



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest
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24th SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (A) 17th September 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Holy Communion

Parents and children are expected to attend 9:45am Sunday Mass.

The enrolment will close at end of October.

Speak with Fr. Ivano directly to take part.

Baptism

The next Baptism preparation will be on **Sat 23rd September 11am** in the Parish Hall.

Individual meetings will follow.

Do approach directly Fr. Ivano after Sunday Mass.

Confirmation

We have a two-years Programme. Any young person who is willing to join should speak with Fr. Ivano directly before the end of October.

Marriage Course

A 5-weeks course will commence early next year.

8:15-9:15pm Fridays: 23rd Feb, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March & Sat 23rd March afternoon.

Speak directly with Fr. Ivano for the enrolment form.

This coming **Friday 22nd** we will celebrate Mass with the children and staff of our Primary School. Mass will BE celebrated at 9:30am (NOT at 12:30pm).

We will have **Tea & Coffee** after the 9:45am & 12 noon Mass on **Sunday 24th September**. If you can help setting up, baking some cakes and serving let Fr. Ivano know. thanks.

Please, take with you a copy of the **Pastoral Letter** of our Archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



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At the recent exhibition on St Francis at the National Gallery there was a canvas titled 'Sacco' (sackcloth) by the Umbrian artist Alberto Burri. An example of the so-called 'Arte Povera', it consists of a large sackcloth sutured with stitches of different materials with various patches, and a cut-open hole, a sort of injury or wound, revealing a patch of deep brilliant red colour. What is it?

It is you and me. The 'sack' of our life. Patches stitched together showing the map of our history made of people, events, cross-roads, ups and downs, holes and gaps, cracks and voids. In the midst of all an incision, a cleft, an opening, a bright red light, revealing the precious wound of Jesus Christ, his blood poured out to wash away our sins.

Today, 17th September, is the **Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis**. The 'sack' of Burri has been interpreted in the light of that moment, towards the end of his life, when on mount La Verna, Francis felt his body pierced by five wounds. From that moment onwards his sackcloth would always carry this tear.

Every day, let us wear the sack of our life, a sackcloth cut by a hole, an open wound, the love of Christ for you. This love is a mark of belonging, it speaks, it says: you belong to me.

fr. Ivano

Father Ivano