Doctor

Vincent Dias RIP (Anniv)  
 NO PUBLIC MASS

Friday 4th September

7pm Raymond O'Hagan RIP  
 (O'Grady)

Saturday 5th September

5.30pm Frank Melvin RIP

Sunday 6th September  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the parish

10am Ronald Molds RIP  
 (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

## This weekend- 'holding on tight' versus 'letting go'

Father Michael writes- "There is a sense in which as a celibate priest - my view of family life has been observation rather than experience. Of course I recall my own parents and still share in the ups and downs of my three brothers, their children and grandchildren. As a priest, one is often given precious insight into the struggles of parents and families. Through the years (in fact decades) I have witnessed parents wanting to guide and protect while the younger generation call out for freedom. Misunderstandings and conflicts can occur - in every version of family life. Perhaps - the parents want to 'HOLD ON TIGHT' - not for the sake of power and winning - but simply to guide. Meanwhile, the children want to promote 'LETTING GO', pushing for their own future.

A very special gospel this Saturday / Sunday – personally one of my favourite passages from Saint Matthew. Jesus speaking to his disciples and to us - tells us that in order to follow Him - we have to RENOUNCE ourselves and follow him. As they say it is a big 'ask'. We are called to renounce ourselves - LETTING GO! We are called to live without making claims. Our Lord urges us 'anyone who wants to save his life will lose it'. HOLDING TIGHT just doesn't work. All this is not just a matter of holy words - it is the concrete call to follow Jesus.

Each one of us - is invited by Jesus to 'take up our Cross'. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, in our poor virus world, in our personal dilemmas and blessings too – please join with me your priest in HOLDING ON TIGHT to the Lord. RENOUNCE means daily laying down of ego/fear. Each one of us can make our own, the words of the response - **'for you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God'**. God bless each and every one of you, dear people of Stanmore and God bless our world and people everywhere." Father Michael

## Father Tim Dean

Thank you very much to Father Tim Dean who stayed over in Stanmore - while Father Michael was away sunning himself in the Isle of Wight. Father Tim is always a welcome guest. Though now retired and living in Rickmansworth, Father Tim still manages to help out in various parishes. Welcome home to Father Michael - on this BANK HOLIDAY weekend.

## Schools re-opening and results

A big step for many children and young people - some of whom have been at home since March. Let us hold in prayer, all pupils and teachers and

staff; remembering particularly school leaders. Congratulations to many young parishioners on their results in a very confused situation, nevertheless many achieved their expected outcomes and their university places. Well done to everyone involved.

### **A small but hard-working team**

Led by Tony Murphy - now almost in the church every day (and many times at weekends) the parish is very grateful to the 'open church' squad; stewards at the door and organising all the present special arrangements. They have been regular, loyal and dependable. The simple fact is that the church could not open without the volunteers. Perhaps - you might like to help out? Have a word with Tony or any of the present team.

Face Masks are now compulsory in church as well as in other settings. The guidelines allow the Reader to remove the mask ONLY for the reading. The priest is asked to wear the mask only while distributing Holy Communion. All these stipulations are part of our shared responsibility to each other - and for the wider community. Once again - thank you for your co-operation in these things and the willing volunteers helping after Mass with sanitising and other tasks.

### **Supporting the parish**

'So many of you, dear parishioners, have been so thoughtful during this time; remembering to regularly donate for the support of the parish - using weekly envelopes, standing orders or cheques - and other means. It really helps. As you can imagine - after all this time - the parish resources are really stretched and the bills continue. Please know that the Lord sees such generosity'. (**Father Michael**)

### **SUNDAY MASS OPPORTUNITIES !!! - a widespread invitation!**

At this time and trying to respect guidelines and social distancing - the available Sunday Masses are

**Friday 7pm; Saturday 5.30pm**

**Sunday 8am and 10am**

**Monday 9.30am**

**Additional weekday Mass on Tuesday 9.30am : no public Mass on Wednesday or Thursday**

### **Our First Holy Communion children and families**

Events have closed down the preparation which had only just started. The parish and specifically Carol-Anne have tried to keep in touch with the families. In September - all things being equal (?) there will be a chance for the First Holy Communion classes to continue - observing COVID 19 protocols. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Sunday 15 November at 3pm in the church. This will be a Mass with limited numbers and sadly without the usual party afterwards. Parents-guardians-carers of the children involved are asked to make direct contact with either Carol-Anne or Father Michael as soon as possible. See the parish email/phone details at the top of this newsletter.

### **Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty**

Lord Jesus, I have made my choice. I want to be wherever you are. I want to follow you to the end. Yes, I know your end was Calvary; your way was the Way of the Cross. It will also be mine. I know that, alone, I cannot make it, for all comes from you, all goes through you, and all leads to your glory. So humbly and simply I ask, "Take my hands and lead me." It is you who have put the desire to follow you into my heart. It is to you that I turn when the cross you have chosen for me seems too heavy. It is to you I look when, bruised and bleeding, I cannot walk any more. Here I am, O Most Holy Trinity – in my nothingness and unworthiness, your fool, your child - yours to do with as you please. I need your help; alone I cannot do anything. I love you. I adore you.

### **Counters Rota**

**30 August** Richard Afonso, Walter Acuti, Martin Rush

**6 September** Judith Brightwell, Monica Assoku, Funmi Da Silva

**13 September** Aldrich Menezes, Pearly Jesuthasan