All Saints, 1 November 2026

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

We have just celebrated the Year of St Francis, marking 800 years since the saint's death. One of the Church's best-known and most beloved saints was as remarkable in his passing as he was in life. In his Canticle, composed shortly before his death, he wrote:

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
From whom no one living can escape…
Blessed are those whom she will find in your most holy will,
For the second death will do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
And give him thanks and serve him
Humbly but grandly!

St Francis willingly embraced Sister Death, having been granted by God a vision of the blissful life of heaven awaiting him. His heroic and exemplary life can inspire and encourage us – but may also leave us feeling unworthy or disempowered, for few are called or gifted to live such a life or die such a graced death. Yet nothing is lost: the road to sanctity lies open before each of us. This Feast of All Saints inspires and encourages us, giving us hope that the life of glory enjoyed by the saints awaits us too, by God's mercy and grace.

For Jesus, our life in heaven is rooted in, and springs from, our life now, here below. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted witnesses can all rejoice, for they are blessed and filled with God's grace.

The path to sainthood is both carrot and stick: we are inspired and encouraged, yet also challenged and urged forward. The mystical vision of St John in Revelation appeals to our imagination and presents a visual symphony of heaven, where all the redeemed surround the throne of the Lamb, the Lord who was slain and is alive. Our only response to this vision is adoration and praise. We are enticed onward and upward: what those who have gone before us achieved is also promised to us.

The first letter of John teaches that our transformation and translation into God's glory is not our work but God's: 'We know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.' Moses, who merely glimpsed the Lord's glory, came down from the mountain with his face shining. We hope in the Lord and are purified, made pure as he is pure.

What practical steps might we take towards sainthood? Wise words, variously attributed to a business entrepreneur and to Buddha, are surely helpful here:

Watch your thoughts; they become words; watch your words; they become actions; watch your actions; they become habits; watch your habits; they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

For the Christian, this becomes a powerful, transformative path to sanctity. It invites us to be formed by the Word of God as we encounter it in the Scriptures and in the Church's liturgy. At Mass, we are immersed in the Word of God: in the greeting, the sacred dialogue between priest and people, the readings, the symbolism that surrounds us, the prayers and hymns, and the dismissal, where we are sent out to share what we have received.

The Word of God shapes our thoughts, keeps us focused on God, and orients us toward him. Imbued with the Word, we increasingly act in God's ways. Beginning with our divinely inspired thoughts, we eventually arrive at the destiny prepared for us: the glory of the kingdom of heaven. Suddenly, the daunting task of becoming saints can seem manageable, something we can all focus our efforts on.

Today's feast reminds us of something else, something vital: we are not merely on a personal, individual journey where we can become lost, confused, or discouraged. We are

a pilgrim people, travelling together, offering one another help, support, consolation, inspiration, encouragement and hope. As we journey together, we arrive at our heavenly destination together and are welcomed into the community of all who have travelled before us and triumphed against the odds. We are now eternally among the blessed.

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ACTIVE LIFE OF THE PARISH

Every 1st Sunday, we have tea and coffee after the 9.15am Mass in the parish hall. Remember, the joy of tea and coffee lies not just in the beverages themselves, ***but in the shared moments and conversations. Cheers to building beautiful connections over a cuppa!*** ☕

Morning Teas and Coffees. Tea and Coffee will be available in the Presbytery Meeting Room **after 9:15 a.m. Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays.** All are welcome.

Every 2nd Saturday after 9.15 am Mass: Garden Cleaning. 🪴 **Every 4th Saturday after 9.15 am Mass: Church Cleaning**

Dear Parents/Elders: Please note **STRICTLY NO FOOD** in the Church, and please give the Children **SOFT TOYS ONLY**

Rosary in October. During October, the Rosary will be said in church at 8.45am, before weekday morning Masses

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Church opening times. The church is now open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (except Thursdays).

Changes to Saturday morning Mass. Please note that there will be no 9:15 a.m. Mass on the **3rd Saturday of the month**.

Thursdays. Kindly note that Thursday is the rest day for Fr. Sidon and Fr. Anthony. Please do not call at the presbytery except with a prior appointment or in an emergency.

Church Roof Appeal. If you would like to donate to the Roof Appeal, envelopes are available in the narthex.
If you are donating by cash or cheque, please use the small blue envelope and complete Sections 1 to 3. (Tick 'other' in Section 3 and write *Church Roof Appeal*).
If you are donating by bank transfer, please complete the white form.
Please hand completed forms to the priest after weekend Masses or post them through the presbytery letterbox.

Aileen Van Gramberg RIP. Aileen Van Gramberg's funeral will take place **on Tuesday, 3rd November at 11.00am.**

Raymond Browne RIP. Raymond Browne's funeral will take place on **Monday, 9th November at 10.30am.**

All Saints, Sunday 1st November. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite Saint for the **9.15am** and **11.30am** Masses this Sunday, **1st November**.
Please note there is no Sunday Friends this Sunday.

All Souls' Day, **Monday 2nd November**. Mass at **9.15 am** and **Stanwell** at **6 pm.**

November Blessing of Graves. On **Saturday, 7th November,** I will bless the graves of your family members at **Long Lane Cemetery** at **11.00 am, Stanwell Cemetery at 2.00 pm,** and **Staines Cemetery at 3.00 pm.**

November List. Envelopes for the 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 family and friends on the November list.

📢✨ Announcement: Ven. Father Agnelo Novena Mass ✨📢

St Michael & St David parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate the Ven. Father Agnelo Novena Mass, celebrated by Father Renato Andrade, **on Monday, 9th November at 6:00 pm at St Michael Parish, Ashford**. ⛪🙏

☕🍪 **Tea and coffee will be served after Mass.**

Let us gather as one community in prayer and gratitude. 🙏❤️✨

Confirmation 2027. Application Forms are now available on the parish website. **The application closes on 31st October.**

First Holy Communion 2027. Application Forms are now available on the parish website. **The closing date for submission is Saturday, 31st October 2026.** *You will also find the QR code in the Narthex. We will not accept applications after the closing date.*

St Michael Catholic Primary School Open Mornings. Are you interested in applying for your child to join our Reception classes at St Michael's in September 2027? Come along to one of our Open Mornings and see our wonderful school! Learn more about the school from the headteacher, Mr Lane, and enjoy a pupil-led tour. We recommend that only parents and carers attend: *Tuesday, 17th November, 9.30-11.30am*
and Thursday, 19th November, 9.30-11.30am.

Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) signing for Reception 2027 entry will be held on **Wednesday 25th November, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and on Friday 27th November, 6.45 to 7.45 pm,** *in the Presbytery.* ***Please bring your child's baptism certificate (not an image of the certificate on Phones).***

Mass Intentions. If you wish to book a Mass, please drop your intention envelope in the weekend offertory collection bags or post it through the presbytery letterbox**.** *If you can make your Mass offering under Gift Aid, please use the new blue donation envelopes.*

Bucket Collection. The Bucket Collection is for **the Sons of Divine Providence.**

This Sunday's Readings, All Saints, 1st November 2026
(Mass book page 184)
Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a
Next Sunday's readings, Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 8th November 2026
Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Offertory Collection. Thank you for your offerings last week:
Loose Plate **£643.79**; Envelopes **£132.00**; Contactless **£291.00**
International Heritage Night - **£1080.00** – Thank you for your support and love.
Monthly Standing Orders in September: £2306.00

MANNA Foodbank. "*Thanks to all the wonderful Harvest donations received this month, our shelves are very well stocked at the moment. Manna Foodbank would like to thank all the local schools, churches, businesses and individuals who have supported us - we are most grateful and wouldn't be able to provide the service we do without your help. With this in mind, no Shortages List this week*." from Manna Food Bank

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PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

For anniversaries in November since 2019: Mary Docherty, Francis Doherty, Evelyn Gallagher, Eunice Hatch, Neil Hogan, Dennis Holland, Philomena Kenna, Angela King, Catherine Lewis, Georgette Long, Elizabeth McGearty, Carmen Nunes, Domenico Stillitano, Dennis Syberg.

For Canon Peter Newby and the parishioners of St James, Twickenham in the Upper Thames Deanery, and for staff and students of St Mary's College, Twickenham.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the proper use of wealth: that, not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Mass Intentions 1st – 8th November 2026

Sun	**1st**	**All Saints**		
	(*Saturday Vigil*)	**06.00pm**	The people of the parish
		09.15am	Mr and Mrs Roselane D'Costa and family RIP
		11.30am	Anthony, Margaret and Angela Gillespie RIP
		06.00pm	Patrick Joseph Young RIP
Mon	**2nd**	**All Souls**	
		09.15am	Holy Souls on the November List
Tues	**3rd**	**09.15am**	Katy and the Newman Family intentions
		11.00am	**FUNERAL OF AILEEN VAN GRAMBERG**
Wed	**4th**	**St Charles Borromeo, Bishop**	
		06.00pm	Susan Amarasekera RIP
Fri	**6th**	**09.15am**	Munidasa Saparamadu RIP
Sat	**7th**	**09.15am**	Darsh Shanker and Stephanie – in thanksgiving
Sun	**8th**	**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
	(*Saturday Vigil*)	**06.00pm**	Gary Fox RIP
		09.15am	Silvana D'Cruz RIP
		11.30am	A special intention
		06.00pm	Holy Souls on the November List

St Michael's Catholic Church

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Website: *http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford*

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

Parish Priest: Fr Sidon Sagar FDP; Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony Cruz, Jesu Dass FDP

Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes

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