Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 15 November 2026

"You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

Lawrencia grew up in West Point, Liberia, an area with serious challenges due to poverty. As Lawrencia herself says, 'If you are from West Point and you go into town… they can look down on you… they won't see you as somebody who will make an impact in the community.'

As a child, Lawrencia helped her mother dry and sell fish. With the money she earned, she saved to pay her school fees and to fund her university studies. She now works for an organisation which offers training to other women in West Point, to increase their profits so they can pay their children's school fees.

Iana lives in Kyiv, Ukraine. When the war started, she opened her home to displaced people. From there she went on to volunteer with a local church organisation, giving out aid, helping in children's centres and visiting the elderly. Many of the other volunteers Iana works alongside are displaced people themselves.

Wakera shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates with a group of women in Kenya who had lost everything during three years of drought. Through the organisation he works for, he provided them with seeds and tools to plant their own kitchen garden. He also gave them shade nets to protect the plants from the scorching sun. The women can now grow food to feed themselves and their families and sell their produce. They continue to work together, helping one another build shelters and collecting the firewood and water that they need.

Our readings today remind us that faith is not just something personal between God and us. Faith also calls us to live differently.

In the first reading, the 'good wife' reaches out to the poor and needy. In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he tells them that just because they do not know when the Lord will come again does not mean they should relax. They are called to stay awake, remain prepared, and show their love for the Lord through their actions.

In the parable of the talents, two of the servants make the most of the gift they have been given. The one who buries it in the ground – who does not share it, use it or make something of it – incurs the wrath of his master.

We are all unique and special. We have all been given gifts from God, and we are all expected to use these 'talents' to become the person that God knows and wants us to be: the very best version of ourselves. God loves us and is merciful to us. We are called to share this love and mercy with others as part of our faith. In this way, his mercy multiplies, just like the talents in the parable we have heard today.

This is what Lawrencia, Iana, Wakera, and the women in Kenya have been doing. On the World Day of the Poor, they show us that no matter our background, wealth or status, we can all do something to help one another. They have taken their God-given gifts and shared them onwards, multiplying them. Those they have helped also go on to support others, building a better future for their children and for the wider community, multiplying them even further.

So let us take time to look inside ourselves. What gifts, skills, and talents have we been given? How will we make sure we do not bury them, disappointing our Lord and Master, who has placed his trust in us?

Making the most of our gifts can be challenging. It almost certainly requires hard work, but it is not impossible. As we hear in the Gospel, he gave to each servant 'according to his ability'. We are not to hide behind fear, false humility, or the idea that it is someone else's

responsibility to do something. Instead, we consider how to use our talents for the good of all people, sharing God's compassion in our troubled world.

As Pope Leo reminded us this time last year: 'The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel.'

We pray for the grace and courage to live out this truth.

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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**

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

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, you will find envelopes 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.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection. We take up the annual diocesan collection for Sick and Retired Priests **this weekend, 14th/15th November.** *You will find Gift Aid Donation envelopes in the narthex. To make a donation, please:*

- *Use the contactless payment machine in the narthex (select the Sick and Retired Priests tab). You cannot Gift Aid this donation.*
- *Scan the QR code on the envelope, or*
- *Place your donation, cash or envelope, in the free-standing box at the back of the church (November Masses box).*

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.

Repository Sale. There will be a sale of Advent Calendars; and Christmas cards and Gifts in the narthex after all Masses **on the weekend 28/29th November**.

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,** *in the Presbytery.* ***Please bring your child's Baptism Certificate with you.*** *(not an image on your phone)*

Mass Intentions. If you wish to book a Mass, please drop your intention envelope in the weekend offertory collection bags or post 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.**

Crown of Thorns is a charity based in Surrey that welcomes donations of ecclesiastical items for relocation. If you have any such items (e.g., religious books, statues, ornaments, icons, rosaries, etc.), please bring them to the presbytery, as we will be making a delivery to the Crown of Thorns shortly.

Caritas Westminster will be running the following online sessions: **Beneath the surface: Understanding Trauma**, Wednesday 18th November 7.00–9.30pm https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/beyond-the-surface-understanding-trauma/

This Sunday's readings, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 15th November 2026 *(Mass book page 155)*

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6; Matthew 25: 14-30

Next Sunday's readings, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, 22nd November 2026

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28; Matthew 25: 31-46

Offertory Collection. Thank you for your offerings last week:
Loose Plate £704.43; Envelopes £83.00; Contactless £285.00
Monthly Standing Orders in October: £1,861.00

MANNA Foodbank. This week's shortages: Tinned Custard; Small Tins of Potatoes - 300g/400g; Small Tins of Pineapple - 227g; Small Packs of Instant Mashed Potato (Smash type); Spam - small size 200g; Sugar - small size 500g; Crisps; Single Adult Toothbrushes; Men's 2 in 1 Shower Gel 225ml; Advent Calendars. Please leave your donations in the narthex box.

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 15 – 22 November 2026

Sun	**15th**	**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(*Saturday Vigil*)		**06.00pm**	Intentions of Priya Rodrigues, Sasha Karkada and Maria DaSilva
		09.15am	Margaret Hollinshead RIP
		11.30am	Intentions of Claire De Souza
		06.00pm	The people of the parish
Mon	**16th**	**St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop**	
		09.15am	Rose McCarthy – birthday intentions
Tues	**17h**	**09.15am**	Deodita Fernandes RIP
Wed	**18th**	**06.00pm**	Holy Souls on the November List
Fri	**20th**	**09.15am**	Grace and Alwyn Cooper RIP
Sat	**21st**	**09.15am**	**NO MASS**
Sun	**22nd**	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**	
	(*Saturday Vigil*)	**06.00pm**	Holy Souls on the November List
		09.15am	Departed members of Ana Hariet Empeynado's family
		11.30am	Olaf and Diana Lobo RIP
		06.00pm	The people of the parish

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

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