Christ the King
22d November, 2026

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

59 Gresham Road, Staines, TW18 2BD

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Christ the King

Last week Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping met around a very large table in Shenzhen for a high level meeting to discuss international affairs. What you or I think of this meeting is one thing, but the acknowledgement that the world is at a critical point, that global peace needs to be promoted, and that nuclear weapons are a danger to humanity are to be welcomed. Whether these words translate into action, whether these three big cats are actually sincere, as well as capable and willing to bring about a more peaceful future remains uncertain. When the world's future rests on a handful of individuals with way more power than anyone should ever have, we are right to be apprehensive.

The Feast of Christ the King puts the focus for us Christians back where it should be – on the life, teaching and example of our own 'great leader', Jesus Christ. Despite not having a suit, or a security detail, or feeling any great need to consider the 'optics' of his actions, Jesus not only showed that leadership is expressed through service, but he identified with the very people he said we should serve. The global economy was not really his priority – instead it was the poorest, the marginalised and the despised who he reached out to, not for photo opportunities, but because to God, every last person matters. No one is too big or too powerful – or too small or powerless. Consider that massive mahogany table those three leaders sat around, all by themselves – and consider how in God's kingdom, everyone sits around the table, it's got no corners, there's room for all.

From the 🕮 Diary

Christ the King	**18.30 (Sat)**	**Mass** *(Martin & Anne Denihan ANNIV)*
22nd November	**09.00**	**Mass** *(Mitchell & Rogers families INTS)*
	11.00	**Mass** *(Anish John ANNIV)*
Monday 23rd Nov	20.00	Rosary group *(Enter via hall door)*
Tuesday	**09.15**	**Mass** *(Mary & Bert Randall RIP)*
24th November	16.00 – 17.00	Primary school form signing
	19.30 – 20.30	Finance Committee
Wednesday	**09.15**	**Mass** *(Antonio, Blanch & Bianca DaCosta INTS)*
25th November	09.45 – 11.20	Baby and Toddler Group -Hall
	14.00 – 16.00	'Gresham Junction' Café – Hall
	16.30 – 17.30	'Footsteps' group - Hall
	20.00 – 21.30	Catholic Starting Point – Hall
Thursday	**09.15 – 09.50**	**Mass** *(Caffrey & McMurphy families INTS)*
26th November		followed by **Exposition**
	10.00	Church cleaning
Friday 27th Nov	**09.00**	**Mass** at **Our Lady of the Rosary School**
Saturday	14.00	Blessing of Graves – Staines Cemetery
28th November	17.30 – 18.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	19.30 – 22.00	'Ostatki' party – Hall
1st Sunday of Advent	**18.30 (Sat)**	**Mass** *(Bethany Payne ANNIV)*
	09.00	**Mass** *(People of the Parish)*
29th November	**11.00**	**Mass** *(Marlene Cordery INTS)*

'Ostatki' Night – A last fling before Advent

Saturday 28th November after 18.30 Mass

Advent begins on the weekend of 28/29th November, and before we enter that serious time of, er, fasting and prayer, we have a final opportunity to enjoy ourselves. The traditional 'Ostatki' party was a chance to dance and have fun together – and so we are having one here at Our Lady of the Rosary, after 18.30 Mass on Saturday 28th November. We will be operating a 'bring and share' bar and buffet, and so everyone is invited to bring drinks and plates of finger food. There will also be a optional donation box to help pay for some of the out of pocket costs of decorating the hall – but the key point is that everyone is invited and welcome to come.

Please pray for 🕯

All who are sick:
Hilary Meynet, Mark Cotter, Jessica Farnsworth, Zofiya & Zenonas Meskauskai, Frances Phillips, Margaret Shakespeare, and others not named here.

Those who have died:
Margaret Prendergast
& 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** weekend 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 Middle East 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.

Christmas Fair

Our Parish Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 5th December, 13.00 – 15.00 hrs. There will be chocolate and bottle tomboli, afternoon teas, the famous Polish sausage barbeque, Fr. Christmas at a licensed open-air bar, a few stalls and a fantastic raffle. You will definitely want to come and certainly wish to bring your family and friends This is a combined effort of our parish/school community working together and it is a really fun time. So please save the date, get yourself a pocketful of coins, and see you there!

Donations for the Christmas Fair

As of next weekend (well, any time when the church is open after 12.00 on Wednesday) we are inviting donations of the following items:

- High quality unused gifts, toys and toiletries (bring next weekend)
- Chocolates for the chocolate tombola (bring next weekend)
- Bottles for the bottle tombola (bring next weekend)
- Home made cakes for the cake stall (bring on the day)

This is not a jumble sale, so please do not use this high-class shopping experience as an opportunity to clear out your unwanted household items.

Christmas 2026 Christmas this year falls on a Friday, so this is how the Mass schedule will look on 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th December:
Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December – 18.30 Mass, Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Friday 25th December – 09.00 & 11.00 Masses
St. Stephen's Day (stop calling it Boxing Day, we're Catholics!) Saturday 26th December – 10.00 Mass, **NO** 18.30 Mass
Sunday 27th December – 09.00 & 11.00 Masses

Blessing of Graves Our annual blessing of graves at Staines Cemetery will take place at 12.00 on Saturday 28th November. We assemble outside the chapel and then we will visit and bless individual graves.

Parish 'Sins and Needles' group

Would you like to join 'Sins and Needles', our parish needlework (sewing, crocheting, knitting) group? The aim of the group is to make items for those in need as well as some items that are needed or desired for the church. If you can sew, crochet or knit and would like to join us, you would be very welcome. Next sessions: Mon 30th Nov at 13.30 hrs & Tues 15th Dec at 19.30.

Margaret Prendergast RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Prendergast, who died on Friday evening. Margaret will be remembered by many – having been involved in our parish for a very long time, including with our former Tuesday lunchtime prayer group. Margaret also volunteered at HMP Bronzefield, back in the early days of this establishment. I first met Margaret on my first day in the parish, when I was trying to break into the garage. A lot of people will have their own stories about Margaret. Margaret's funeral Mass will take place Friday 8th January, 11.00 hrs here at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

Feeling unsafe? Not everyone feels safe at home. Call 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*

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

Heating I know it gets hot by the radiators, but don't turn them off as they're designed to heat the whole building and you getting heatstroke is purely collateral damage. Please just sit elsewhere or take some clothes off.

Going to hospital? Please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the Catholic Chaplain **and** ask them to visit you! Equally, if you have a loved one in **prison**, please let me (Fr. P) know.

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

Parish African Party A few of our African and Caribbean parishioners are planning an international cultural party on Friday 7th May. We would love to bring together parishioners of African and Caribbean heritage to help plan this special event. We warmly invite those interested to come to our next planning meeting on Tuesday 29th December, 19.00 hrs here in our church hall. Everyone is welcome, and every voice, idea and contribution matters. Let's come together, share ou cultures, and make this a celebration to remember. Please contact Sarah on 07588 577370, ideally using WhatsApp, for further details and questions.

Altar Servers We are recruiting new Altar Servers for 09.00 & 11.00 Masses only (not at 18.30 as we cannot fit any more). Young people in school years 4 – 13 can join up. It's a weekly commit ment, more or less. Please see me (Fr. P), if you are interested.

Primary school admissions

Those applying for a Catholic primary school place from September 2027 may need to obtain a Certificate of Catholic practice or have some form or other signed by me (Fr. P). This you can do at the following times:
Tuesday 24th November 16.00 – 17.00
Tuesday 2nd December 16.00 – 17.00
Saturday 12th December 13.00 – 13.30
I will also sign forms every Wednesday morning at the Baby & Toddler group, but **not** at the school gates or at weekends before and after Mass.

Sundays in Staines – at the 'Parish Table'

Staines is a magical place to be on a Sunday afternoon, but for some it can be a bit too lonely and quiet. With this in mind, parishioners have got together to try a new initiative – the 'parish table' at Nostrano Lounge on Staines High Street. Every Sunday a table will wait to greet parishioners who fancy dropping in for a drink, a sandwich, a full meal and a chat. Between 13.30 – 15.00 hrs, at least two parishioners will be ready to welcome you – just look for the blue/yellow (parish colours) decoration. If this proves popular the aim is to continue this through into the winter months.

Fire safety – Exit, go left, and left again!

In case of fire, you must leave the building by the closest available exit, and immediately turn left until you are on the pavement well beyond the property. You will not be allowed to move your car until the fire is finished.

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.

Safeguarding *'See it, say it...'*

If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, you must do one of the following please:

- If you believe a child or vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of harm call 999.
- In all cases and for all concerns, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7798 9356.
- Out of hours (if it's a concern that is not immediate but still cannot wait until the next working day), please call the Police on 101.

You *can* also speak to me (Fr. P) or contact our parish safeguarding reps, Ash Buckley or Janet Pipe if you have a concern or query, but this should not prevent or delay you using the other contacts if the need arises.
Ash stainessg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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!