

# ST DAVID'S RC CHURCH

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This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic  
Diocese Trustee Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest: Fr. Sidon Sagar



## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

***"Repent and believe the Gospel."***

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

It was in December 1955 that Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. Her fight against racial injustice began early in her life. "Back then," she said in an interview, "we didn't have any civil rights. It was just a matter of survival, of existing from one day to the next." As a child she had seen the Ku Klux Klan riding by, and she had been afraid that her house would

be burnt down. She decided that it was important for her to get involved and to challenge the authorities that introduced racial segregation. Her actions resulted initially in the Montgomery bus boycott and eventually in a legal ruling that segregation on public transport was unconstitutional. Her determination not to be seen as a second-class citizen brought about massive change in society. It was not without personal cost, though, as she was arrested and lost her job. In an interview in 1992 she said, "I had not planned to get arrested. I had plenty to do without having to end up in jail. But when I had to face that decision, I didn't hesitate to do so because I felt that we had endured that too long. The more we gave in, the more we complied with that kind of treatment, the more oppressive it became."

Today we hear of the time that Jesus spent in the desert, after being baptised. We learn that he goes on to Galilee and calls on the people to repent and believe in the gospel.

There is a strong theme of repentance in today's readings, as well as a sense of the opportunity of a fresh start. In the first reading, we hear that when the flood is over, God creates a covenant with Noah, his descendants, and all living creatures. In the second reading, Peter reminds his listeners that they are changed through baptism. In both the first and second readings there is a turning around that brings comfort and encouragement — a turning towards God and away from the things that keep us from God.

Another theme here is relationship. We are creatures in relationship with our neighbours and with all living creatures, as well as with God. We hear today how Jesus tells the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand. The kingdom is good news for all, especially those who are poor or disadvantaged, oppressed or enslaved. It is freedom - not to hurt, but to heal, not to divide, but to bring together.

The crowds listening to Jesus are invited to change direction - to create better relationships with each other, with God and with their neighbour. The kingdom is one of justice and of peace. Injustice keeps us all apart from one another; it divides and polarises us.

**Sometimes it feels as if Lent could be a rather gloomy season, but it is also a time of blessing. It gives us time to reflect, and it is a great opportunity to commit to change, to take a new direction in our lives, to make a fresh start. As Sr Laurentia Johns OSB writes, "From wherever we may have wandered through neglect, poor choices, stress, busyness, God never tires of calling us back."**

**In order to commit to change and to seek a different direction, we first need to be aware of what needs to change. What is pulling us in the wrong direction, and how can we turn around?**

It is not that we will never make mistakes or choose the wrong path. But as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, "Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned. Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again..."

**Because we are creatures in relationship, this conversion - this need for change — is not just an individual matter. Like Rosa Parks, if we open our eyes, we can see the need for change at a community level. Where do we see poverty and injustice? Where do we hear words of hatred and condemnation towards those who are different? What is happening to the beautiful world full of exquisite living creatures that God created? It is time to raise our voices in witness to the truth of the Gospel, even at personal cost. The kingdom is at hand.**

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**Offertory Collection** - Thank you for your offertories last 2 weeks:

**5th Sunday in OT** was Envelopes £46.00 and Loose Plate £174.28

**6th Sunday in OT** was Envelopes £35.00 and Loose Plate £214.11

Contactless **£33** (Weekly collection of the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)

Monthly standing order **£210.00**. Thank you for your offertories to the Parish.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday is **Teas/Coffees Sunday**. Please do join in with all of us in the Hall for Teas/Coffees. To refresh our hearts and minds by sharing in the community time.

**Marian Year, 11th February to 20th November, 2024.** We, the Sons of Divine Providence, are celebrating the Marian Year and invite you to join us to celebrate the year with devotion and veneration to Mary, Mother of God. We will recite the *Orionine Marian Year Prayer after Mass* each day – you will find prayer cards in the narthex.

**Easter Raffle.** Tickets for the Easter Raffle will be on sale after weekend Masses.

**Crib.** Thank you for your donations of £239.90 for the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent at 6.30pm, followed by Holy Mass.**

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** – Please note that there will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays before Mass during Lent as there will be Stations of the Cross. We will resume after Easter.

**Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024.** If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across the Diocese, to support the work of its services, such as *Marriage & Family Life*, *Youth Ministry* and *Education*. Funds are also used to support the work of *Caritas Westminster*, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal. Please do take a donation envelope, which you will find in the narthex. The donations box is at the back of the church or you may use the QR code to make your donation online.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day, Friday 23rd February.** There will be a retiring collection for CAFOD next weekend. You will find the donation envelopes in the narthex. . Make your donation using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) Use the envelope in church or give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) . To find out about volunteering opportunities with CAFOD visit Volunteer ([cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk))

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2:30pm.** The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Shenda in St Michael's parish office (01785 252230 or [ashford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ashford@rcdow.org.uk)) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **Monday 15th April 2024.**

**Mass Intentions.** If you wish to book a Mass, please drop your intention envelope in the box at the back of the church in the offertory collection or through the presbytery letterbox. *Please use the new blue donation envelopes if you are able to make your Mass offering under Gift Aid.*

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### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

*Before Stations of the Cross on Friday evening from 6.00pm and on Saturday evening from 5.30pm before Holy Mass (and by appointment).*

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*To arrange a baptism please refer to the parish website*

*For the parish Mass timetable, please refer to the parish website:*

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanwell>

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### **PLEASE PRAY**

**for all the sick and housebound in our parish.**

**for Fr Sidon Sagar, Fr Carlo Mazzotta, the parishioners of St Michael's and for the staff and patients of Ashford Hospital in the Upper Thames Deanery.**

**for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that those who are in the final stages of life, and their families, may receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.**

# Mass Intentions 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		
		(Sat Vigil)	06.00pm	Joe D'Mello RIP
			10.30am	John and Concessao Menezes RIP
Mon	19 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Caetano Joao and Beatriz Pereira RIP
Tues	20 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Manuel and Amelia Gomes RIP
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>		09.30am	Xavier and Adelaide Deniz RIP
Fri	23 <sup>rd</sup>		06.00pm	Joe and Agnelo Menezes RIP
Sat	24 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Joslin D'Mello RIP
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		
			10.30am	Freddy Lubin RIP

## This Sunday's readings, 18<sup>th</sup> February – First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

## Next Sunday's readings, 25<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10.

**The Pope says,** "Praying, fasting and almsgiving are not three unrelated exercises, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying.. We cast out the idols that weigh us down and the attachments that imprison us. Then will our atrophied and isolated heart revive."

- 15th February 2024

## February is dedicated to **THE HOLY FAMILY**

The special devotion which proposes **the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century.** It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. **This devotion soon spread and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this title and himself composed part of the Office.** On account of the flight into Egypt this feast has been observed by the Copts from early times. The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of present-day society. In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

