

Presentation of
the Lord
2nd February 2025

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

59 Gresham Road, Staines, TW18 2BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Philip Dyer-Perry

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From the Diary

Weekend Masses are always live-streamed on YouTube (other times streamed occasionally)

Presentation of the Lord 2 nd February	18.30 (Sat)	Mass (<i>Sarah Jennings ANNIV</i>)
	09.00	Mass (<i>Gabrielle Mansfield & family INTS</i>)
	11.00	Mass (<i>Andrzej Opacki ANNIV</i>)
Monday 3 rd Feb	20.00	Rosary Group – Enter via hall after Brownies finish
Tuesday 4 th February	09.15	Mass (<i>Fr. Chris Spain INTS</i>) with Blessing of Throats for the Feast of St. Blaise
Wednesday 5 th February	09.15	Mass
	09.45 – 11.30	Baby and Toddler group – Hall
	14.00 – 16.00	Gresham Junction Café – Hall
	20.00 – 21.30	Catholic Starting Point
Thursday 6 th February	09.15	Mass (<i>Tom O'Connor RIP</i>) followed by Exposition
	10.00	Church Cleaning Club
Friday 7 th Feb	09.00	Mass (Y3) at Our Lady of the Rosary School
Saturday 8 th February	11.00	First Reconciliation Liturgy
	17.30 – 18.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9 th February	18.30 (Sat)	Mass (<i>Mairead Doyle RIP</i>)
	09.00	Mass (<i>People of the Parish</i>)
	11.00	Mass (<i>Joan Bray ANNIV</i>)

Candlemas

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It's when we remember the time when the infant Jesus was ritually presented in the Temple, an important moment for a young Jewish boy. The Gospel tells us who he met there and what happened. This would of course not be Jesus' only pilgrimage to Jerusalem – the city and the Temple would go on to play a very special and significant part in his life. In the Temple, a old man called Simeon calls Jesus 'a light for all nations' – and this is the reason for all the candles, and the name 'Candlemas'. This weekend we bless the candles that will be used in our liturgy over the coming year and we are each given our own candle, to remind us of our role of sharing Christ's light. This weekend is also the last weekend for our Christmas Crib and decorations. All the pretty bright lights will be taken down, so it is up to us to shine brightly this February and beyond, through our actions and words.

Lent Adult Programme 2025 'Free' Bible Course

This Lent we will again be having our popular adult programme on four Wednesdays during Lent. The theme is 'All about the Bible' and the dates will 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd April. We will enjoy a hot dinner, followed by a talk on our chosen Catholic subject. Doors will open at 19.00, with drinks available. The meal will be served at 19.30, leading into the talk and discussion. Towards the end of February you will be invited to sign up – and we will invite a donation of £6 towards the cost of the meal, as well a bottle/cans to put behind the bring and share bar.

First Reconciliation

Next Saturday 55 of our 57 First Holy Communion children will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. This used to be known as their 'First Confession'. This weekend the children have taken part in a workshop to prepare them for this special day. Please keep this lovely group of young people in your prayers.

Please pray for

All our who are sick:

John Bailey, Laurie Hatcher, Mark Cotter, Jessica Farnsworth, Carol Bartlett, Zofiya & Zenonas Meskauskai

Those who have died:

Rober Rajasingam, Stephen Spiers & 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 porch or outdoors 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.

Baptism

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

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. **£2.50** per family. Nice cakes. Outdoor area. All babies, toddlers, & accompanying adults very welcome!

Gresham Junction

Everyone is welcome to our community café open Wednesday afternoons 14.00-16.00. Come and join us for a hot drink & slice of cake.

A Prayer for Peace in the World

Almighty Father, you are the Lord of history. We place in your hands the distress of our times. The wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, and elsewhere fill us with anxiety and fear. We call out to you. Welcome those who have died. Comfort those left behind. Be with refugees and those driven from their homes. Heal the wounds of those injured in body and soul. Be close to every person taking up the cause of those who suffer. Give to our earth the peace which only you can give. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Holy Mary, Mother of Peace, pray for us and for the whole world.

Jubilee Challenge - Friday 21st February, 2025

In the Catholic Church, every 25 years a 'Jubilee Year' is declared. The idea originates from the Bible, where the Jubilee Year was chance for a once-in-a-generation reset of our relationship with God and with one another. Traditionally the opportunity was taken to forgive debts, to return misappropriated land, to release prisoners, and to generally give each other, and the earth, a bit of a break. Fields would be left fallow, wars would stop, captives would be set free.

All of these things find relevance today in 2025, and so Pope Francis has declared this year as a Jubilee Year, with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. 2025 is to be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Here at Our Lady of the Rosary, various Jubilee activities may or may not take place, but one of them is our Parish Jubilee Challenge.

In 2025 we are invited to make a 'Pilgrimage of Hope', with various churches around London being designated as pilgrimage churches. Our challenge, on Friday 21st February (in half term) is to visit most, if not all, of them!

Travel & Registration Fee

£20 per adult, £12 per child (aged 5-15), 0-4 year olds go free and do not count as team members

Got a family railcard? If so, it's just £6 per child

Last day for booking, cancellations, and refunds Sunday 16th February

Parish Cost of Living Policy Here at Our Lady of the Rosary we recognise that finances can be tight and the cost of living is high. If this means you feel unable to take part in this trip, please speak discretely to me (Fr. Philip) as it may be possible to cut a special deal.

How to book? Collect & complete a booking form with payment (cash only).

Parish Trips 2025

Our next parish family day trips are due to take place on the following dates:

- Friday 21st February – Parish Jubilee Challenge (see above)
- Friday 11th April – Steam Railway Trip
- Friday 30th May – Cathedral City Trip
- Friday 25th July – Parish Seaside Trip
- ✓ Further details for each trip will be available nearer the time, but one thing you can do, that will reduce costs for both you and others, is to buy a Family & Friends Railcard. Buy at www.familyandfriends-railcard.co.uk or at the station.
- ✓ Here at our Lady of the Rosary, we recognise that financial hardship is a reality for not a few families – if that is the case with you, please speak discretely to me (Fr. P) and a subsidised place on any parish trip will be yours. After all, when you come on a parish trip, you strengthen our parish, so it is not us doing you a favour, but the other way round!

Parish Pilgrimage 2025

Planning is already underway for this autumn's parish pilgrimage. This year we hope to go to Germany, where we will visit the Shrine of the Three Kings at Koln Cathedral and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Kevelaer. We will travel by train and aim to be away for around five days 27-31st October (roughly). Further details will be available in due course.

Rail Fares from Staines

The big news is that from this Sunday you can pay for certain journeys to/from Staines at the barrier using a contactless bank card (i.e. you don't need to buy a ticket). The bad news is that this isn't necessarily the bargain you may have been hoping for. Child fares and Railcard discounts still require a paper ticket – and contactless, although valid to Windsor, is not available beyond Virginia Water to the likes of Chertsey, Bracknell or Reading. Take one of my 'Rail Fares from Staines 2025' sheets from the porch for further details.

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

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

Supporting the parish

Our parish relies only on the support of its members. It helps us 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: WRCDT 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.

Feeling unsafe?

Not everyone feels safe at home. The National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 if you are concerned about yourself or others. The church is a safe space to seek assistance should you need it – see parish contact details overleaf. *Istnieje też specjalna linia pomocy w języku polskim 0300 365 1700 oraz strona internetowa <http://opoka.org.uk>*

Manna Food Bank

You are invited to drop items of non-perishable food in the porch when open to support our local foodbank. Food/drink should be **non-perishable**, so there should be nothing that requires refrigeration, nor bread. Items should be unopened, unused and not be after their 'best before' date.

Cold and wet weather

While it's cold and wet, please take extra care in and around the church premises. Outdoor surfaces may be icy and **indoor surfaces may be wet and slippery**. When ice or snow is expected, we endeavour to grit all pedestrian access routes to/from the street, but this is not always possible so caution is advised. The parish doesn't accept responsibility for any loss or injury that results from you not taking appropriate precautions!

A request from your healthcare chaplains!

Due to data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the Catholic Chaplain **and** please ask them to visit you!

Money

If you are giving me money for anything – such as Mass intentions, parish trips, donations for Baptisms, donations for good causes, donations for a beer or two, please **DO NOT** just give me loose notes – as by the end of a weekend my pocket is stuffed with them as if I was a drug dealer. Instead, please put cash in an envelope or securely wrapped in a piece of paper – and make sure it is clearly labelled who it is from – and what it is for. If I find loose cash lying around (or on my person), there is a very good chance that I will spend it on inappropriate things. You have been warned!

Safeguarding – we all can help

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 stainessg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 77989356 safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

If you believe that a child or vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of harm, please call 999. You *can* also speak to me (Fr. P) if you have a concern or query, but this should not prevent or delay you using the other contacts if the need arises. One thing you can do to help - please also note that me (Fr. P) should never be alone in a closed room with a child under 18 (except for Reconciliation) and you should question this if it happens – simply email stainessg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk You will not get me into trouble!

Parish Wine Shortage!

After a cold winter, wine stocks have become depleted, so if you occasionally have a glass of wine after 18.30 Mass, please consider donating a bottle of red or white wine to help restock our 'bring and share' bar. Just drop in the kitchen before or after Mass and Fr. P will take care of it.

Fire safety

In case of fire, you will be invited to leave the building. Use the nearest exit and go home. Don't move your vehicle from the car park as this will slow things down. If you need to await family or others, wait at the assembly point in front of the garage. Do not re-enter the building until advised to do so.