

Presbytery

337 Harrow Road, London, W9 3RB
Tel: 020 7286 2170

Parish Priest

Fr. Michael Jarmulowicz
michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk

Also in Residence (for advanced studies)
Fr Daniel Isah

Harrow Rd Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Jennifer Ellis
Office Hours: Mon & Friday 9 - 3 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2170
E-mail: harrowroad@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrowroad

Paddington Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Mandy O'Sullivan-Whitting
Office Hours; Thursday 10 - 2 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2672
E-mail: paddington@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/paddington

Mass Times

Monday: 10:00 am (Harrow Road)
Tuesday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Wednesday: No Mass
Thursday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Friday: 10:00 am (Harrow Road)
Saturday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
6:00 pm (Harrow Rd)
Sunday: 9:30 am (Paddington)
11:30 am (Harrow Rd)

Eucharistic Adoration

One hour before weekday and both Saturday
Masses

Confessions

During periods of exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament, and on request.

Sunday Readings

Parish Mass Book—page 134.

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39.

Parishes of
OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST VINCENT DE PAUL
(HARROW RD)

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

FEBRUARY - MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

4TH FEBRUARY 2024

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

The Greater Point

When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. Of course, it is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Yes, but perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "*Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction.*" St Bernadette died at the age of 35 after a long illness with the very painful disease of tuberculosis affecting her leg bones; but she knew that she was not to be healed by the healing waters of Lourdes!

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 4th February 2024

Saturday	6:00 pm	Maureen Jarmulowicz (Anniv)	Sunday	9:30 am	Stanislaus Megueu (anniv)
Sunday	11:30 am	People of the Parish	Monday	10:00 am	Sean Whelan (Anniv)
Tuesday	10:00 am	-	Wednesday	10:00 am	No Mass
Thursday	10:00 am	-	Friday	10:00 am	Ann & Bernadette (Int)
Saturday (10.2)	10:00 am	People of the Parish	Saturday	6:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (11.2)	9:30 am	Monica Philip (Anniv)	Sunday	11:30 am	Agnes McHugh (Ints)

Parish News

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes.

This coming **Saturday** (10th Feb) at 2.30pm Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes **at the Cathedral**, during which anointing of the sick will be offered. I hope our Redcaps from last year can go to assist at this mass. Be at the Cathedral (Saturday 10th February) at 1:30 pm to have your role allocated.

We Dare to Say—Lenten Prayer Reflections

The books have arrived—we will be running the five sessions of these reflections on the Lord's Prayer, on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm, at Paddington Parish during Lent, starting Monday 19th February.

Proposed Merger of our Two Parishes.

The Cardinal has invited me to start the process of considering merging our two parishes, Harrow Road & Paddington. "The aim of this would be to strengthen the mission of the Church locally, with more effective use of resources, human and material." Canon law dictates certain aspects of merging parishes, and the diocese requires that we consult with a number of 'stakeholders', which of course includes you as parishioners.

The comments from the consultations have to be minuted / recorded and eventually presented to the Council of Priests - for their consideration. I will be explaining aspects of this at the end of Mass.

Most people use the word 'Parish' and 'Church' interchangeably, but this is not the case. In this context, the best way to think of it is that the Church is the local building (Our Lady of Lourdes & St Vincent de Paul, and Our Lady of Sorrows), and the Parish is the geographical boundary of the parish. (I have a map of these boundaries). Normally within one parish boundary there is one church. Each parish must have a set of accounts, a bank account, a Finance Committee, a set of sacramental registers etc.

As an example, Hemel Hempstead had 4 parishes with 4 churches. In 2019 there was a merger forming two parishes, each with two churches. The merging of two parishes does NOT mean that one of the churches close. In our case I see a merger being mainly an administrative matter, combining the two accounts, the two sets of registers, the two finance

committees etc. From your—the parishioners— perspective I don't envisage any significant changes. Since my arrival here 6 years ago I have only published one newsletter covering both parishes. As I was alone we had to change Mass times and I alternate between the two parishes. The sacramental preparation (1st Holy Communion and Confirmation) have been combined and done here at Harrow Road in last few years. Although Fr Daniel lives here at Harrow Road, he is here primarily to do his advanced studies; of course he helps us a great deal, but he is not formally a member of the parish clergy here.

The instructions I have been given have suggested that I start by inviting written submissions. I will then call an open meeting (in each parish) and share the written comments made as well as accepting additional comments. The meetings will be minuted.

What sort of comments can you make? I have produced a questionnaire (copied from a template used in Salisbury parishes which merged). It will also be available on the parish websites so you can download, complete on your computer, and return to me via e-mail (michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk) or pick up paper copy at the back of the church.

Paddington parish (Church of Our Lady of Sorrows) is intimately linked, through its building, to the Our Lady of Dolours school—does this raise questions for you? (The School will be formally invited to make comments).

Canon law (canon 515 §2) ultimately leaves it to the diocesan bishop to make any change to parishes, but he wants to hear our views. Any decision about merging will be taken by the Cardinal; it will NOT be my decision about any proposed merger.

So please initially write to me either in a letter, or by answering questionnaire, or by e-mail to michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk, or by downloading the questionnaire in Microsoft Word format and returning by e-mail.

I will announce dates / times of the in-person parish consultation meetings in each parish in due course.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Albert Shillingford will take place on
Thursday 8th February at 11:15 am
at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd,**
followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery