



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

4th Sunday Year B (Sunday of Racial Justice) Sunday 28th January 2024

Readings:

This Week (4th Sunday Year B) Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Ps 94:1-2, Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Next Week (5th Sunday Year B) Job 7:1-4, Ps 146:1-6, Corinthians 9:16-19; Mark 1:29-39

Reflection from Father Hilary – The Word of God at Mass – and Elsewhere

For your reflection following on from the Sunday of the Word of God which we celebrated last week.

I'd like now to focus on Readers at Mass. However, this concerns everyone in the congregation too. The first thing I want to do is to give you a precious quotation from the Second Vatican Council: **"When the Scriptures are read in church it is Christ who proclaims them."** Stop now and have a good look at that. It sounds an exaggeration but it is nothing of the sort. The Sacraments of the Church are carried out by Christ through human instruments. The proclamation of the Word of God is truly a sacrament too in which the Lord uses human instruments, that is, you readers. How many realise this? What a privilege! But what a responsibility too! It could put you off being a reader entirely (not necessarily a bad thing) or else make you much more conscientious about becoming a reader of better quality. Which do you want? **What a thought that we can hinder Christ as his human instruments.**

The reading here in Northfields isn't bad but there is plenty of room for improvement. As a reader, do you first study the reading prayerfully at home? If not, you are failing Christ. You need to prepare properly by making the content of the reading your own so that then you can proclaim it **with strong conviction** as one who really believes it. We should **never** do a reading we haven't prepared. Also, you are not a mere reader – you are a proclaimer. The Word of God deserves proclaiming. **Proclaim** it well. **Open your mouth from North to South and not from East to West!** Have you got that? Speak up from your belly, not just from your mouth! You must put volume into it. Read **slowly**. **Err on the side of slowness.** Nobody ever does! But many err by speeding. Err on the side of slowness so that it can sink in better. All the readers of the Pope's Masses here **read** slowly. **All** these points are utterly essential. If readers do not make great efforts to implement them, they should seriously consider their position as instruments of Christ.

Your task is to grab the rapt attention of the listeners. You cannot presume you have that. You could easily make them switch off! Observe properly the full stops and the commas. Deliver the responsorial psalm slowly and distinctly – it is a prayer. In the bidding prayers please **pause** for a few seconds after each prayer before saying 'Lord, hear us'. Periodically all readers should practise in the empty church with one or more competent people assessing them from the back of the Church. Otherwise you won't easily implement the points being made in this article! Ask members of the congregation for their honest reactions. Ask only those who will tell you what you **need** to hear, not what you might want to hear! Be willing to accept constructive criticism. Indeed be truly grateful for it. Let's have no immature childish self-pity if we're told we need improving. As a reader myself I want to put myself on the top of the list of those to be commented on. I want to be told straight. In case anyone would hesitate to be tough with me, I promise my first reaction will be "many thanks for your criticism." Honest! Let none of us presume we're good readers.

When the Scriptures are read in Church it is Christ himself who proclaims them. Wow!

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 **30th January at 6.30pm**. Please contact Deacon Andrew (andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk)

Readers Next session **6th February** 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, this week Weds., 7.30pm -9.00pm, for 10.00am Mass, Thurs. 7.30pm. Both rehearsals take place in the church. .

Flower Group are recruiting ... and planning for Easter! If you'd like get involved, whatever your age or ability, you are invited an evening gathering on **Friday 2nd February, 7pm**, in the Parish Hall.

Offertory Envelopes We are close to ordering the next set for 2024-25 tax year. Please contact Rosa or Anna in the parish office to advise if you no longer wish to have your envelopes

Masses this week

Sunday 28th¹ January (4th Sunday Year B)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Gerry Colliery (Sick.)
8.30am Mario Farrugia (LD.)
10.00am Gerry Harlowe (Ann.)
11.30am Rose McGee (Ann.)
6.00pm Pat Dennehy(LD.)

Monday 29th January

9.30am Mary & Patrick Carr (Ann.)

Tuesday 30th January

6.00pm John Fitzpatrick (LD.)

Wednesday 31st January (St John Bosco)

9.30am Carmel Griffen (LD.)

Thursday 1st February No Mass

Friday 2nd February (Presentation of the Lord)

9.30am Bridie McGowan (LD)

Saturday 3rd February (Sts Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore) No Morning Mass

Sunday 4th February (5th Sunday Year B)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Mary-Anne Osborne (Ann.)
8.30am Peter Cohan (LD.)
10.00am Kay Lorenzato (LD.)
11.30am Deceased members of Dunne Family
6.00pm Kathleen & Michael Flahive (Ann.)

Prayers for the Sick We pray for those suffering from illness and their carers: Madge Starr, Richard Chance, Sean Nally, Bridget Hopkins, 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 Pat Dennehy, Noreen Lally, John Fitzpatrick, Carmel Griffen, Bridie McSavage, Peter Cohan and Kay Lorenzato. and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including, Tony Ryan, Joseph Satchell, Stephen Jones, Gerry Harlowe, Rose McGee, Mary and Patrick Carr and Kathleen & Michael Flahive. 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 February.

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. DBS checks processed by the diocese are required for this role.

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 Preparation In-person sessions for the children continue on **Wednesday 30th January, 6.00pm – 7.15pm**, Parish Hall. Please pray for the children and their families during this time of preparation.

Confirmation 2024 Next session for candidates will take place **today**, 4.00pm – 5.30pm, Parish Hall, followed by a Rite of Commitment during the Sunday 6.00pm Mass.

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/> A Marriage preparation course will take place in March. Dates will be confirmed in next week's newsletter.

Racial Justice Sunday Extracts from the message from Bishop Paul McAleenan:

"The theme of Racial Justice Sunday in England and Wales in 2024 is 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'.... In the history of the Church, there have been those who looked at the society in which they lived, and responded to what they saw....Alert and sensitive as they were to the commandments of Christ, when they saw justice being denied to someone because of their racial origin or colour, they were prompted to act. Their actions of opposing racism, promoting equality and justice, became their life's work. Following this path, sometimes they encountered hostility, rejection, and attempts to overturn what they were doing... However, they persevered and became instruments of change, agents of progress, and some are acknowledged as saints of the Church.... For Racial Justice Sunday this year, can I suggest that you explore the lives of those great men and women – those who devoted their lives to the pursuit of racial justice, those who emulated God's passion for justice, which we read about in the scriptures. They will inspire us, teach us, and make us sensitive to the importance of racial justice and why we work for it. May we too, like them, see one another in the life of the Church.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick will take place on **Sun. 11th February**, 2.30pm, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Finance Committee meeting **Monday 29th January** at **8.00pm**.

Parents & Toddlers Wednesday mornings, term time, in the Parish Hall, 9.30am – 11am, a great opportunity to meet with families of the parish and the local area.

'London Irish Social Group- Parish hall, **Thursday's 10am to 12.45pm**. All Welcome. .Contact Maria Connolly or Mary Whelan-O'Neill on 07592508680.

40 Days for Life Ealing 14 Feb until 24th March, you are invited to peacefully pray for all those affected by abortion. For more information, please come to a meeting **today 6.30pm**, Parish hall or contact Sarah on 07776 256838 or email London40daysforlife@hotmail.com

Safeguarding The Parish reps are Susie Worthington, northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk and Tracy Patterson northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk