



Catholic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Northfields
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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Duffy; Parish Deacon Rev Andrew Goodall
Pastoral Assistant: Anna Maria Dupelycz; Parish Administrator: Rosa Bambury
Alternative Number: 07787 048144 (Anna); northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk
Office Opening Hours 10.30am to 2.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Sacraments and Devotions:
Suspended until further notice.

Psalter Week 4

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday 15th October 2023

Readings:

This Week (28th Sunday) Isaiah 25:6-10, Ps 22, Philippians 4:12-14, Matthew 22:1-14

Next Week (29th Sunday) Isaiah 45:1, Ps 95:1, Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21

Reflection from Father Hilary. Faith 3: Borrow My Faith for A While

This is a lovely story by an anonymous writer:

I'd always been fairly happy in my faith until one morning in Spring about six years ago. I woke up that day to find that everything that had spoken to me of God – the sunrise, my garden, the vista of green fields I could see from my window, the birds singing and the sound of the breeze in the trees – has suddenly become totally meaningless. It was as if there was no God, as if all the beauty in the world had occurred by pure chance, and would vanish forever.

And it got worse. The book I was reading on Therese of Lisieux which had been so fascinating when I began it, became dry, boring and tedious in the extreme. After a couple of weeks, Mass, which had been the highlight of my week, was just another chore, and as for prayer, well I just stopped doing it. This went on for some time until I felt I just couldn't cope with the feeling of emptiness any longer. I decided to go and see a friend of mine, a monk who had helped me through a couple of difficult times in the past.

He received me warmly, and ushered me into a very pleasant parlour where, over a cup of tea, I attempted to explain the problem. He folded his hands, looked up at the ceiling, and after a moment said, "Ah I think I understand. You've come to tell me I'm deluded." I objected quickly that was not at all why I had come, but he went on: "If, as you say, God doesn't exist, then you must believe I'm deluded, sitting here in this medieval habit, having consecrated my whole life to serving him." Well, I could see the logic of the argument, but I was looking at one of the wisest and sanest men I'd ever known, and couldn't bring myself to call him deluded. I told him so. "**So, you believe that I believe?**" he asked; and when I agreed he went on, "well, that will do for now. **Pray to the God I believe in. Borrow my faith for a while**, and I think you'll find your own will come back quite soon." It did, and I'd almost forgotten the incident when a couple of years later, an agnostic friend turned up on my doorstep in a very agitated state. "I've done something absolutely dreadful," she told me, "and I had to tell someone." "What?" I asked, steeling myself for as many possibilities as I could think of. "I went into a Catholic church and lit a candle." I breathed again. "What's so dreadful about that?" "I'm not a Catholic, and I don't even believe in God, but a friend of mine is very ill, and it's the only thing I could think of doing. It won't work, though, will it?" It was then I remembered my friend, the monk. "Yes it will," I told her. "**You can borrow my faith** if you like. In fact, any time you want to light candles or even say a prayer, you can pray to the God I believe in."

It is one of the great strengths of our Church, I think, that faith is not our own personal possession, but something we share. When my own faith will not support me, I can draw on the faith of our Church, a Church that includes great examples of faith, like Mother Teresa, as well as numerous other people, unknown to me, who quietly live the Christian life to its fullest. As the same monk told me on another occasion, "When things aren't going too well for you, you can rest in the holiness of others."

Please keep for prayerful reflection.

Liturgical Ministries:

Altar Servers New recruits required. Anyone of any age – from 8 to 80! - eligible as long as First Communion has been celebrated. Next Training **31st October at 6.30pm**. Please contact Deacon Andrew (andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk)

Readers We are now recruiting young people for the next round of training, next session **17th October**. Also, more adult readers needed for all Masses. Please contact Anna or Deacon Andrew for more information.

Music in Mass Rehearsals are as follows: for 11.30am Mass, Weds, 7.30pm -9.00pm, for 10.00am Mass, Thurs. 7.30pm. Both rehearsals take place in the church. Singers and musicians of all ages welcome.

Synod 2021-2024 The Synod begun in 2021 with local listening events has now reached the first session of the universal stage in Rome. Please pray for the Synod (prayer cards available at the back of the church) which continues until the end of the month. For daily information, go to <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

CCP Forms Secondary and Sixth Form Fr Jim will be available for form signing on **Mon and Wed October 16th and 18th from 5pm-7pm**. Forms will only be signed by the Parish priest of the parish where you attend Mass regularly. Please refer to the School admissions pack. Please email the office if you need copies of Baptism Certificates. More dates after half term.

Masses this week

Sunday 15th October (28th Sunday Year A)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Edwin De Silva (Ann.)
8.30am Christopher Walsh (LD.)
10.00am Imelda Leonard (LD.)
11.30am Mary Agnes Timoney (LD.)
6.00pm Jadwiga Treszka (Ann.)

Monday 16th October

9.30am Daniel Moylan (Sick.)

Tuesday 17th October (St Ignatius of Antioch)

6.00pm Geraldine & Pat Sullivan and Family

Wednesday 18th October (St Luke)

9.30am Olivia McDonagh (Get Well)

Thursday 19th October (St John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Co.;

No Mass

St Paul of the Cross)

Friday 20th October

9.30am Charlie Gallagher (Get Well.)

Saturday 21st October

No Morning Mass

Sunday 22nd October (29th Sunday Year A)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Antonia Rehill (Get Well.)
8.30am Gracie Coll (Get Well)
10.00am Philomena Larkin (Ann.)
11.30am Maureen Lappin (Ann.)
6.00pm Patricia Adams (LD.)

Prayers for the Sick We pray for those suffering from illness and their carers: Madge Starr, Richard Chance, Sean Nally, Bridget Hopkins, Fraser Thompson, Aimi McEwan, Doreen Foley, Anna Keane, Barbara Lennon Snr, Teresa Hartnett, Stephania Pullin, Geraldine Davison, Dave Mortby, Cerys Edwards, Andrew Chandiram, Kathleen Walsh, Donna O'Hagan, Ann Hagan, Alan Worman, Sankar Ghosh, M.S., Margaret Adu, Therese Biks, Shantha Kumari, Sagundala Devi, Victor Young, Ernst Barroclough, Giuseppe Ianotta, Barry Kiernan, Jane Spurr. Our Lady, help of the Sick, pray for us.

Prayers for those Recently Deceased and Anniversaries We pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Adams, Imelda Leonard and Mary Agnes Timoney and Christopher Walsh and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including Jadwiga Treszka, Edwin De Silva, Philomena Larkin and Maureen Lappin. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Catechetics (Sacramental Preparation) Contact Anna initially on northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk or 07787 048144 with enquiries and queries. **Please include a mobile/phone number with your e-mail enquiry.**

Infant Baptism Participation in a short preparation course is required before celebrating the sacrament. For more information, please contact Anna preferably by e-mail initially. The next course will take place in November.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Liturgy is aimed at children aged 3 -7 (Nursery to Year 2). If you would like to be involved as a leader or a helper, please contact Anna as soon as possible. DBS checks processed by the diocese are required for this role. For more information, contact Anna.

Thinking of Becoming Catholic? Or would like to know more about the Catholic faith? For more information on how to go about this, please contact Anna to arrange an informal chat in the first instance.

First Communion 2024 Preparation has begun with parents guiding their children at home. Parents' Zoom **Weds. 18th October.** Details sent by e-mail.

Confirmation 2024 Introductory Meeting for parents and candidates who have applied **today**, 4.30pm, Church.

Getting Married? Six months' notice is required regardless of where the marriage is to take place. Please contact Anna to check on requirements. Paperwork should be completed in the parish of domicile. More information available on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/northfields/sacramental-prep/marriage-preparation/>

URGENT!! Catechists and helpers needed to help prepare children and young people for the sacraments. If you have a love and enthusiasm for your faith and would like to share it with others, consider being involved in and contributing to this ministry. Please contact Anna to arrange a chat at a mutually convenient time initially by e-mail. northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk

Autumn Faith Sharing focuses on the 4 main documents of the Second Vatican Council on the Word of God, Liturgy, Church and Church in the Modern World as an opportunity to begin engaging with the Jubilee Year 2025. Booklets available from the back of the church. Price £4. Please place monies in 'Newspapers' slot above the hymnbooks.

School for Synodality – Free Webinar Series. Monday evenings 7.30pm.

<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/news/practicing-synodality-webinar-series> **16th Oct** Discerning the signs of the times – Mauricio Lopez, Executive Secretary of CEAMA (Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon).

30th Oct The art of listening - hearing all the voices - Sr Ngozie (Sierra Leone) and Sr Anthonia (DRP) in partnership with CAFOD.

Leadership Programme Aged 18 - 22? Ready for the next step in your faith journey?

Westminster Youth Ministry is taking 20 young Catholics on this exciting leadership training course, beginning at the start of Advent and culminating in a pilgrimage to Lourdes in July, during which the young leaders will support the Redcaps as they accompany sick or elderly pilgrims. Application deadline: 11 November 2023. Visit youth.rcdow.org.uk to apply or email youth@rcdow.org.uk for more information.

CAFOD

Harvest Fast Appeal and Collection Donations can still be made this weekend by using the Fast Day envelopes. Thank you for your generosity so far.

11 November, 11am-2pm: Young adults (18-30) gathering. Pavilion venue. 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. Free lunch and lots of info about climate action! [Find out more and register here](#)

Safeguarding The Parish reps are Susie Worthington, northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk and Tracy Paterson northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk for any matters relating to Safeguarding, including DBS.