

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(25th October 2026)



Dear Parishioners

One of the most important responsibilities we share as a parish community is ensuring that our churches are safe, welcoming places for everyone. We want people of all ages and backgrounds to feel that they belong, that they will be treated with dignity and respect, and that they can participate in the life of the Church with confidence. Achieving this requires more than good intentions; it requires a shared commitment to the wellbeing of every person who comes into contact with our parishes. This week, we have held safeguarding training sessions for our parish volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who attended and gave their time to these important sessions. I am grateful for your willingness to engage with this responsibility and for the commitment you show to the life of our parish. The work of our volunteers is essential to so much that happens in our churches, and safeguarding is an important part of that service.

For those volunteers who were unable to attend one of this week's sessions, there will be an opportunity to take part in a future session. Further details will be provided once arrangements have been made. We appreciate the time and commitment our volunteers give, and we want everyone who needs to undertake this training to have the opportunity to do so.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Although particular people have designated safeguarding roles, the responsibility for creating a safe environment belongs to all of us. It is not something we can leave solely to our parish safeguarding representatives or to those who work directly with children and adults at risk. Every member of our parish community has a part to play. This means being aware of the needs of others, taking concerns seriously, knowing how to raise them appropriately and never assuming that someone else will deal with a situation. It also means understanding that safeguarding procedures exist for a reason: to protect people, prevent harm and ensure that concerns are dealt with properly. Good intentions alone are not enough; we must be prepared to act responsibly when circumstances require it.

At the heart of safeguarding is the dignity of every human person. Children and adults at risk must be able to participate in the life of the Church without fear of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Anyone who raises a concern should be listened to respectfully, and concerns must be handled through the appropriate safeguarding channels. Creating this culture of care is an ongoing responsibility, not something that ends when a training session is completed.

Safeguarding also involves the everyday choices we make. It means maintaining appropriate boundaries, following agreed procedures, being transparent in our dealings with others and recognising that our actions can affect the safety and confidence of those around us. If we are unsure about a situation, it is always better to seek advice through the proper channels rather than ignore a concern or assume that it is not our responsibility.

This Sunday's Gospel speaks of the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves. In the life of our parishes, that love needs to be visible in practical ways. It is shown when we welcome someone who is new, notice a person who may be struggling, visit someone who is housebound, or offer support to a family going through a difficult time. It is also shown in the seriousness with which we approach safeguarding and in our determination to ensure that everyone is treated with care and respect.

As the communities of St Matthew's and St Joseph's continue to work together, we have an opportunity to strengthen the sense of belonging that is at the heart of parish life. We can do this by looking beyond our usual circle of friends, making newcomers feel welcome, encouraging people to become involved and ensuring that nobody feels overlooked or excluded. A genuinely welcoming parish is one where people are not only greeted at the door but are also treated with kindness, consideration and respect throughout their involvement in our community. I encourage everyone to consider how they can contribute to this shared responsibility. You do not need to hold a particular role to make a difference. A willingness to notice others, offer help, listen carefully and speak up when something is wrong can be just as important as more formal responsibilities.

Thank you once again to everyone who attended the safeguarding training this week, and to all our volunteers for the time, energy and care you give to our parishes throughout the year. Your service is greatly valued. Together, let us continue to build communities in which safeguarding is taken seriously, vulnerable people are protected, and everyone who comes through our doors knows that they are valued, respected and welcome.

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 - 11.00am

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
Temporarily Closed

Parish Offices

Due to Linda's Death, St Joseph's Parish Office will be temporarily closed. For booking Mass intentions, please contact the Office at St Matthew's. Emails 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.

Position of Bookkeeper

As part of the restructuring of the administration of our parishes, we are seeking to employ a bookkeeper for 12 hours per week (1 day in each parish). If you are interested you can apply via the diocesan website, For more information please go to **https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-bookkeeper-job-ref898-norwd-carpk/** The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Fridsay 30th October (Interviews will be on Thursday 5th November)..

Poppy Appeal 2026

The Royal British Legion launched this year's Poppy Appeal on Friday. You can buy your poppy in both our churches. All money raised from them will go to the work of the RBL. At any given time, the Royal British Legion is supporting nearly 8,000 members of the Armed Forces community through expert advice and practical assistance. Their range of services, scale, and partner network means they can support those facing multiple and complex challenges, whatever the need, whenever it's needed. From short-term relief to lifelong support, your donation enables us to help in ways tailored to people's unique needs and circumstances.

Lost Property at St Matthew's

There seems to be a growing pile of lost property items in the parish office at St Matthew's. If you think you have lost something, please contact the office. The deadline to reclaim any items will be Friday 27th November. Anything left will be disposed of after that date,

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 9th November**. (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.

Good Books

We revert to our winter timetable next month, meeting in the Fr Bebb Room at St Matthew's at **2 pm** on **Wednesday 11 November** to talk about the current bestseller **The Correspondent** by **Virginia Evans**. All are most welcome.

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.

Month of the Holy Souls

Forms and envelopes are now available for parishioners to give names of those you wish to be remembered at the altar during November.

November Blessing of Graves

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

Sunday 8th November
1.30pm Carpenders Park Lawn Cemetery

Saturday 14th November
2.00pm Northwood Cemetery

Sunday 15th November
2.00pm Woodcock Hill Cemetery

Saturday 28th November
2.00pm Pinner New Cemetery. Please note the change of date

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

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's)
Blessed Sacrament
Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives
Our Lady
All those who volunteer in our parishes



(St Joseph's)
Blessed Sacrament
All those on Half Term Holiday from School
Our Lady
Linda Grimes RIP

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/**

Caritas Westminster

Caritas are organising an online event called **Beyond the Surface: Understanding Trauma** on **Wednesday 18th November** from **7.00–9.30pm** This is an accessible and practical session (led by Nikki Dhillon Keane, Head of Caritas Hope and BACP-accredited therapist) exploring how trauma can affect people's experiences and behaviour, and how we can respond in ways that promote safety, dignity and trust. Particularly useful for those volunteering in foodbanks, homelessness projects and other community settings, **this session is open to all**. To register, sign up here **https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/beyond-the-surface-understanding-trauma/**

Linda Grimes RIP



Mass will be offered for Linda at St Joseph's this Thursday 29th October at 7.00pm

Her Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 3rd November at 11.30am in the Sacred Heart Church, Ruislip.

A Book of Remembrance has been opened for people to sign if they wish. It is in the St Joseph's Chapel

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Saturday 28th November 2026

12:30 pm-5.00 pm

St Joseph's Hall

The Catholic Women's League is organising the annual Christmas Party for senior citizens of our parishes.

If you would like to come or know of a senior citizen who would like to come, please take a form from the back of church and complete the 'cut off reply slip (one slip per person please) and return it to the Church no later than Sunday 22nd November.

Don't forget that this has always been a very popular event and places are limited to 60, so remember to return your slip by Sunday 22nd November to St. Joseph's Church

For further information please contact Pauline James on 07511 668 812 or Ann Farrell on 01923 242 314

Due to rising costs regrettably t here will be a £5 charge

AN EVENING WITH LISSA EVANS

Acclaimed novelist, children's writer and BAFTA-winning producer of *Father Ted*

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 7:30PM

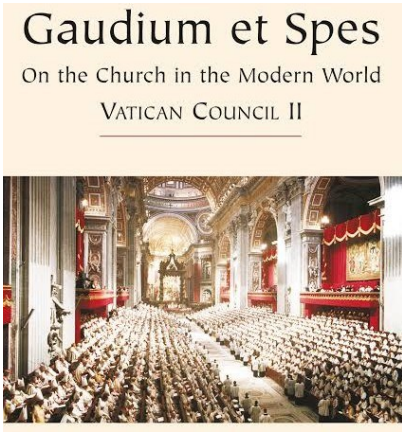
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HALL,
HALLOWELL ROAD,
NORTHWOOD,
HA6 1DW.

£10 /PERSON
INCLUDES A DRINK





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 21st October)

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.

IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS, 47–52)

6. Commitment to the family in today's society.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The first think I would like to say is thank you!. Thank you for the support of your prayers. Thanks be to God for His generosity. Let us all renew our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

The pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes (GS) of the Second Vatican Council, having illustrated in the first part the dignity of the person and his or her vocation in the world, goes on to consider, in the second part, "in the light of the Gospel and of human experience", some of the most pressing contemporary issues (cf. GS, 46). It focuses primarily on marriage and the family, in the conviction that "the well-being of the individual and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family" (GS, 47).

To this end, it does not merely reaffirm their values and aims, but proposes a renewed conception of marriage as an "intimate partnership of married life and love" (GS, 48). By incorporating the legal dimension of marriage as a contract, the foundation of this union is recognized in the "conjugal covenant", understood as the "human act whereby spouses mutually bestow and accept each another" (ibid.). The mutual self-giving of man and woman, such that 'they are no longer two but one flesh' (Mt 19:6), underlies the requirement for "total fidelity" and the "unbreakable oneness" of the spouses, finding vivid expression in the procreation and upbringing of children (cf. GS, 48). As a reflection of the Divine Trinity, conjugal and parental love, through the Sacrament of Marriage, is "governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power", so that spouses may love one another "just as He loved the Church and handed Himself over on her behalf" (ibid.).

Having shed light on the reality of marriage in the light of Christ's love, which is the truth of both human and divine love, Gaudium et Spes turns its attention to conjugal love and marital fruitfulness. Not limited to erotic attraction, which it nonetheless encompasses, conjugal love involves the entire will of the spouses, enlivening the affections of their hearts and expressing itself through sentiments and gestures of tenderness (cf. GS, 49). Embracing the good of the whole person of both man and woman, who are equal in dignity, this love pervades the entire life of the spouses, finding expression in acts proper exclusively to marriage (cf. ibid.). Whilst signifying integral love from person to person, the unique intimacy between the spouses fosters their mutual self-giving and enriches their shared joy (cf. ibid.).

Furthermore, the fruitfulness of conjugal love is expressed in the procreation of children, "the supreme gift of marriage" (GS, 50). By transmitting and educating human life, which must never be rejected, spouses become "cooperators with the love of God the Creator, and are, so to speak, the interpreters of that love" (ibid.). Called to this human and Christian responsibility, they are bound to allow themselves to be guided by a sound judgement regarding their own good and that of their children, whether already born or yet to be born. Such a judgement, which, in the final analysis, the spouses themselves must form before God, requires that their conscience conform to divine law, as interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church in the light of the Gospel (cf. ibid.).

The emphasis on loving communion and procreative fruitfulness within marriage leads the Council to rule out the possibility of there being "a true contradiction … between the divine laws pertaining to the transmission of life, and those pertaining to authentic conjugal love" (GS, 51) and to affirm, instead, that "when there is question of harmonizing conjugal love with the responsible transmission of life", one must "preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love" (ibid.). From this it follows both that "from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care", renouncing "abortion and infanticide"; and that "the acts themselves which are proper to conjugal love and which are exercised in accord with genuine human dignity must be honoured with great reverence" (ibid.).

The teaching of Gaudium et Spes on the conjugal and family community thus goes on to highlight the social function of the family, defined as "a school of deeper humanity" and "the foundation of society" (GS, 52), calling upon all those with social responsibilities, especially in the political and cultural spheres, to fulfil their duty to "work efficiently for the welfare of marriage and the family" (ibid.).

Dear friends, this task is more urgent than ever before. The Church is well aware of this, as shown by the pastoral concern of the Popes who have succeeded one another since the last Council, right up to the two Synodal Assemblies convened by Pope Francis, which were addressed again in recent days by the Heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences. May the Holy Family of Nazareth enlighten us on our journey and protect families throughout the world.

Pope Leo XIV accepts honorary title at Windsor in historic exchange with King Charles

Exactly a year after the King's historic state visit to the Holy See, Pope Leo XIV has accepted an honorary religious title at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

In a further gesture of friendship between the Catholic Church and the Church of England, the Pope has been named Papal Confrater of the College of St George, with the approval of King Charles III. The appointment follows the King's acceptance of the title of Royal Confrater of the Papal Basilica and Abbey of St Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome during his state visit to the Holy See in October 2025.

Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has welcomed the news that Pope Leo XIV has been named a Papal Confrater of St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

The appointment, which was made with the approval of King Charles III, was announced by the Dean and Canons of Windsor announced on Friday, 23 October, on the first anniversay of the historic State Visit to the Holy See, during which the King was welcomed as Royal Confrater of the Papal Basilica and Abbey of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, in Rome.



In the announcement, the Deans and Canons of Windsor said:
"This act of confraternity represents a visible sign of spiritual fellowship, ecumenical friendship and Christian fraternity. It recognises both the centuries-old relationship between the College and Chapel of St George, Windsor and the Holy See, and the progress in relations between the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. It also reflects the deep mutual esteem between His Holiness and His Majesty and their shared desire for Christian unity."
Archbishop Richard Moth expressed his thanks to the King for this sign of closeness:
"I welcome the announcement that his Holiness Pope Leo XIV has become Papal Confrater of the College of St George at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. This follows the conferring of the title of Royal Confrater on King Charles III at a ceremony at the Basilica of St Paul Outside-the-Walls during the King's State Visit to the Vatican last year.
"This gesture of brotherhood from King Charles, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, is a sign of the close relationship between the UK and the Holy See, and a reflection on the strong historical ties between the Papacy and the Kingdom of England, dating back centuries before the Reformation. It is also a symbol of hope, encapsulated in the ecumenical commitment "Ut unum sint" "That they may be one" (Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper John 17:21), for the future of ecumenical relationships between the Church of England and the Catholic Church.
"I thank King Charles III for this important visible sign of spiritual fellowship, ecumenical friendship and Christian fraternity. I also hope that one day the Pope will be able to take his place on the Papal Confrater Chair in St George's Chapel. On behalf of all Catholics in this country, together we pray for Pope Leo XIV and King Charles III."

Bishop Stephen Wang Ordained and Installed as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton



Catholics across Sussex and Surrey welcomed a new bishop on Monday 19 October, when Bishop Stephen Wang was ordained as the sixth Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. Monday's Mass of Ordination at the Cathedral of our Lady and St Philip Howard was attended by His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, clergy, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful, with representatives of other Christian traditions and the Muslim, Jewish and Hindu communities, united in marking this important moment in the life of the Diocese.
The presider was the Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, with the Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster, and His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster, serving as co-principal ordaining bishops.
Bishop Stephen converted to Catholicism as a teenager. Reflecting on his journey of faith in a speech at the end of the Mass, he said, "I'd come to know Jesus and his Church; I knew I wanted to belong, but I had no idea where it would lead." He studied Theology at Cambridge University and later completed a PhD exploring the question of human happiness.
As a priest he was involved in parish and prison ministry, and went onto teach philosophy and theology, and work with university students.
At the Catholic university chaplaincy in London in 2014, he launched "Sycamore", a faith formation programme used across the world. Parishioners at St George's and St Wilfrid's Catholic churches in Eastbourne Deanery follow the series, and like people across the Diocese have become extremely familiar with Bishop Stephen, as Sandra King explains:
"Using Sycamore in sacramental preparation has given members of our parish a real connection with the new Bishop. We look forward to the vision and energy we are sure he will bring. Together, we hope to continue growing our families of faith and parish communities."
During the Mass, following the Gospel and the Promise of the Elect, the congregation of more than 600 joined in the Litany of Supplication. Through the laying on of hands by the assembled bishops and the solemn Prayer of Ordination, Bishop Stephen received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, before being anointed with Sacred Chrism and receiving the Book of the Gospels, the ring, mitre and crozier – symbols of his call to proclaim the Good News and serve as a shepherd to God's people.
Bishop Stephen was appointed Rector of the Venerable English College, one of two English and Welsh seminaries in Rome training men for the priesthood, in 2021; he moved to West Sussex less than a month ago. At the end of the Mass, he highlighted a deep gratitude "to God for his goodness; to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints; and to family and friends, living and dead."
"What a wonderful diocese we have!" he added. "I'm truly grateful for the privilege of being your shepherd, your father, your brother… We have important work to do as a diocesan family: to grow in faithfulness and holiness, to care for those in need, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those we meet."
Words from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians form the basis of Bishop Stephen's episcopal motto: "Veritas in caritate." Reflecting on their significance, he said: *"'To speak the truth in love' is a phrase that has inspired my whole priesthood: the search for truth, and the conviction that truth and love can never contradict. If we love God, and love our neighbour; if we seek the truth and speak the truth in love; what more could God want from us, and what more could we hope for each other?*
"I've felt remarkably peaceful over the last three months," he continued, "It's definitely a grace – the spiritual joy and consolationI've experienced since my appointment. I'm not complacent; I understand there will be challenges, but I know it's all in God's hands."

Bishop Stephen will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in Westminster Cathedral on Friday 30th October at 5.30pm All are welcome

Saint of The Week
Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles

Patron Saint of curriers, woodcutters, and tanners (Simon); hopeless causes and hospital workers (Jude)



In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. ~ Luke 6:12–16

This week, the Church honours Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Twelve Apostles chosen by our Lord. They were two of the first bishops through whom our Lord established His Church and from whom every bishop, priest, and deacon is a spiritual descendant.

Very little is known about these two Apostles, other than what is briefly mentioned about them in the New Testament, and even that is a little confusing. They are both listed among the Twelve whom Jesus names Apostles: Matthew 10:2–4; Mark 3:16–19; Luke 6:13–16; Acts 1:13.

Today's Simon is not Simon Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, but rather "Simon the Cananean" (Matthew and Mark) and "Simon the Zealot" (Luke and Acts). Both names mean the same thing. "Cananean" does not refer to the Land of Canaan but is a translation of an Aramaic word meaning "zealous."

It's interesting to note that Jesus chose a variety of different people as His Apostles. Perhaps the most stark contrast is found between Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector. As a zealot, Simon would have been very committed to his Jewish identity and would have been firmly opposed to Roman oppression and taxation. He would have had an immediate aversion to Matthew, who previously served the Romans by collecting taxes for them from the Jews. The fact that Jesus did not choose like-minded Apostles shows His inclusion of all people. Jesus did not have a favorite type of person. He was not bound by cultural ties, ideologies, or social classes. He was not nationalistic in the sense of being a separatist or isolationist. He was interested in all people, those of every background and experience, and His Apostles reveal that fact. Jesus might have chosen Simon because He wanted to reach out to those who were firmly committed to their Jewish heritage, traditions, and beliefs, and Simon was able to reach those people.

Jude is referred to as "Judas son of James" (Luke and Acts) and "Thaddeus" (Matthew and Mark). The only other reference that is certain about Jude comes from John's Gospel during the Last Supper in which Jude is referred to as "Judas, not the Iscariot…" (John 14:22). During the Last Supper, Jesus compassionately instructed His Apostles that He would soon be leaving them, but they should have courage and wait for His Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Jude, expressing a bit of confusion, asked Jesus, "Master, [then] what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" In other words, Jude was asking Jesus why He doesn't just manifest His divinity to everyone, in a clear and convincing way, so that they will all believe in Him. Jesus' answer is mysterious, but He essentially points out that belief in Him must come by the inspired gift of faith, and that obedience to that faith, and to the will of God, will result in divine union.

There is also a reference in two of the Gospels identifying Simon and Jude as Jesus' brothers: "Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). However, most scholars today believe these two are not the same as the Apostles but are cousins of Jesus. It was custom at that time to refer to one's cousin as brother or sister. It is possible that the Judas identified as Jesus' brother is the author of the Epistle of Jude in the New Testament, rather than the Apostle. However, that point is debated, and even Pope Benedict XVI at a General Audience in 2006 pointed to the tradition that the Epistle of Jude was, indeed, written by the Apostle. If that's the case, then it might be that these two Judes are one and the same.

Regarding their deaths, nothing is known other than unreliable apocryphal sources, such as the Passion of Simon and Jude, and other fourth-century and later sources. One of the most common traditions is that Simon and Jude traveled to Persia to preach the Gospel and were both killed there in the year 65. Simon is traditionally believed to have been sawed in half, and Jude is traditionally believed to have been beaten with a club. They often appear in sacred art holding the instruments of their deaths. Other traditions state they ministered in Armenia, Beirut, Lebanon, Roman Britain, Egypt, and/or Samaria and died by arrows, crucifixion, and even a peaceful death.

The Epistle that has been traditionally attributed to Saint Jude the Apostle is a short but passionate letter in which he warns all Christians against immorality and heresy trying to enter the early Church. Some suggest it is for this reason that he is named Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes, because of his passionate plea. Another tradition states that because Jude shared a name with Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, Saint Jude's intercession was rarely sought. However, after the intercession of every other Apostle and saint was sought, people in the early Church would turn to Saint Jude as their last hope. There are many ancient traditions holding that Saint Jude has provided many miracles throughout the centuries.

As we honour these Apostles, what we know for certain is that they were instrumental in the early Church. Being among the first bishops, they bore the sacred responsibility of transmitting the Sacraments and the teachings of Jesus to a nascent Church. One day in Heaven, we will see clearly the effects of their pastoral ministry. Today, we rejoice in what we do not fully know, trusting that their lives gave great glory to God and won the salvation of many souls.

Saints Simon and Jude, you were both privileged to learn from Jesus Himself. After His Ascension, you were among the first to receive the Holy Spirit and ordination as bishops. God used you to then go forth and fulfill His command to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray for me, that I will more fully understand my mission within the Body of Christ and will fulfill my duties with diligence and love. Saints Simon and Jude, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. . Jesus, I trust in You. .



Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading *Exodus 22:21-27*

Thus says the Lord: 'You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a money-lender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbour's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. ℟7b*

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength;
O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, 'O praised be the Lord!'
and see, I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading *1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10*

Brothers and Sisters: You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 22:34-40*

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: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'

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 Sullivan, Pope Leo XIV, David Astley, 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, Julia Carney, Linda Grimes, 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: Daniel Lynsky, Giovanni Salaroli, Catherine Quinn, Dennis Harvey-Murphy, Peggy Nowak, Bridget (Biddie) Enskat, Eileen O'Sullivan, Mary Coffey, Bob Nicol, Dorothea Simms, Mary McDaid, Kieron O'Connor, Joseph Da Cunha, Antonio Marano, Thomas Lynskey, Eveline Barby, Teresa O'Neill, Philip Wildsmith, Michael Tolputt.

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 30 (Year 2)* ***Daily Office:*** *Week 2*

	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday** - *Leonard Family (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 25th *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*	**9.00am: Mass** - *Sebastiano Di Falco RIP (St Matthew's)* **11.15am: Mass -** *Nicholas Birch (Private Intns) (St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Mass** - *People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)*
Monday 26th *Ss Chad & Cedd*	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer** **10.00am: Mass** - *Liam Potts RIP (Anniv)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Matthew's)*
Tuesday 27th *Feria*	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer** **10.00am Mass** - *David Layer RIP* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Wednesday 28th *Ss Simon & Jude*	**NO PUBLIC MASS**
Thursday 29th *Blessed Martyrs of Douai*	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **7.00pm Mass** - *Linda Grimes RIP (St Joseph's)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Friday 30th *Feria*	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer** **10.00am: Mass** - *Margaret Hadden (Birthday) (St Matthew's)* ***Followed By Rosary***
Saturday 31st *Saturday Memorial of the BVM*	**09.45 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Rosary** **10.30am:Mass -** *Tony Marano RIP (Anniv) (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** - *People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 1st *ALL SAINTS*	**9.00am: Mass** - *Holy Souls (St Matthew's)* **11.15am: Mass -** *Holy Souls (St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Mass -** *Holy Souls (St Matthew's)* **8.00pm: Holy Hour** *Concluding with Night Prayer (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

Parish Priest: Fr Tom Montgomery ***Email:*** tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 01923 840736 ***Emergency:*** 07576 455450
Deacon: Rev Hervé Boisson ***Email:*** herveboisson@rcdow.org.uk

	St Matthew's	***St Joseph's***
Parish Office	Cheryl Myring Siobhan Hogg ***Tel:*** 01923 840736 ***Email:*** northwood@rcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment ***Tel:*** 020 8428 0088 ***Email:*** carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Team	Elvadia Tolputt northwoodcat@rcdow.org.uk	Donna Osborne carpenderscatechist@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representatives	Colette Quirk & Elizabeth Scudder ***Email:*** northwoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment

Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk