Parish Priest: Father James Mulligan
2 Merle Avenue, Harefield
UB9 6DG
07809 398171 01895 822365
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harefield/
Email: harefield@rcdow.org.uk

Saint Paul's Harefield

Mass daily at 9.15am … Sunday Vigil Mass Saturday 6.30pm Sunday Masses … 9.00am and 11.00am
Rosary each weekday morning after Mass … Confessions 6.00pm Saturday
Online Morning Prayer; 8.00am Online Night Prayer: 9.00pm

Please note: this church is live-streamed 24 hours per day
https://www.churchservices.tv/harefield

Feast of All Saints 1st November 2026

Mass intentions

Saturday 31st October	6. 30pm	Bridie Kelly R.I.P.
Sunday 1st November	9.00am	Mary McGinnes R.I.P.
Sunday 1st November	11.00am	Ellen Dolan R.I.P.
Monday 1st November	9.15am	Magdalena Alexis R.I.P.
Monday 1st November	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday 27th October	9.15am	Joe De Rozarieny R.I.P.
Wednesday 28th October	9.15am	Mary Ho Chek R.I.P.
Thursday 29th October	9.15am	Holy Souls
Friday 30th October	9.15am	Alan Cheog Hup Guan R.I.P.
Saturday 31st October	9.15am	Priests and seminarians

All Souls' Day 2nd November

On November 2nd of each year, Catholics observe The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, also known as All Souls Day. We are encouraged to pray for the dead and to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Our prayers for these souls assist in expediting the "process of purification." The Church recognizes that few people achieve perfection in this life (after all, we are human!), and therefore, go to the grave with remaining traces of sinfulness; a period of purification is necessary to prepare the soul to join God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." This is called Purgatory.

All Saints' Day 1st November

All Saints' Day is a feast that commemorates all the saints of the church, both the famous canonized ones and the countless faithful who lived holy lives without ever getting a feast day of their own. In Roman Catholicism it is a holy day of obligation, meaning the faithful are expected to attend Mass, and it is also kept by many Anglicans, Lutherans, and other Protestant churches. The Eastern Orthodox church marks its own All Saints celebration on the first Sunday after Pentecost rather than on November 1. The core idea behind the day is the communion of saints, the belief that the holy dead in heaven still pray for the living on earth.

The older English name for the feast is All Hallows' Day. "Hallow" is simply an old word for a holy person or saint, the same root you hear in "hallowed be thy name." That makes the evening before it All Hallows' Eve, which over the centuries got shortened and softened into the word we all know today: Halloween. So, Halloween is not a rival to All Saints' Day at all. It is, quite literally, its eve.

The feast did not always sit on November 1. In the early church, Christians honoured their martyrs on scattered local dates, and a feast of all martyrs was kept on May 13 in the Eastern church. The November date emerged during the reign of Pope Gregory III (731 to 741), who dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to all the saints on November 1. About a century later, in 837, Pope Gregory IV ordered the feast to be observed across the whole church, and November 1 became its fixed home. Because it had grown out of the older All Hallows celebration, the night before kept its ancient name, and Halloween was born of that shift.

How All Saints' Day is celebrated around the world

Although the feast is universal, the way people mark it is wonderfully local.

- **France:** families visit cemeteries and lay chrysanthemums on the graves of loved ones, and the day is a public holiday.
- **Spain:** relatives gather to tend family graves and share seasonal treats like panellets, small almond cakes, and roasted chestnuts.
- **Italy:** known as Tutti i Santi, the day brings church services, graveside visits, and a family meal.
- **Mexico and Latin America:** All Saints' Day folds into Day of the Dead, with colorful ofrendas, marigolds, sugar skulls, and all-night visits to decorate and celebrate at the graves.
- **The Philippines:** one of the biggest holidays of the year, with whole families spending the day, and often the night, at the cemetery with candles, flowers, food, and prayers.

All of these customs repeat almost everywhere: visiting cemeteries, lighting candles, and offering prayers for the departed. The liturgical colour of the day is white or gold, the colours of joy and resurrection rather than mourning.

PARISH CENSUS

As we have not had a census for some years a new parish census will take place at the Masses this week and the weeks following. Please complete and return the form. Many are leaving the church after the Masses without taking the form. Please, please fill in the form.

This week the sanctuary and Lady Chapel candles are sponsored by the Garcia family.