Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, 22 November 2026

'And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."' Matthew 25:40

At twenty, David went to work at an emergency night shelter in London for people experiencing homelessness. He wanted to help, but was overwhelmed by the dirt, the noise and the intensity of it all. It felt chaotic, unfamiliar and far beyond anything he had known before. He threw up a quick prayer—then heard someone singing. He followed the sound and found what looked like a mass of hair sitting on a stool, being sheared like a sheep. The hair was filthy, full of lice. Yet as it was cut away, a voice sang while a guitar played—calm, steady, almost joyful. The singer nodded at David as he stood frozen in the doorway.

After a while, the singing stopped, and gentle questions began – who he was, where he was from, what he was doing there? Slowly, through those questions, and as the hair fell away, he encountered a man named John. John told David a little of his story, what to expect at the shelter, and even invited him to go busking.

Over the next few weeks, John became David's friend—and in many ways he looked after David as he found his feet. What began as discomfort slowly became connection; what felt overwhelming became human.

Today's Gospel is often heard as a warning – about the consequences of not living a good life, about eternal punishment. And while fear can change behaviour for a time, it rarely changes the heart. This deeper change of heart lies at the centre of Jesus' parable.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples – those who have already chosen to follow him – to live like him, to love like him, slowly to become more like him. This isn't simply about avoiding punishment; it is about transformation. It is about becoming the kind of people who see as Jesus sees and love as Jesus loves.

When we recognise that all creation comes into being through Jesus, the Word of God, we begin to see that he is present in every part of creation and in every person. No one is outside his presence. No one is beyond his love. This parable, then, is not just instruction; it is revelation. It reveals where Christ can be found: in those who are hungry, strangers, forgotten. It invites us to relate to others differently – more deeply, more attentively, more like Christ.

This Gospel is a first step in our response to the love Jesus has already shown us. We are invited – perhaps even challenged – to love those in need, especially those who at first glance seem to have nothing to offer us in return. Jesus knows that when we begin to serve others, when we allow ourselves to truly encounter people in their reality – not at a distance, but up close – we are changed. Our assumptions soften. Our fears lessen. Our hearts expand. We become more like him. We become who we were created to be – part of the Body of Christ, living and active in the world. In giving ourselves to others, we begin to recognise more deeply the selfless love God has for us. We realise that we have nothing with which to repay him – only the invitation to receive his love and to pass it on.

Like the story of David, when we move beyond seeing people as strangers and begin to truly know them, something shifts. The kingdom grows – not in dramatic moments but in quiet, human encounters.

And this must be held alongside one of Jesus' most challenging teachings – to love your enemy. When we begin to see those who hurt us not simply as enemies, but as people acting from places of brokenness or need, it changes how we respond. It doesn't excuse their behaviour – but it opens the possibility of love, of patience, of mercy. And when we recognise that Christ is present in them too, our desire for retribution begins to give way to a desire for restoration. In that moment, the kingdom comes a little closer.

© Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word A4, 2026, adapted

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.

St David's Church, Stanwell - Mass for St Francis Xavier. All parishioners are invited to join in celebrating the Feast of St Francis Xavier, Patron Saint of Goa, on **Monday 30th November 2026**, with **Mass** at **6.00pm at St David's, Stanwell,** followed by a get-together with refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Vera Cameron RIP. The Funeral of Vera Cameron will take place on **Friday 11th December at 11.00am.**

Lois Derby RIP. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lois Derby. Funeral details to follow.

Ernie Grange RIP. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ernie Grange. Ernie and Gina Grange were long-time parishioners of St Michael's before they relocated to Moray, Scotland.

Margaret Prendergast RIP. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Prendergast. Funeral details to follow.

Mass for All Souls on Wednesday 25th November, 6.00pm – remembering all departed souls of all our family members. ***After the 6.00 pm Mass, we will have Adoration and prayer until 7.00 pm.*** *Please note that the Mass will be said in Church (not in St. Joseph Chapel).*

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 families and friends on the November list.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection. If you missed the collection last weekend and would like to make a donation, you will find the envelopes in the narthex to be placed in the free-standing box at the back of the church. You can also make a donation using the contactless paypoint in the narthex, or using the QR code on the envelope.

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

Advent My Day by Day booklets, £1.00 each, are now available in the Narthex. Please place the money in the Publications Box in the wall in the narthex.

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.

This Sunday's readings, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, 22nd November 2026 *(Mass book page 158)*

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

Next Sunday's readings, First Sunday of Advent, 29th November 2026

Isaiah 63: 16b-17; 64: 1, 3b-8; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

Offertory Collection. Thank you for your offerings last week:
Loose Plate £609.81; Envelopes £169.00; Contactless £335.00
Monthly Standing Orders in October: £1,861.00

MANNA Foodbank. This week's shortages: *Tinned Apricots; Tinned Pineapple ; Tinned Cold Chicken Breast; Tinned Mixed Bean Salad; Tinned Hot Dogs, Ravioli and Bolognese; Advent Calendars; Christmas Cakes and Mince Pies - must be dated until at least end of December; Christmas Selection Boxes for Children/Chocolate Coins etc; Boxed Chocolates for adults; Cheesy Savouries - Twiglets/Cheese Footballs/Mini Cheddars etc; Packets of Nuts/Nuts &Raisins etc.* 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 22 - 29 November 2026

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
Mon	**23rd**	**09.15am**	Sheila Curran RIP
Tues	**24th**	**09.15am**	Holy Souls on the November List
Wed	**25th**		
		06.00pm	John and Ethna Reilly RIP
Fri	**27th**	**09.15am**	Holy Souls on the November List
Sat	**28h**	**09.15am**	Holy Souls on the November List
Sun	**29th** First Sunday of Advent		
	(*Saturday Vigil*)	**06.00pm**	Maria Billson – healing Mass
		09.15am	The people of the parish
		11.30am	A special intention – Vanessa and Malcolm and families
		06.00pm	Juanita and Teresita Olanio RIP

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