

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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 (Marcello – via text message)

4th Sunday of Easter

2/3 May 2020

Saturday 2 nd May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor People of the parish
Sunday 3 rd May 4th Sunday of Easter For sick and suffering people EVERYWHERE
Monday 4 th May The English Martyrs Annie Coady RIP
Tuesday 5 th May Michael Ride RIP (Anniv)
Wednesday 6 th May McShane Intention
Thursday 7 th May Sheila McKnight RIP
Friday 8 th May Patrick Coyle RIP (Anniv)
Saturday 9 th May O'Sullivan Intention
Sunday 10 th May 5th Sunday of Easter Eric Chandler RIP (Anniv)

Good Shepherd Sunday - 4th weekend of Easter

Father Michael writes - "NORMALLY (whatever that word means now) - this weekend I would be preaching about support for our seminarians in their training for the priesthood - with a door collection etc. In the 'new normal' imposed by the virus - we wrestle with the same Sunday readings but.....! The gospel is taken from Saint John – chapter 10-verses 1-10. Jesus is the one who leads His sheep with these words: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'. We are surrounded by the statistics of death - yet we also hear in the psalm today - 'the Lord is my shepherd - there is nothing I shall want.' Brothers and sisters in this strange and changed world - we need to dig deep into our faith. Perhaps - our daily prayer now has a new clarity; an impetus of realism in our desperate need. In the empty church for Mass and prayer - I often find myself praying out loud (sometimes at full volume) - 'Jesus have mercy on us. Spare your people Lord. Console those who mourn. Lord Jesus have mercy on us.' We are not in a time for polite manufactured prayers - in the new normal - we are restricted in our physical life but totally unrestrained in asking the Lord to hear us. The virus is out to attack but our faith tells us that Jesus is truly on our side; close to us at every moment. He wants us to have life to the full! Not party-time or ease always! We are in a time of trial. Saying out loud the holy name of Jesus (many times) can make a difference to some of us. Particular devotions, the rosary stretched throughout the day. Where possible - praying with others (family, friends, fellow parishioners). A close priest friend and I say our breviary together over the phone - 3 times daily). On this Good Shepherd Sunday - I pray for you (and 'yours' near and far) the dear parishioners, families, children and young people of Stanmore. May our loving shepherd bless and protect you all. This is my earnest prayer. P.S. Thank you for the many messages I have received and the 'goodies' too!

Supporting our parish

Clearly the parish has had no regular weekly income for some time. It is a blessing that many parishioners use direct debit through their bank and I am grateful to those who have recently joined this method of giving. Individuals using weekly envelopes have popped some of them through the letter box. For safety, and to save any unnecessary trips, please instead consider setting up a direct debit. Once again - all your support (in diverse ways) is greatly appreciated. An important income stream for the parish is through use of our hall and parish fund-raising events, thanks to Marcello

and the Hall Committee (with help and work by so many parishioners). Currently of course there is no hall income - a real gap! Shortly after the lockdown began - we were due to have the distribution of new boxes of weekly envelopes. "When" we are all back and our church is open again - those boxes of envelopes will be available. In the meantime details about direct debit and gift aid have been put on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanmore/donate/> Thank you for your generosity.

May is the month of Mary

This weekend we have begun a very special month. Traditionally - we try to say the rosary and other home devotions. Pope Francis has prepared a special prayer for May. This is an edited version "*We fly to your protection O Holy Mother of God; do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. In the present situation when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you - Mother of God and our Mother. We seek refuge under your protection. Mother of God - pray for us to God, the Father of mercies that this great pandemic suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. To you who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, we now entrust ourselves; O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen*"

Those photographs/pictures by email or post; plus other items

Please continue to send the images individual, family, friends - I want to fill every bench in the church; waiting for our parish return to Mass and the Sacraments. Please continue to pray for our 2020 First Holy Communion children and their families, their catechists; also for our Confirmation candidates and their folk. Remember also, at this time - our seminarians - our students for the priesthood. (Father Michael 'again' missing you all)

Gospel for this Sunday - John 10: 1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gate-keeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

