

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(11th October 2026)



Dear Parishioners

This week is Baby Loss Awareness Week, a time to remember with particular tenderness babies whose lives have ended before or shortly after birth, and to pray for all those who carry the pain of their loss.

For some within our parish community, this may be a week of difficult memories. The loss of a baby can be deeply private, and there may be people around us whose grief we know nothing about. A child may have been part of a family's life for only a very short time, yet the love for that child can remain for many years.

The readings for this Sunday offer a gentle message of hope to those who mourn. The prophet Isaiah gives us a beautiful picture of the kingdom God promises. He speaks of a great feast, prepared by God for all peoples, and of the day when suffering and death will finally be overcome: *"He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces."*

There is something deeply comforting in that promise. Isaiah does not pretend that there are no tears. He speaks of a God who sees them and who, in the fullness of time, will wipe them away. We do not always understand why suffering comes into our lives. When a child dies, there may be questions for which there is no satisfying answer. Our faith does not require us to have all the answers. It invites us instead to trust in the God who remains with us, even when we cannot see the way ahead.

The words of the psalm express this beautifully: *"Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me."* The presence of God does not mean that the valley disappears. It means that we do not have to walk through it alone. Perhaps that is one of the gifts we can offer one another as a parish community. We cannot take away another person's grief, and we should not feel that we need to find the perfect words. Sometimes simply remembering, listening and praying is enough.

A child's life is precious, however long or short it may be. For parents and families who have experienced baby loss, there may be a name, a photograph, a memory or simply a quiet place in their hearts where that child is remembered. Such memories are expressions of love.

The Gospel gives us another image of God's kingdom: a wedding feast to which people are invited. It is an image of God's generosity and of the joy for which he has created us. The Christian hope is that death is not the end. In Christ, who died and rose again, we are given the promise of eternal life and the assurance that those we entrust to God are held within his love. This does not make parting easy. Christian hope is not about denying sorrow. It is about believing that sorrow and death do not have the last word.

During this week, let us quietly remember those who have experienced the loss of a baby. Let us pray for mothers and fathers, for grandparents and siblings, and for all whose lives have been touched by such a loss. We can also remember those whose grief may have happened many years ago and who may still find particular days difficult.

And perhaps, most simply, we can pray that our parish will always be a place where people can bring their joys and sorrows to God, knowing that they will be met with compassion.

The first reading gives us a glimpse of the promise that lies at the heart of our faith: *"The Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces."*

It is a promise we cannot yet see fulfilled in its fullness. But we trust the God who makes it, the God who walks beside us through every valley and who gathers his children into the eternal life of his kingdom.

This week, as we remember those who have been lost, may we place them gently into God's hands and pray for all who continue to love and remember them.

And may the words of today's psalm give us hope as we pray, *"In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending."*.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church
32 Hallowell Road,
Northwood
HA6 1DW
Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

You can make a donation to either parish by using the appropriate QR code.

St Joseph's Church
111 Oxhey Drive,
Watford
WD19 7SW
Parish Office Hours
Tuesday, Thursday: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fr Tom

Fr Tom was due to have a small medical procedure on his foot on Friday, fortunately when he went to Mount Vernon Hospital, it was decided that the procedure was now unnecessary. Unfortunately, on Thursday evening as he was walking over the bridge in Highfield Road, he tripped and fell. Whilst he was saying Mass at Douay Martyrs School on Friday morning, he was in great pain (in his ribs) and was struggling to speak and was breathless. The school sent him to A&E at Hillingdon hospital, where he was checked out. No serious damage had been done in the fall, but he has been given some pain relief and told to rest for the next few days. As Fr Tim Hutton and Fr Bernard Boylan will be covering the Masses this weekend and and on Monday and Tuesday, he will be off duty and expects to be back on his feet by Thursday 8th

Catholic Women's League

We are a small, happy group of friendly ladies, who meet at St Joseph's Church, on the second Monday of the month at 2pm. We are part of the Westminster branch of the CWL. We have tea, biscuits, a raffle and chat about events we are organising and participate in initiatives organised by the main CWL body. We would welcome any new members to our group ,especially those from St Matthew's Church. The next meeting is on **Monday 12th October**. (Entrance is using the side door of the church). For more details contact any of the following: Ann Farrell 07922 836030, Breda Griffin 07738 363932, Pauline James 07511 668812.

The group would like to thank those who donated to their recent collection for MIND which raised £179.00

Good Books

In anticipation of the special exhibition opening soon at the British Library, our next meeting on **Wednesday 14 October** (7pm, Fr Bebb Room, St Matthew's) will be dedicated to the life and works of Agatha Christie. Read anything by or about her and come along to share your thoughts!

Catholic Chaplaincy to London's Universities

Are you a student at one of the universities or colleges in London, or in Hatfield? Our Catholic Chaplaincy is for you! It's based at Newman House, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. We have Sunday Masses for students and regular events during the week. And in many of the universities and colleges we also have campus-based Catholic societies and activities. Go to: **www.universitycatholic.net** or our Instagram page: **@newmanhouselondon** to find out more. If you are a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate student) heading to a university outside London, then why not take a look at **https://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk/** to identify the Catholic chaplaincy in your place of study.

November Blessing of Graves

The annual blessing of graves will take place at the following times

Saturday 14th November at

2.00pm Northwood Cemetery

Sunday 15th November in

2.00pm Pinner New Cemetery.

2.00pm Woodcock Hill Cemetery

*We are waiting to hear about the blessing of graves in Carpenders Park Cemetery - which is organised by the Wembley Parishes.

Keeping the Hallow in Halloween!

We will be celebrating the lives of our favourite Saints at our parish with an All Saints party on Saturday 31st October. Children of all ages are welcome (parents/guardians must stay throughout the party). Please come dressed as a Saint of your choice, with a few facts about his/her life to share. There will be games, crafts, food and sweets! The party will be held in **St Joseph's, Hall** starting at 3.45pm and finishing in good time for the 6pm mass. ***Father Tom would love to see the children processing into church in their costumes!*** If you would like to come along, please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of church, with the names and ages of your children. For more information, (or to offer help) contact Lizzy on 07814312669

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome & Palazzola (12th—19th April 2027)

There are still one or two places on our pilgrimage to Rome, staying at the Venerable English College's retreat and pilgrimage centre of Palazzola overlooking Lake Albano in the Alban Hills (or Castelli Romani) just south of Rome. **Those who have registered their interest are now able to collect a brochure and booking form for either of the parish offices.**

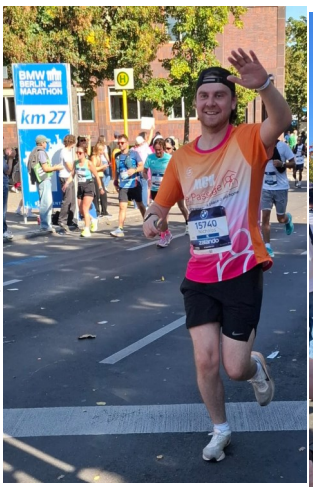
COST £1395 per person

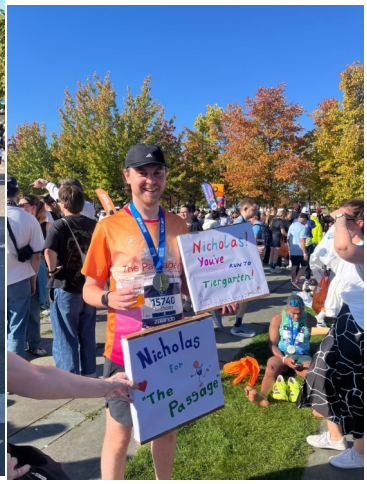
A Message From Nicholas Birch



Thank you for all your prayers and generous donations in support of my efforts at the Berlin Marathon - we have raised over £2000 for The Passage which will support those experiencing homelessness, especially as we head into the Winter. If anyone still wants to make a contribution to this vital ministry, you can do so at ***https://www.justgiving.com/page/nicholas-birch-4*** .

Well done and Congratulations Nicholas.





Parish Offices

St Joseph's Office will not be open this week and St Matthew's Office will only be open from 9am to 11.00am. You can contact the parish office through either of the parish numbers.

Bishops mark third anniversary of 7 October Hamas attack

Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop James Curry have issued a joint statement on the third anniversary of the Hamas terror attack that killed around 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage:

"7 October marks the third anniversary of Hamas's brutal massacre of Israeli civilians during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah.

"We remember and pray for those Israelis who were killed or taken hostage and for their families whose lives have been devastated by loss. We remember the Jewish people around the world who continue to carry deep wounds and trauma caused by the atrocities of that day.

"We pray for the tens of thousands killed in Gaza too. To all who have suffered and continue to suffer immensely as a result of the ensuing war – we hold you in our thoughts and prayers. May God, in his mercy, comfort and strengthen you and bring an end to the violence and grief, so that peace may take root.

"Pope Leo reminds us that 'there is no future based on violence, forced exile, or vengeance' and that those who love peace must work for it. The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa has likewise repeatedly called on the Church to build bridges of dialogue and not turn away from the Holy Land, even when the situation seems overwhelmingly complex and painful.

"We therefore strongly advocate for dialogue, forgiveness, justice and reconciliation. Whilst praying for the victims of the awful events of 7 October we need to work for an end to antisemitism throughout the world. We also pray for and work for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land. This is the only way forward."

Bishop Nicholas Hudson
Bishop of Plymouth
Chair of the Department for International Affairs
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Bishop James Curry
Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Westminster
Lead Bishop for the Holy Land
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

October Candlelight Procession

The annual October Candlelight Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, will take place at **7pm on Sunday 18th October 2026.** Join Archbishop Richard, Pilgrims, and the Community of Allen Hall Seminary, as we ask Our Lady's prayers for the gift of Priests for the Church, and for the Protection of London. The Shrine is situated at 1 Nicoll Road, London NW10 9AX. **Bakerloo Line & Overground** (Mildmay Line) to Willesden Junction. **Buses** 18,187,206,220,226,228,260,266 & 487 all pass close by.

Month of the Holy Souls

From next Sunday forms and envelopes will be available for parishioners to give names of those you wish to be remembered at the altar during November.

Praying with the Scriptures

On Sat 24th October from 2:00-5:00pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall. A prayerful workshop on the holy reading of Scripture, as Archbishop Richard leads us deeper into the practice of Lectio Divina, reflecting, praying, and learning how to carry this prayer into daily life. Bookings needed, to book please email ***evangelisation@rcdow.org.uk***

Second Collection for Missio:

World Mission Day 2026 will be celebrated on Sunday, October 18, 2026. This year marks the historic 100th anniversary of the day's establishment by Pope Pius XI. The official theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV is "One in Christ, united in mission", reflecting his pontifical motto "In Illo uno unum". Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor, so please give generously. Thank you.

Safeguarding News

The CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) is currently inspecting safeguarding in The Diocese of Westminster

To do this as effectively as they can, they welcome information from anybody who feels they have something to tell them about safeguarding in Westminster Diocese. The opportunity is open until Friday 6 November 2026 (5pm).

The CSSA are here to independently judge safeguarding in Catholic church bodies across England and Wales, and to publicly share the results. They want their inspection process to be transparent, and to help drive up safeguarding standards.

You can email them, and they can call you back if they need to understand better the information you provide. Wherever possible, they need evidence or specific details which can help them build an accurate picture.

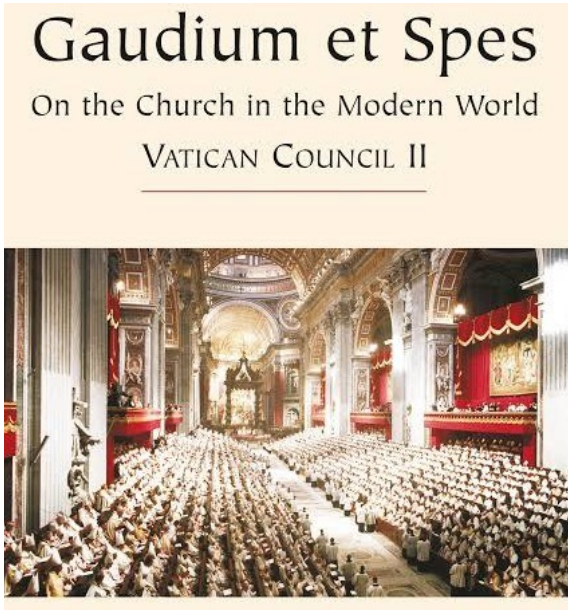
Any information you offer will be treated confidentially with one of their expert and experienced team members. They will not share your confidential information with anyone at the Diocese of Westminster unless you explicitly ask them to. But they will take the information into account when they assess our safeguarding. If they feel that there are people at risk now, they may intervene or report to statutory agencies any unreported crime. Details of how to contact them can be found at **https://rcdow.org.uk/news/share-safeguarding-information-about-the-diocese-of-westminster/**

Safeguarding in our parishes

It can be easy to think that Safeguarding is someone else's job. In fact it is all our job, our church wants to make our parishes safe places and have a positive culture of safeguarding. Some of our volunteers because of their roles have DBS checks and undergo online training. CSSA are asking that all volunteers take part in some training to help us all understand what Safeguarding is. Fr Tom would like to invite **all volunteers** to a training session, either on the evening of Thursday 22nd October or the afternoon of Saturday 24th October. He will be in touch with you this coming week, but please can you keep either of those dates in your diary.

Pope Leo XIV

We continue Pope Leo's catechesis series on the Second Vatican Council and its documents at his weekly Wednesday General Audience. He began exploring the document Gaudiem et Spes in September (These is his talk from Wednesday 23rd September)



Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS, 40-45)
5. The mission of the Church in the contemporary world

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Resuming our reflection on the Conciliar Constitution Gaudium et Spes (GS), today we will consider the fourth chapter of the first part, dedicated to the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

First of all, the Council recalls that the Church is not "above" or "beside" the world, but is, as it were, grafted into it. "Mundus reconciliatus Ecclesia", wrote Saint Augustine (Sermon 96): the Church is the world already reconciled with God; we are pilgrims on earth and share in this world's fragility and beauty (cf. GS, 40).

Just as the Son of God was incarnated to give life to the world and to reconcile it with the Father, so the Church dwells in the world as a sign of the incarnation of God, in order to manifest His plan to make us all His children in one great human family. Therefore, the Church journeys through history in the midst of peoples and cultures, and "this involvement in people's lives helps the Church understand ever more clearly that her mission has a historical scope and entails a responsibility for the way in which social relations are built" (Encyclical Letter Magnifica Humanitas, 19).

The first mission of the Church is to help people be attentive to the profound questions of life: those concerning our origin and our destiny, as well as those concerning the meaning of love and suffering (cf. GS, 41). The logic of profit at all costs and the manipulation of information risk exerting undue pressure on people to conform to a lifestyle centred on the consumption of material goods, but our hearts are made to look upwards.

The Council Fathers remind us that the Church's mission is fulfilled also in contributing to the construction of the earthly city. However, her methods and aims are not primarily of a political order; rather, they consist in bearing witness to faith and charity, together with commitment for justice, peace, and fraternity. By worshipping Christ, the Righteous One who died for the unrighteous, the believer cannot accept the oppression of the weak and the poor, nor the unjust structures that perpetuate conditions of dependence and injustice. The social doctrine of the Church guides the actions of Christians, who collaborate with all people of good will in promoting the common good. The Church, therefore, "has no fiercer desire than that in pursuit of the welfare of all she may be able to develop herself freely under any kind of government which grants recognition to the basic rights of person and family, to the demands of the common good" (GS, 42).

To fulfil the Gospel mission effectively, it is necessary for every baptized person to commit to cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that their faith may be living and expressed in consistent behaviour. Indeed, as the Council Fathers reiterate, the discrepancy between professed faith and daily life "deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age" (GS, 43).

Gaudium et Spes reserves special mention (cf. ibid.) for the mission of the lay faithful who, by virtue of their Baptism, are called to enliven the world with the Christian spirit and the vision of the Gospel. The principal settings for this activity, which may well be described as priestly, are undoubtedly the family and the workplace, but it extends to every sphere of life.

Finally, the Church is always attentive to what is taking place and developing in society (cf. GS, 44). It is the task of the whole People of God, especially pastors and theologians, to discern what in the cultures of our time is worthy of consideration, always taking the Word of God and the Tradition of the Church as the supreme criteria for discernment. This requires a balanced mind, free from cultural trends, capable of viewing the world in a positive light whilst remaining steadfast in preserving and presenting the Gospel message in its entirety. Indeed, "it is certainly not by watering down the content or softening the demands that Christianity can be made attractive" (Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Dicastery for Evangelization – Section on Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, 28 May 2026).

Dear friends, as she journeys through history, "the Church has a single intention: that God's kingdom may come, and that the salvation of the whole human race may come to pass" (GS, 45). She strives towards this end above all through personal holiness and fraternal love. Saint Paul VI wrote: "Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile" (Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi, 76). Let us therefore be open to the action of the Holy Spirit, that He may help us to live in holiness and charity, so that the world may believe and hope.



Homily given by Archbishop John Wilson for Adoremus 2026 at Southwark St George's Cathedral on Saturday 10 October 2026.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

On this joyful day, there is a question in my heart. It's this: How deeply do we believe in the converting power of the Eucharist? How deeply do I, how deeply do you, believe in the power of our Eucharistic Lord to touch people's lives?

Some years ago, I was introduced to the life and work of Takashi Nagai, a Japanese physician, victim of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, and convert to Catholicism. He died from leukaemia in 1951 aged 43.

Takashi's conversion came through various factors, but decisive among them was the first time he attended Holy Mass in 1932. As a non-believer, Takashi lodged with a Catholic family while studying medicine in Nagasaki. The family invited him to spend Christmas with them and encouraged him to join them for Midnight Mass, quietly praying that he might encounter Christ. "But I am not a Christian," replied Takashi. The wise father of the family responded, "That doesn't matter. The shepherds and the Magi who came to the stable were not [Christians] either. But when they saw him, they were able to believe."

"When they saw him, they were able to believe." The father's faith was expectant: when you see the Eucharistic Jesus, then you will be able to believe. These are powerful words of faith to hear as we carry the Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament through our streets. Are we praying today – and do we pray in our families, parishes, schools, and chaplaincies – for people to encounter Jesus through his Eucharistic presence? I hope so.

Takashi went to Mass. He described his 'unexpected "intuition that there was a living Someone present in…Urakami Cathedral." Attending the Eucharist for the first time he encountered a "living Someone" he did not yet know, but whose presence he experienced. Eighteen months later, Takashi was baptised and took the Christian name Paul.

This account of Eucharistic conversion inspires me. I ask myself how I consider Jesus a "living Someone" when I come to Mass or enter the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus who is the living bread, come down from heaven. What confidence do I have – what confidence do we have – in the power of our Eucharistic Lord to convert hearts to himself? Do we pray for this grace in our lives and in the lives of others?

A recently ordained priest in our Archdiocese told me of his visit to a young man in a secure health facility who asked to receive the Eucharist. When the priest held up the Sacred Host and said "Behold, the Lamb of God…," the young man responded, "Please, may I just look at him for a moment?"

Despite serious challenges, that young man knew the Eucharist was not a thing, not an 'it,' but a someone; the living, real and true sacramental presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Please, may I just look at him for a moment?" Him who gives his flesh as true food. Him who gives his blood as true drink. Today, in the most Blessed Sacrament, we look upon Jesus as he radiates his love.

Since the beginning of the Church, the Eucharist instituted by the Lord Jesus, and entrusted to the Apostles, has been the well-spring and pinnacle of Catholic faith and practice. We only have to read the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2 verse 42, to see the first Christians gathering on Sunday, the day of the resurrection, for the Eucharist, the Breaking of Bread.

The Church's ancient Eucharistic faith is captured in the catechesis of St Cyril of Jerusalem around the year 350 AD when he wrote: "Since [Christ] Himself declared and said of the Bread, 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt any longer? And since He Himself affirmed and said, 'This is My Blood,' who shall ever hesitate…?"

This truth inspired St Thomas Aquinas to spell out the essence of Eucharistic faith in the Adoro te devote, his Eucharistic hymn, translated by the English Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins: "What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do; Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true."

"This is My Body,' 'This is My Blood'- "Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true."

Like many dioceses across England and Wales, we have noticed an increase in people seeking to join the Catholic Church as catechumens and candidates.

Emma, an artist and former agnostic, was asked by a Catholic friend to paint a picture of Jesus. This ignited her desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. "My relationship with Christ has grown deeper," she said; "I just feel at peace at adoration … Christ brings a wholeness that you've been searching for your whole life Zach was invited by a Catholic friend to attend a Corpus Christi procession. "The gears began to tick in my head," he said. Encountering the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist was the turning point, a "life-changing experience." Zach describes how "Seeing the procession, seeing the devout faith of all those people, was something else. To see so many people, so many young people, publicly profess their faith in such a way was beautiful."

Dear friends, do we believe the grace of Eucharistic conversion is operative today; that it is actively present in our churches and chapels? If we do, it will change not only how we seek to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, it will also change how we enable others to do the same. It will embolden us as Eucharistic evangelisers. Loving our Eucharistic Lord means wanting to spend time with him, laying our hearts bare before him. Loving our Eucharistic Lord means praying that others might encounter him and be opened to his presence.

Towards the end of The Story of a Soul, when St Therese of Lisieux's life was coming to its close, she made an incredible act of faith. Speaking to Jesus she said this: "For me to love you as you love, I would have to borrow your own love, and then only would I be at rest." For me to love you Jesus, as you love me, I would have to borrow your love to give me rest.

My sisters and brothers, if ever your brokenness makes it too painful for you to reach out in love to Jesus, then ask him to lend his love to you. Borrow your love from his Eucharistic Heart. Go directly to the words of the Adoro te devote:

O thou, our reminder of the Crucified, Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died, Lend this life to me then… Lend this life to me.

We ask Jesus to lend us his Eucharistic life. And with his Eucharistic life in us, we set out to lend this life to others. How deeply do we believe in the power of our Eucharistic Lord to convert hearts to himself? How earnestly are we praying that this will be the case?

Saint of The Week
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Patron Saint of devotees of the Sacred Heart and those who have lost a parent while young
Invoked against polio and rheumatic fever



The Sacred Heart of Christ is an inexhaustible fountain and its sole desire is to pour itself out into the hearts of the humble so as to free them and prepare them to lead lives according to his good pleasure. From this divine heart three streams flow endlessly. The first is the stream of mercy for sinners; it pours into their hearts sentiments of contrition and repentance. The second is the stream of charity which helps all in need and especially aids those seeking perfection in order to find the means of surmounting their difficulties. From the third stream flow love and light for the benefit of his friends who have attained perfection; these he wishes to unite to himself so that they may share his knowledge and commandments and, in their individual ways, devote themselves wholly to advancing his glory. ***~From a letter by Saint Margaret Mary .***

Margaret Alacoque was born in the Duchy of Burgundy in the Holy Roman Empire, in modern-day France. She later wrote that from babyhood Jesus claimed her as His own. As a child, she vowed to give God her purity and perpetual chastity. After her father died, her education came from other villagers and servants while her mother tried to provide for her children. At age nine, she was sent to live with the Poor Clare nuns. After two years, she fell seriously ill, likely with rheumatic fever, and was unable to walk for four years. Following a suggestion, she dedicated herself to the Blessed Virgin and was immediately cured. The Blessed Mother became the mother of her heart, teaching and correcting her. When she was confirmed, she added the name Mary, making her Margaret Mary.

Margaret Mary felt Jesus' suffering when her father's relatives took charge of the family estate, controlling every aspect of the family's life. They even sometimes refused Margaret Mary permission to go to church to pray. Hoping Margaret Mary would marry well, her mother begged her to find a husband. As Margaret Mary socialized more, she could sense Jesus' displeasure and recommitted herself to her vow to enter religious life. She entered the Visitation Convent on May 21, 1571. On her initial visit, she heard Jesus' voice within, saying, "It is here that I would have thee be."

During Margaret Mary's novitiate, Jesus revealed His special mission for her—to write down and reveal His sufferings. After Margaret Mary made her vows, Jesus repeatedly appeared to her, revealing His desire that His Sacred Heart be honored and uniting her soul more deeply with His sufferings. On every first Friday eve, she made a holy hour from 11:00 p.m. until midnight, entering Jesus' human sorrow when the Apostles abandoned him in the Garden. She received Holy Communion on each first Friday. Jesus told her that He desired all people to love Him and to know the love of His Heart. Jesus also asked that a feast be established in honor of His Sacred Heart that "is so inflamed with love for mankind." She saw Jesus' Heart on fire and crowned with thorns, the flames representing Jesus' burning love for humanity, and the thorns representing men's sinful and ungrateful response. Jesus made twelve promises to those who would honor His Sacred Heart, including peace in their families, consolation in troubles, and a refuge during the hour of death.

At first, Sister Margaret Mary's superior and fellow sisters doubted her visions' authenticity. Theologians who reviewed her visions and mystical experiences pronounced her delusional. By God's providence, Jesuit Father and future saint, Claude de la Colombiere, became the sisters' confessor. He believed Margaret Mary and helped to support her visions' authenticity. Toward the end of Margaret Mary's life, her community accepted the revelations and observed the Feast of the Sacred Heart, building a chapel to the Sacred Heart three years before her death. Seventy-five years after her death, after thorough examination, Pope Clement XIII approved devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, paving the way for Margaret Mary's 1920 canonization. The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was added to the General Roman calendar in 1929.

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, from a tender age your heart was united
with the Heart of Jesus, and His mother became your mother.
You persevered through much turmoil in life but valiantly fulfilled the mission given to you.
Please pray for me, that I will come to a deeper understanding of the suffering and Sacred Heart of Jesus,
so that I will share in the abundant mercy from which it flows.
Saint Margaret Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. .

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's)
Blessed Sacrament
Cecil Swampillai (For recovery)
Our Lady
Cecil Swampillai (For recovery)



(St Joseph's)
Blessed Sacrament
Intentions of Irene Williams & family
Our Lady
Those families who have lost babies

New Canons of Westminster Cathedral

Last Tuesday the Provost of the Canons of Westminster Cathedral installed four new Canons. We congratulate Canons Perry Sykes (Parish Priest of Wood Green), Mark Vickers (Parish Priest of Shepherd's Bush) Nicholas Schofield (Parish Priest of Uxbridge and Dean of Hillingdon) and Slawomir Witon (Dean of Westminster Cathedral)







Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading *Isaiah 25:6-10a*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death for ever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
'Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1*

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Second reading *Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*

Brothers and Sisters: I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 22:1-14*

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' " But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of The Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us in praying for those who are sick and those who have died:

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

For those who are sick: Mary Emmanuel, Joe Mullen, Leo McLoughlin, Patrick Coyle, Lourdes D'Silva Torres, Eliana Ost, James Conradi, Anne Paget, Mary Vaughan, Helen Jones, Sinead Ceasar, Gilda Kumarathasan, Siobhan Frost, Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Georgette Gornall, Ann Archer, Kathleen Lynch, Kathleen Andrews, Harry Nandlal, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Brendan Davern, Shay Murray, Ruby King, John Wildsmith, Cecil Swampillai, Belinda Plummer, Marilyn Theodore, Veronica Savill, Levan Soloman, Patricia Procter, Philip Wilson, Mary Hyde, King Charles, Moira Montgomery, Patricia Lee, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

For those who have died recently, Nora O'Sullivan, Colin Power, Margaret Flaherty and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster and those who have no one to pray for them.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Virginia Grimaldi, Joseph Aidan MacCarthy, Gladys Archer, Julia McCarthy, Mary O'Sullivan, Jennifer Nawarska, Elsie Quealy, Wanda Musyka, Kate O'Mahoney, Mary Reidy, Muriel Seuffert, John Murphy, Mary McLoughlin, Anne Mackridge, Kathleen Casey, Mike O'Mahoney, Peggy Lovett.

Pope's Prayer Intention for October. For mental health ministry, we pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Worship this week

Sunday Readings: *Year A* ***Weekday Readings:*** *Week 28 (Year 2)* ***Daily Office:*** *Week 4*

	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - *Trisha & Mary Moore RIP (Anniv) (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 11th	**9.00am: Mass** - *People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)*
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	**11.15am: Mass -** *Edwards Family Intns (St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Mass - *Suzette McHeyzer RIP (St Matthew's)*
Monday 12th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
S Wilfrid	**10.00am: Mass** - *Margaret Flaherty RIP* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Matthew's)*
	4.00pm: Reception of the Body of Nora O'Sullivan RIP *(St Matthew's)*
Tuesday 13th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
Dedication of St Matthew's Church	**10.00am Mass** - *In Thanks for the co-operation of our two parishes* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
	12 noon: Funeral Mass of Nora O'Sullivan RIP *(St Matthew's)*
Wednesday 14th	**NO PUBLIC MASS**
Feria	
Thursday 15th	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
S Teresa of Avila	**7.00pm Mass** - *Maureen O'Donoghue RIP (St Joseph's)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Friday 16th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
S Margaret Mary Alacoque	**10.00am: Mass** - *Sylvia Winter RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)* ***Followed By Rosary***
Saturday 17th	**09.45 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Rosary**
S Ignatius of Antioch	**10.30am:Mass -** *Amy Wong (Thanksgiving) (St Matthew's)*
	11.00am - 11.50am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions **ending with Benediction**
	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - *John Crowle RIP (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 18th	**9.00am: Mass** - *Peter Kim RIP (St Matthew's)*
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	**11.15am: Mass -** *People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Mass - *Lydia Ryan RIP (St Matthew's)*

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have a Mass intention or lamp intention for a particular date.

Parish Directory

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Parish Safeguarding Representatives	Colette Quirk & Elizabeth Scudder ***Email:*** northwoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment

Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk