

Our Lady Help of Christians

4 Lady Margaret Road, London, NW5 2XT

Telephone: 020 74854023
Email: kentishtown@rcdow.org.uk
Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/kentishtown/
The parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — **12TH JULY 2026**

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest
Fr Allan Alvarado Gil
allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary
Liliana Bragadin
kentishtown@rcdow.org.uk
Parish office open:
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10:00am - 12:00md

Safeguarding Officer
Claire Betts
kentishtownsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Masses Times:

Tuesdays to Fridays: 10:00 am
Saturday: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am (Sung Mass)
11:00 am (Family Mass with Children's Liturgy)

Masses during the week are celebrated in the daily Chapel

Church opening hours:

Tuesdays to Fridays
9:30 am to 4.00 pm

LAST WEEK COLLECTION
£ 432.82
STANDING ORDERS JUNE
£ 4,836.00
CONTACTLESS INCOME JUNE
£ 500.00
Thank you!

Meditation: What is the best and easiest way to help people understand God's kingdom? Like the rabbis of his time, Jesus very frequently used parables - short stories and images taken from everyday life - to convey hidden truths about the kingdom of God. Like a skilful artist, Jesus sketched memorable pictures with short and simple words. A good image can speak more loudly and clearly than many words. Jesus used the ordinary everyday illustrations of life and nature to point to another order of reality - hidden, yet visible to those who had "eyes to see" and "ears to hear". Jesus communicated with vivid illustrations which captured the imaginations of his audience more powerfully than any abstract presentation could. His parables are like buried treasure waiting to be discovered (Mt 13:44).

What can the parable about seeds and roots teach us about the kingdom of God? Any farmer will attest to the importance of good soil for supplying nutrients for growth. And how does a plant get the necessary food and water, it needs except by its roots? The Scriptures frequently use the image of fruit-bearing plants or trees to convey the principle of spiritual life and death. *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit* (Jr 17:7)

How do you listen to God's word?
Jesus' parable of the Sower is aimed at the hearers of his word. There are different ways of accepting God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to what he or she doesn't want to hear. Then there is the shallow hearer. He or she fails to think things out or think them through; they lack depth. They may initially respond with an emotional reaction; but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else.

Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn. They listen in order to understand. God gives grace to those who hunger for his word that they may understand his will and have the strength to live according to it. Do you hunger for God's word?

The refusal to believe and understand
Jesus told his disciples that not everyone would understand his parables. Did Jesus mean to say that he was deliberately confusing or hiding the meaning of his stories from his listeners? Very likely not. Jesus was speaking from experience. He was aware that some who heard his parables refused to understand them. It was not that they could not intellectually understand them, but rather, their hearts were closed to what Jesus was saying. They had already made up their minds to not believe. God can only reveal the secrets of his kingdom - that which is hidden to the spiritually blind - to those who hunger for God and humbly submit to his truth.

What can make us ineffective or unresponsive to God's word? Preoccupation with other things can distract us from what is truly important and worthwhile. And letting our hearts and minds be consumed with material things can easily weigh us down and draw us away from the heavenly treasure that lasts for eternity. God's word can only take root in a receptive heart which is docile and ready to hear what God has to say.

How God's word takes root in us
The parables of Jesus will enlighten us if we approach them with an open mind and heart, ready to let them challenge us. If we approach them with the conviction that we already know the answer, then we, too, may look but not see, listen but not understand. God's word can only take root in a receptive heart

Continues on next page

that is ready to believe and willing to submit. Do you submit to God's word with trust and obedience?

One lesson from this parable is clear: *the harvest is sure to come*. While some seed will fall by the wayside and some fall on shallow ground and never come to maturity, and some be choked to death by the thorns; nonetheless a harvest will come. The seed that falls on good soil, on the heart that is receptive, will reap abundant fruit. God is always ready to speak to each of us and to give us understanding of his word. Are you hungry for his word? And do you allow anything to keep you from submitting to God's word with joy and trusting obedience?

Fr Allan

PARISH ACTIVITIES

PARISH REGISTRATION 2026

We are updating our parish records to get an accurate sense of how many parishioners are currently in the community and who has recently relocated.

To help us maintain precise records and offer better support, we kindly ask everyone to update their details.

Who Needs to Fill Out the Form?

Everyone: Even if you have been in the parish for decades (including those who have been here since the parish moved from Falkland Road) or have just arrived
Families with children: This is especially important so we don't miss you during the key steps of the Christian life.

Please, when submitting your details, use **capital letters** when filling out the form and ensure all contact details (email, phone number, address) are double-checked . Thank you.

CONTACTLESS

Our Machine is not working, please donate by scanning the QR code with your phone.

Thank you.

SCAN ME

WORLD WIDE ROSARY

Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden

Wednesday 26th August at 3:00pm

Radio Maria UK is hosting a **World Wide Rosary on Wednesday**, **26th August at 3:00pm** at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden**. The Rosary will be broadcast live across our network of Radio Maria stations worldwide, with almost a billion people praying together. We warmly invite pilgrims to join us at the Shrine and bring their voices to this extraordinary moment of global prayer.

Further information is available at www.RadioMaria.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Intention
Sat 11th	6:00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass
Sun 12th	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00 am	Maleady Family (RIP)
Tues 14th	10:00 am	For the Victims of the Venezuelan Earthquake
Wed 15th	10:00 am	
Thu 16th	10:00 am	
Fri 17th	10:00 am	James Nelson (RIP)
Sat 18th	6:00 pm	Carlo Nassini & Anna Primaveri

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Scan the QR code with your Phone

CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2026-2027 ST DOMINIC'S

The Confirmation session for 2026-27 will take a different approach. The course will still take place at St Dominic's but will start in September 2026. It will last 30 minutes per session and will run from September 2026 to May 2027. Each session will be on Sundays between 10am and 12 noon Masses (the precise starting time will be communicated later).

The decision was made as the catechists have noticed that the catechism sessions are longer than lessons would be in school and that a longer course with shorter sessions might help keep children's attention better, encourage them to get to know others in the group more, and be less of a problem with absences unlike on a shorter course. The confirmation Mass will be Pentecost next year.

Anyone who wants to register please talk to Fr Allan or get in touch with the office. Thank you.

STELLA MARIS 2026

"Carrying World Trade. Carrying the Risks"

Sunday 12th July 2026

This year 's Day of Seafarer theme, "*Carrying World Trade. Carrying the Risks*", recognises a reality that our chaplains and volunteers witness every day: while seafarers keep global trade moving, they increasingly do so in circumstances that place extraordinary demands on their safety and well being. Recent events have brought those risks into sharp focus: the humanitarian crisis involving the estimated 20,000 seafarers stranded in and around the Strait of Hormuz is a clear example. However, the end of an immediate crisis is rarely the end of its impact. For this reason, we recognise that the needs of those affected will not necessarily end when they leave the region. Stella Maris remains committed to standing alongside seafarers for as long as that support is needed (more at www.stellamaris.org.uk). Please donate if you can: use the envelopes at the back of the church or use the details on the dashboard poster. Thank you.