

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10th November 2024

"For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Today is Remembrance Sunday. Are you wearing a poppy? Will you watch the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph or perhaps visit your local War Memorial? What are your thoughts as you see veterans of great age and youngsters who bear the wounds of war? What of their families?

Do you remember the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in 2011, when the Military Wives choir sang "Wherever You Are"? In the Royal Albert Hall and on television, people were moved to tears as they shared each singer's longing for a loved one who was perhaps on deployment thousands of miles away from home. Perhaps in some remote barracks, those for whom the Military Wives sang were also tearful, knowing that the song was for them. Perhaps you remember, in 2013, The Poppy Girls singing "The Call" and saw a little girl unexpectedly reunited with her father who, as a surprise, had returned from operations in the Indian Ocean. The child forgot the presence of the Queen and the huge crowd in the Royal Albert Hall as she raced across the arena to throw herself into her father's arms.

War memorials across the world bear similar words in many languages. The horror and tragedy of war, whatever its cause, hurts the families of combatants and non-combatants. The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance always ends with a cascade of poppies. Remembrance Sunday is a family affair.

The elderly lady didn't plan to attract attention. She put a tiny coin into the collection box and carried on into the Temple. We know nothing about her. Did she live with her family or was she one of many elderly widows who depended on the Temple authorities for accommodation, food and perhaps a little pocket money in exchange for keeping the Temple clean and tidy? We don't know. She probably thought that nobody had noticed her small donation because she was usually unseen by the many people who came to pray there. They could have helped the widow but didn't. Priests and people alike also walked past beggars, not sparing them a second thought, but Jesus was different. He saw the woman and recognised that she had nothing more than the tiny coin which she gave to the Temple, a coin so small that perhaps it wouldn't have paid for a piece of bread. Many other people could offer more to the Temple treasury but didn't. Instead, Jesus gave the widow a gift that nobody else did: public praise for her generosity. To her contemporaries, she remained an unsung heroine but thanks to Jesus, we remember her with pride.

We have all seen examples of tightfistedness: perhaps we are sometimes guilty of it ourselves. There are, however, those who are willing to offer "not less than everything" and we remember some of these people today, who had only one life and gave it on our behalf. We remember them with pride.

Today, on Remembrance Sunday, many of us treasure unforgotten family members whose sacrifice is remembered and recorded for future generations. Not everybody earned a Victoria Cross. Not everyone's name is recorded on a war memorial. Sadly, the victims of war are often anonymous and unrecorded — but they leave a legacy. We remember the families who, yesterday, shared their loved ones with our today. We remember their aching hearts and the pain of those who, perhaps, filled in impersonal MOD forms when all they wanted to do was to cry. We remember families whom war left without one or more loved ones. We remember veterans whose lives were forever changed by their memories and, perhaps, injuries. We remember children whom war deprived of a parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt or cousin. We remember parents who lost a child. We remember workers missing a colleague, friend or mentor. We remember leaders who gave their lives so that

others might survive and flourish in a new society built on solidarity and hope. We remember emergency responders who put themselves at risk to extinguish fires, rescue the injured and traumatised and break the tragic news to anxious families. We remember them — with gratitude.

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Remembrance Sunday – “God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Noise and food in church: Please refrain from bringing food and eating in the church. Soft toys are welcome to keep children happy and calm. This is always of utter importance to remember that: **we are in the presence of a living King and God among us.** Thank you for your understanding.

Sick & Retired Priests' collection. We will take up the annual collection **next weekend, (16/17 November)** to help support our Sick and Retired Priests. **This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much.** Please continue to pray for the well-being of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. **Gift Aid donation envelopes are in the narthex.** You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations or use the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and posters that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Confirmation 2025. Application Forms are now available on the parish website for children in the parish in Year 9. *Applications are to be made ONLINE only and close next Sunday, 17th November 2024.* You can also access the Application Form using the QR code in **Narthex.** **No late applications will be accepted.**

November List. Envelopes for names of your departed loved ones are now available in the narthex. Please place the completed envelopes in the wooden box at the back of the church. Two Masses per week in November will be offered for the souls of your departed families and friends on the November list.

John Patrick Murphy RIP. The Funeral of John Patrick Murphy will take place on **Friday 15th November** at 11.00am.

Bridget Cuffe RIP. The Funeral of Bridget Cuffe will take place on **Wednesday 20th November** at 11.00am.

Dates for your diary

Fri 22nd Nov	12-hour Adoration for end of Jubilee Year 2024
Fri 29th Nov	Children's Treasure Hunt
Sun 1st Dec	Children's Treasure Hunt
Sat 7th Dec	Christmas Family Music evening + raffle (<i>ticket details to follow</i>)
Sun 8th Dec	Christmas Bake-off

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 can make your Mass offering under Gift Aid.* Please note that the Mass diary is now full until the end of December, so please select a date for a Mass in 2025.

Bucket Collection. The Bucket Collection is for COSMIC, a charity that supports the children's and neonatal intensive care units at St Mary's & Queen Charlotte's Hospital by helping patients and their families, and by enabling our dedicated team of nurses and doctors to treat hundreds of babies and children in intensive care. You will find the donations box in the wall at the back of the church.

Feast of St Francis Xavier. We will celebrate the Feast of St Francis Xavier **at St David's Church, Stanwell** on Saturday 30th November with **Mass at 12 noon**, followed by a get together in St David's parish hall. Please bring a plate of food. There will be cash bar for drink sales on the day. Any donations for prizes for the raffle will be appreciated. *All are welcome.* More details from Perpetua on 07448 103186 or Savio 07459 331213.

Ladies Circle. We meet on **Thursday, 14th November at 8.00 pm** in the parish hall - please remember to bring your £5.00 deposit for the Christmas Meal.

Repository Sale. There will be a sale of Repository items, including Christmas cards and gifts, in the narthex after all Masses on the **weekend 23rd /24th November.**

Antiques Fair. The next Antiques Fair is on **Saturday 23rd November**, 10.00 to 3.00pm in the parish hall. **Please note** that we will not be running a Jumble Sale for DePaul Trust this November, but will run a Bargain Stall and a Tombola Stall at the November Antiques Fair, to raise money for the DePaul Trust. If you have any small items (NOT CLOTHES) that you would like to donate, please call Ann Hogan on 01784 254462.

Primary School Applications – Signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) in St Michael's Presbytery on Tuesday 19th November, 6.45 – 7.30 pm. Please do record this date on your personal calendar - no CCPs will be issued after this date or by an individual appointment.

St Michael's School Open Mornings. If your child is due to start Reception in September 2025, please come along to one of the Open Mornings at St Michael Catholic Primary School on Wednesday, 13th November, 9.30-11.30am or Friday, 15th November, 9.30-11.30am. **We encourage only parents to attend.** More information from <https://www.st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk/reception/>

This Sunday's readings, 10th November - Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17: 10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12: 38-44

Next Sunday's readings, 17th November - Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12: 1-13; Hebrews 10:13-14, 18; Mark 13: 24-32

Offertory Collection. *Thank you for your offertories last week:*

Loose Plate **£622.68**; Envelopes **£146.00**; Standing Orders £900.00

Contactless **£318.33** (*The Dona contactless PayPoint is in the narthex*)

MANNA Foodbank. This week's shortages: **Tinned Vegetarian Meals** - Bolognese, Curry, Chilli etc.; **Cereal/Breakfast Bars**; **Tinned Mixed Vegetables**; **Tinned Green Beans**; **Wrapped Chocolate Biscuits** - Penguins, Kit Kats etc; **Instant Mashed Potato** - Smash type; **Sugar**; **Crisps**; **Toilet Paper**; **Shaving Foam/Gel.** **For our Homeless Clients:-** Basic Tin Openers; Small Torches; Warm Gloves for Men (New pairs only).

Please leave your donations on the Presbytery doorstep or in the Narthex.

Safeguarding If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding rep, Tiziana Demurtas on 07778 533932 or ashfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 7798 9356 or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Adoration after Saturday morning Mass (and by appointment)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange a baptism please refer to the parish website:

(see: Parish Life → Sacramental Preparation → Baptism)

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

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

PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

for anniversaries in November since 2017: Margaret Curran, Evelyn Gallagher, Eunice Hatch, Neil Hogan, Dennis Holland, Philomena Kenna, Angela King, Catherine Lewis, Georgette Long, Elizabeth McGearty, Melissa Morgan, Carmen Nunes, Bethany Payne, Domenico Stillitano, Dennis Syberg, Norman Taylor.

for Fr Ulick Loring and the parishioners of Twickenham in the Upper Thames Deanery; and for staff and students of St Mary's College, Twickenham.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the spirit of consolation.

Mass Intentions 10th – 17th November

Sun	10th	Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
(Saturday Vigil Mass)		06.00pm	Holy Souls on the November List
		09.15am	Epifania and Rosa Gonsalves RIP
		11.30am	Deannah Mootoosamy intentions
		06.00pm	The people of the parish
Mon	11th	St Martin of Tours, Bishop	
		09.15am	Holy Souls
Tues	12th	St Josephat, Bishop and Martyr	
		09.15am	Olaf Lobo RIP
Wed	13th	06.00pm	Holy Souls
Fri	15th	09.15am	Holy Souls on the November List
		11.00am	FUNERAL OF JOHN PATRICK MURPHY RIP
Sat	16th	St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop	
		09.15am	Holy Souls on the November List
Sun	17th	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
(Saturday Vigil Mass)		06.00pm	Pauline Ng and family intentions
		09.15am	The people of the parish
		11.30am	Deodita Fernandes RIP
		06.00pm	Victims of childhood trauma

St Michael's Catholic Church

112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD
Telephone: 01784 252230; Email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk
Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford>

This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity no. 233699

Fr Sidon Sagar FDP: Parish Priest, Fr Carlo Mazzotta FDP: Assistant Priest
Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm