

27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time,
Year C
2nd October

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

59 Gresham Road, Staines, TW18 2BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Philip Dyer-Perry

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From the Diary

All Masses are live-streamed on YouTube (unless otherwise indicated)

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 nd October	18.30 (Sat) 09.00 11.00	CAFOD Fast Day Exit Collection Mass (Paul Bahoshy INTS) Mass (People of the Parish) Mass (Jacqueline Salas Guinand RIP)
Monday 3 rd Oct		
Tuesday 4 th Oct	09.15 19.00	Mass (Patrick Hickey & Caron Mitchell RIP) Finance Committee
Wednesday 5 th October	09.15 09.45 – 11.30 14.00 – 16.00	No Mass – Fr. P at school retreat day Baby & Toddler Group – Hall 'Gresham Junction' Café – Hall
Thursday 6 th October	09.15 – 09.50 10.00 17.00 – 18.00	Mass (Mollie Gallagher RIP) followed by Exposition Church Cleaning Club Secondary school form signing - Hall
Friday 7 th October	09.00 19.30	Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary School Stewards' Ball - Hall
Saturday 8 th Oct	17.30 – 18.00	Baptism of Felix Michael Walsh Sacrament of Reconciliation
Our Lady of the Rosary 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9 th October	18.30 (Sat) 09.00 11.00	Mass (Irena Walczak RIP) Mass (John Gibbings RIP) Mass (Brian Isherwood RIP)

Love in Action Week 4 – Dignity of Work

People, knowing my alleged obsession with trains, often ask what I think of the RMT rail strikes, including the one this weekend. The answer is simple – I support them. Dignity of Work is a key part of Catholic Social teaching – and that includes the right (and responsibility) of workers to organise themselves, to form unions, and also to withdraw their labour. Contrary to what we read in the press, the vast majority of those striking are not drivers (for whom the RMT is not their main union), but guards, station staff, track workers and cleaners. They have a right (and responsibility) to seek better working conditions and pay, both for themselves and their colleagues.

It's obviously galling for those of us who can't go on strike to have our lives disrupted by industrial action – but most of what we benefit from at work – sick pay, maternity, annual leave, health & safety etc. exists because workers through their unions, have fought and campaigned for it. Almost all of us are workers in one form or another – if we cannot support our fellow workers and if we're unwilling to organise ourselves to fight for better pay and conditions, then how can we expect to be supported when we need it ourselves?

Stewards' Ball

This Friday 7th October is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and it will be marked by our annual 'Stewards' Ball' – an opportunity to thank our stewarding team for the work they've done over the year and indeed during the pandemic. Of course, a party dedicated to our welcoming team would not be the same if everyone was not actually welcome – so why not come and join us, especially if you volunteer in other parish roles (tea/coffee, liturgy, catechists) or none? Simply bring a plate to share – drinks will be provided (unless you fancy bringing a bottle or some beers!).

This weekend – Exit Collection for CAFOD

CAFOD is the Catholic Church's overseas development agency. It works with partners on the ground in developing countries to coordinate sustainable long term projects to benefit local communities. It's a really good cause to support!

Please pray for

All our sick and housebound

Peter Lucas, Gary Murphy, Ann Donoghue, Annette Donivar, Mark Cotter, Christopher Browne, David McCormick, Paul Hanna, Margaret Shakespeare, Bryan Stubbs, Roger Macgill, Maurice Webb, Nina Bailey, Chris Meyer, Chris Burwell, Ján Matusák, Peter Maitland, Howard Preece, Ian Smith

Those who have died:

Irena Walczak
& all anniversaries.

Welcome!

If you are visiting or this is your first time, please introduce yourself to Fr. Philip, and perhaps stay for tea & coffee after Mass.

Whether you've recently moved into the area, or are just visiting, you are most welcome here – and so is your feedback on your first impressions of this parish, good or bad!

Tea and Coffee

After all Masses, please stay on for a nice Fairtrade cup of tea, freshly brewed coffee, biscuits and toys.

Little children

When you bring your children to Mass, you not only share with them a very special part of your life, but you bring new life and energy to the entire parish community. If their new life and energy is getting too much, it's ok to take them into the hall or porch for a bit until they (or you) have calmed down!

If you have a baby you are welcome to feed/breastfeed your child at any time – and in any place you feel most comfortable. You can go into the hall or simply remain in your place in church.

If you've got a toddler, you are welcome to bring toys to distract them. It's a good idea to bring things that can't be used to make a noise. Best of all, come and sit at the front where they can see!

We appreciate that every child is different and that bringing children to Mass is not always easy. If you are finding it particularly hard today, be assured that you are not alone.

Safety

Please don't let children close to the candle stands or the statues – they are heavy and topple very easily!

Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesdays in term time 09.45 – 11.30 in the hall. £2 per family. Nice cakes. Outdoor area. All babies, toddlers, & accompanying adults very welcome!

Gresham Junction

Our community café is open Wednesday afternoons 14.00 – 16.00. Everyone is welcome for a hot drink and slice of cake.

Love in Action – the process

We follow a process known as 'See – Judge – Act.' We are currently (and will remain until the end of October) in the 'See' phase. Each week we focus on an area of Catholic Social teaching. After half term, we'll be invited to 'Judge' what we've seen, to reflect more sharply on what we've observed. This will involve an invitation to a midweek meeting, at 19.00 on Wednesday 9th November. Following this, having seen and judged, at 19.00 on Wednesday 16th November we decide what we might do with our insights gained to put our faith into action. The 'Act' phase is of indefinite length – as we hope to plan actions that will form a lasting part of parish life.

Baptisms If you have an unbaptised baby (or are expecting one), please introduce yourself & your child, either after Mass or over the phone, and we can talk about next steps.

First Holy Communion 2023 This is on Saturday 20th May 2023. Those who wish to make First Holy Communion must be in school Year 3 or above, have been baptised (we can sort that out if you get in touch [now](#)), and live within our parish boundary or attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady of the Rosary. It's required to take a full part in our preparation, which will begin in winter. It don't matter what school your child attends – as we offer a **top-up pre-course (see below)** to those not in Catholic school. To register your child, please collect a form after Mass.

'Footsteps' – for kids not in Catholic School

'Footsteps' is our programme for children who don't go to Catholic School, or who are of school age but are not baptised. It's designed to be an add-on to our First Holy Communion programme, allowing children to quickly get up to speed with the stuff they need to know before beginning the more rigorous preparation course for First Holy Communion. Footsteps takes place over six weeks beginning on Weds 2nd Nov 16.30 – 17.30. It's open to all children who do not attend Catholic School in school Year 3 or above and a parent/carer is asked to attend the session too. Collect a form after Mass.

Confirmation 2023 Confirmation now takes place when young people are in school Year 10 or above. Our Confirmation programme will begin in November – with the actual Confirmation Mass taking place in June or July 2023. So if you are a young person about to enter Year 10, ask for a registration form at Mass.

Children's Workshops – Can you help us?

Our children's workshops take place 3-5 times a year and last three hours. Some workshops are open to all young children, others are part of the First Communion programme. We are looking for more volunteers. We need adults and teenagers. We also need those who specialise in particular activities – such as music, art, or other fun stuff. If you'd be interested in joining our team please contact me (Fr. P) for a brief chat. You will be asked to complete a DBS application (yes even if you already have a DBS check) but don't worry as it won't cost you anything and we'll guide you through it all. **Catechists and workshop helpers meeting** – Tuesday 18th Oct at 19.30.

Open Mornings at Our Lady of the Rosary School

Is your child due to start Reception in September 2023? You are warmly invited to join us for one of their forthcoming Open Mornings on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October from 09.30. For further information, contact the school office on 01784 453539. Our Lady of the Rosary is a lovely school – I go in there 2-3 times a week and have lunch with the children and visit their classes, so I can vouch at first hand for the caring and dedicated staff, for the well-behaved children, and for the atmosphere of love and welcome that permeates the entire school community. If you send your child to Our Lady of the Rosary they will not just get educated, they will also be loved!

School Admissions If you're applying for a place in a Catholic primary or secondary school for September 2023, you'll need to obtain the school's own supplementary application form which must be completed as well as the online county application.. You may also be asked to provide a baptism certificate – so now is the time to look for it. If you mislaid it, there's time to contact the church of baptism to ask for a replacement.

Some schools also require a priest's signature or certificate – and these are the dates you can come and get it - Thurs 6th Oct 17.00 – 18.00, Tues 11th Oct 16.00 – 17.00, Weds 19th Oct 18.00 – 19.00. Make no mistake, I want **all children** to benefit from a Catholic education, but if a form asks me to indicate if a family is practicing (i.e. attending Mass frequently) I won't lie - and I won't accept bribes, blackmail, or flattery either!

Catholic Starting Point

Catholic Starting Point is our course for adults who want to find out more about the Catholic Church. Maybe you're toying with becoming a Catholic. Maybe you're already Catholic but have not been Confirmed or received First Holy Communion. Maybe you are returning to Church after some years away from it. Maybe you are married to or living with a Catholic and you want to understand what exactly they see in it. Or maybe you are just curious about the whole thing. Whichever way you see it, whatever doubts, questions, or serious reservations you may have, and wherever your life has taken you, **Catholic Starting Point** is for you. There is no obligation to join up at the end, there is no charge, and there will certainly be no pressure. We meet on Wednesdays in school term time starting on Weds 2nd November, 20.00 – 21.00. You can enjoy a cup of tea, a glass of wine, and some chocolate digestives. If you're interested, have a word with me, Fr. Philip, email staines@rcdow.org.uk, or make contact via the 'Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines' Facebook group.

On **YouTube** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Staines'

On **Facebook** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines'

Covid-19 precautions

The emphasis now is on personal responsibility, personal risk - and therefore personal protection. Once we made rules in order to maintain a Covid-safe environment - now we live in a world where Covid is all around us, so...

Masks are neither required or advised, but if you don't wear one you have only yourself to blame for catching Covid! We simply ask you to make your own personal assessment of risk. The blue mask gives a good level of protection, but an FFP2 mask is even more effective.

Space At the busy 11.00 you can expect a full church. However the 18.30 (Sat) and 09.00 Masses have plenty of space. Simply tell a steward that you would like a bit more space and they will suggest a good place to sit.

Sanitisation We ask you to use the alcohol hand sanitiser on entry, as this also prevents things like Norovirus - which you really don't need to catch.

When to stay away If you're testing positive or suspect you've got Covid-19 it would be a good idea to give Mass a miss and watch online instead.

Do you know of any Ukraine Refugees? We're in an ideal position to offer support to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters – if we can establish contact. Please help us make the first move by telling me (Fr. P) about any Ukrainian refugees in the local area.

Feeling unsafe? National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 2000 247 if you are concerned about yourself or others. The church is a safe space to seek assistance should you need it. See contact details overleaf. *Istnieje też specjalna linia pomocy w języku polskim 0300 365 1700 oraz strona internetowa <http://opoka.org.uk>*

Safeguarding If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding rep, Sheila Davies, on 07802 653196. You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 77989356 safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

Manna Food Bank You are invited to drop items of non-perishable food in the church when open to support our local foodbank.

Going to Hospital? In light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the Catholic Chaplain and please ask the Catholic Chaplain to visit you.

Supporting the parish Our parish relies solely on the support of its members. It really helps if you donate by standing order or direct bank payment. Our parish bank details are as follows:

Sort code: 40-05-20 Account number: 41096168 Bank: HSBC

Account name: WRCDD Staines-upon-Thames

If you're a taxpayer, why not Gift Aid your donation? The government will top up your gift by 25%, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no cost to you.

To do this, send an email to giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following info:

1. Your parish name (Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines)
2. Your title, first name and surname
3. Your address and postcode
4. The date of your gift, or start date of Standing Order
5. The amount
6. Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'

The Diocesan Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately, on behalf of your parish, and email you a confirmation.

Last weekend's collection Loose plate £704, envelopes £196, Standing orders average about £750 a week. Thank you for all your support.