

St William of York Catholic Church, Stanmore



PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jonathan Goodall, 1 Du Cros Drive, Stanmore HA7 4TJ
Telephone: 020 8954 1299
Email: stanmore@rcdow.org.uk
<http://swoy.weebly.com>
Registered Charity No 233699

HALL ENQUIRIES: text message to 07973 601208 (Marcello Borgese)
PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP:
Mr Robert Chandler
(r_chandler@sky.com)

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

11/12 March 2023

Sat 11 Mar Feria of Lent

4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**
5.30pm **Vigil Mass** People of the Parish

SUNDAY 12 Mar

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter week 3

8.00 **Mass** Private intention of
Chinyere Suleiman
10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**
Aida Millar RIP

Mon 13 Mar Feria of Lent 3

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**
Sr. Aquinata Evans (Birthday)

Tue 14 Mar Feria of Lent 3

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass**
Maria Shukla (Thanksgiving to
Our Lady of Fatima)

Wed 15 Mar Feria of Lent 3

9.00am **Adoration / 9.30 Mass** and
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Aida Millar RIP

Thurs 16 Mar Feria of Lent 3

No Mass day - Gospel: Luke 11.14-23

Fri 17 Mar St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

Friday abstinence
7pm **Stations of the Cross and Mass**
Nora Balfe

Sat 18 Mar Feria of Lent

(Commem of St Cyril of Jerusalem)
4.30-5.20pm **Adoration & Confessions**
5.30pm **Vigil Mass** People of the Parish

SUNDAY 19 Mar

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

'Laetare Sunday; Psalter week 4

8.00 **Mass** Intentions of Daphne Byron
10.00 **Parish Mass and Angelus**
Nancy Costello RIP
Gospel: John 9.1-41

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

PREPARATION FOR 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.
After the prayer, please keep silent until the bell begins the Mass.

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.158–161**. The psalm response is '**O that today you would listen to His voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'**

AFTER THE 10am MASS ... in the Parish Hall – refreshments and chance to connect. Everyone is very welcome.

Reflection on the readings Since the start of temperature recording in 1884, the 10 driest and warmest years on UK records have *all* been from 2002 onwards. And yet with this year's CAFOD Family Fast Day we are all reminded of the *opposite* effects of climate change elsewhere, like flood-ravaged Pakistan or low-lying Bangladesh. The destruction of fragile lives, homes, businesses, and farms is truly heart-breaking. So we are all familiar with water as a destructive force, a bearer of disease, and as a sheer necessity for life.

Today in the old testament reading God himself becomes for the thirsty Hebrews, just set free from slavery, the source of life-giving water. Today too in the gospel reading we are privileged to over-hear the long conversation between Jesus and the woman at Jacob's well. She came in search of water (for household tasks) and Jesus introduces himself as the source of living water.

First Reading (OT): Exodus 17.3–7 Moses faced a lot of hostile opposition in the desert. The newly liberated Hebrews were angry with him for leading them out of Egypt into the desert. Some even regretted leaving – preferring to remain slaves. Moses was afraid for his own safety. Yet God showed himself to be far-sighted and merciful. He gave them manna to eat, and quenched their thirst with water from a spring in the rock. Then, of course, rather than trust in God, they wanted to stockpile it! Since we (God help us!) think *we provide for our tomorrows* (can we hear ourselves!?) we forget that it is *God* who is far-sighted, and *His* creation bountiful.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 5.1–2, 5–8 The four cardinal (key) virtues are prudence, sobriety, fortitude and justice. The three 'theological' virtues are faith, hope and charity – they flow out of God himself and are given to us through the Holy Spirit. They reveal to us something of the nature of God. All of them grow in the 'soil' of humility.

Gospel: St John 4.5–42 'Give me to drink,' Jesus said to the woman,

surprising her. All that follows comes from the experience of thirst. The theme of thirst runs through the whole of

John's Gospel: from the meeting with the Samaritan woman, to the prophecy during the feast of the Tabernacles (7:37-38), to Calvary where Jesus says, again, 'I thirst' (19:28).

PRAY! 'When you pray', says Jesus, 'go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret.' Let God see and love the real you. There is much online that I could suggest for you to use 'in your secret place'. Maybe pray a Station of the Cross a day with Bishop Barron? <https://stations.wordonfire.org/stations-of-the-cross>

A daily prayer for you This prayer (of St Ephraim) may be new to you. It is used by Eastern Christians, including Eastern Catholics, whenever they can in Lent – morning, midday and evening.

O LORD AND MASTER OF MY LIFE, take from me the spirit of apathy, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. Grant me instead the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and neighbourly love. Yes, my Lord and my God, grant me the grace of being aware of my sins, and not judging my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed, now and forever.

Extra opportunities for worship during Lent

- Begin the day in conversation with the Lord **Monday - Wednesday** 9.00-9.30am, and on Saturday (alongside Confessions) **4.30—5.20pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **Wednesday** immediately after the 9.30am Mass, **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** (an 8-minute devotion)
- **Friday** at 7pm the traditional **Stations of the Cross**, immediately followed by the Mass

FAST and GIVE! 'Family Fast Day' Please return the envelope this Sunday or next (Mothering Sunday). Please also fill in the **Gift Aid form** in order to increase the value of your donation, without any more effort on your part, by **25%**.

Grateful for your marriage? Thanksgiving Mass on 13 May 2023 at 2:30pm in the Westminster Cathedral. Please give Fr Jonathan **your names and postal or email address in writing** or by email at stanmore@rcdow.org.uk by **1 April**.

Why confess? Ordinarily I try to go to confession every 2 weeks or so, even if I fall behind. It is a sacrament I know I need regularly. We all do. I also know a lot of people have a troubled relationship with the sacrament of penance, and don't go. I know this because a lot of people ask me about it – what I think about particular sins or penances, how often they should go, and so on. What I say is this: I go as often as I can, because confession is where I experience the love of God. But do they go? Does their *not* going help *anything*?

Thankfully I rarely find myself seeking the sacrament as a matter of emergency, though it's not unknown. More often than not, it is a chance for me to be honest with myself, and our Father, about who I really am – resentful, impatient, often wrathful, seized with the desire to impose my own brand of rough justice on other people.

I go to confession to hear God remind me that *He is none of those things*. And especially that He is none of those things towards me personally. Though I sometimes need to hear a hard word, I am *always* grateful to the priest for a gentle one!

God is unconditional love *to the soul who repents*. And when I know my need, and the love He gives me, I am freer to love others. That sounds quite fluffy, and I *really* don't mean it to. What I mean by 'freer to love' is that the *regular* experience of God's patient love for me means that—at times—I *can resist* the urgency of impulses to be angry, judgemental, proud, selfish or lustful, and I *can recall* that others—the ones I want to be able to love and serve—experience the *same* brokenness which is part of my nature, too.

So confession is not about gaining superhuman strength to change, but about supernatural grace to experience God's love as reality, and to touch the vital truth about who I am: a beloved child of God. Something in me which won't heal itself, gets healed. The sacrament isn't therapy, it's medicine! So go to confession, please! Of course you need it. *Fr J*

Free Concert Sunday 26 March at 3pm Recital Presentation in the hall by Daniela for the Licentiate Diploma Trinity College London. The choir will also sing some hymns. Refreshments will be provided.

Readers Rota

11 March 5.30 Martin Rush 12 March 8.00 Rosemary Chukwulobelu
12 March 10.00 Readings Robert Chandler, Bidding prayers Nwawulor Family
18 March 5.30 Martin Rush 19 March 8.00 Amalie Direkze
19 March 10.00 Readings John McIntyre, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger

Church Cleaning Rota 18 March Team B: Tim Goodger, Laura Willoughby, Indrė Balčaitė and Viktoriia
25 March Team C: Dominick Martins and Elaine & Derrick Pereira