

Reflection on this weekend's readings

'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me'

By putting his arms around a child Jesus was trying to show the disciples in really concrete ways who he is, i.e., the one who is least among us, the most vulnerable and who has come to serve. Jesus tells them that if they want to be first, if they want to be leaders, they must be the servant of all. Jesus identifies himself with a child and then, also with God! What if we imagined the Afghan children now in our midst to be the child Jesus embraced? That they are the face of Jesus for us today? That as disciples it is our task to serve them? That if we welcome and serve them, we are welcoming and serving Jesus? And, in welcoming and serving Jesus we are welcoming and serving God! Jesus told the disciples that we must be the servant of **all** — not just some. What if we were to include our common home in our understanding of 'all'.

What would happen if we were to behave as servants of the land, the rivers, the oceans, the lakes, the forests, the sky, the plants, the animals, the birds, the fish, all the endangered species, etc? What if we imagined they were all people, all our sisters and brothers and that they all had a voice? What would they ask us to do for them? How would they want us to serve them?

So, let's take some time this week to listen to our common home with all our senses. Maybe we will hear its various elements cry. Let's listen to the voice of the Afghan children now among us and see there the face of Jesus. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are connected, and we are called to be servants of both.



*Tuesday 21st September
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

*Friday 24th September
Our Lady of Walsingham*

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.
Registered Charity No. 252929

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COMMUNITY

Fr. Eugene Lynch SCA, Fr. Liam O'Donovan SCA,
Fr. Joe McLoughlin SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA,
Reverend Deacon Jayson Wingrove

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 am – 1.30 pm

MASS TIMES

From Monday to Saturday Mass at 12.00 noon will be streamed online and on Sundays only both 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm Masses will be streamed online.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>

Saturday – 12.00 noon and 7.00 pm
Sunday – 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

Confessions – Saturdays 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.
and 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT
will also be streamed online on
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm,
and First Friday of the month from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

**THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B)
19th SEPTEMBER 2021**

The second collection this weekend is for the Home Mission Appeal

First Holy Communion 2022

The application forms for the First Holy Communion programme for 2022 are now available in the Parish Office. Please bring the completed form, together with a copy of the child's baptism certificate to the Parish Office **by Sunday 24th October.**

Confirmation 2022

Next year's programme of preparation will be offered to young parishioners who are in year 10 or above, and who are resident and participants in our Parish community. Application forms for candidates are now available both in the Parish Office and on the Parish website; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/sacramental-prep/confirmation/> Please complete the application and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Further details of the programme will be provided when we receive your application.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) Journey in Faith

An invitation to those considering becoming a Catholic, to Catholic adults wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or if you simply desire to deepen your understanding of the faith. We will begin our R.C.I.A. course in November, running until April. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre for 1 hour. Applications are available in the Parish Office or online at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/sacramental-prep/rcia/>

For more information about Confirmation or the RCIA programme, please contact Fr. Liam on 020-8578-1363 or email to greenfordparish@gmail.com.

Ealing Half Marathon

This year's Half Marathon in Ealing will take place next Sunday, 26th September, please keep the runners and organisers in your prayers. If you would like more information on the route, please visit ealinghalfmarathon.com/residentinformation

Gift aid

If your tax status has changed, please let the Parish Office know, so that we can amend our records. Many thanks.

Funeral Arrangements

Mary McCarthy

Mass 1.00 pm, Monday 20th September, Visitation Church, followed by burial in Greenford Cemetery.

Calogeru and Ilde (Hilda) Monteleone

Mass 1.15 pm, Wednesday 22nd September, Visitation Church, followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium.

Month's Mind

The Month's Mind Mass for **Meliza Rodrigues** will take place at 5.00 pm on Thursday 23rd September.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.

Who is greatest? Who is first?

Jesus, you were born in a stable needing everything, having only life.

Then you were on the cross, needing everything, having no life.

Yet you are the greatest of all.

You taught the disciples as you journeyed through Galilee.

Teach us to love you, to care for your children, to serve your poor, to welcome the immigrant, to free the prisoner.

Lord, we ask you, give us only your grace.