

# ST DAVID'S RC CHURCH

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This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic  
Diocese Trustee Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest: Fr. Sidon Sagar



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the OT

14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*"Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi' which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' He replied, 'Come and see.'"*

I was a menace as a child. Every toy that I was given, I took apart to see how it worked." Even from childhood, David Burville of the television series *The Repair Shop* was destined to become an organ builder and restorer, when he would dismantle, repair, and reassemble precious items.

We are also curious about each other. How often have you listened to someone speaking and tried to work out their accent? Have you ever wondered from what part of your hometown a celebrity originated and whether you might have met them in the supermarket or at the bus stop?

**Did Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln ever know that they shared the same birthday of 12 February 1809? What might have happened had they spent time together? Anne Frank was only 38 days older than Audrey Hepburn. What might have been the story of the Hollywood actress if she had she met the teenage victim of the Holocaust?**

Chatting with a stranger lead to discovery, perhaps unexpectedly finding previously unknown and unsuspected shared links. Such encounters can be thought-provoking. Occasionally, they are life-changing experiences.

We are all amateur detectives, investigating things that we find interesting, but many different magnets attract our energy and concentration. This is what makes life so fascinating and varied.

Today's Gospel tells us of Andrew and John, two Galilean fishermen who were originally followers of John the Baptist. On hearing the Baptist use an unfamiliar expression, they were puzzled. Why did he call Jesus the "Lamb of God"? What did it mean? Why did he describe another young man with such reverence and respect? Andrew and John, like many others, regarded John the Baptist as a prophet sent by God. How could he be secondary in importance to the stranger who asked for baptism? If Jesus was a carpenter from a small town in Galilee, Andrew and John already knew something of his background for, despite their different occupations, it resembled their own experience - but the Baptist implied that Jesus had an "added extra". Curious, they

## wanted to learn more.

When Andrew and John approached Jesus, they called him “Rabbi”, already sensing that Jesus had something to teach them. They asked where he was staying because their unsatisfied curiosity needed time together, talking about more than fishing and carpentry.

When they separated, Andrew looked for his brother Simon, whom Jesus would later rename Peter. As intrigued as Andrew and John, he also wanted to discover what was different about Jesus — and so Jesus gathered his first three disciples simply by arousing their interest. He didn't coerce them. They were free to stay with John the Baptist — but discipleship is never forced. Andrew, John and Simon freely chose to follow Jesus - and that freedom made all the difference.

Andrew and John heard John the Baptist describe Jesus as “the Lamb of God”. After spending time with him and making time for each other, their understanding of Jesus took a quantum leap: they described him as “the Messiah”. Their conversation was not focused on the superficial topics, which would have meant that, at the end of the day, none of them learned anything.

When Andrew and John met Jesus, their relationship changed from an encounter of that curious strangers to potentially lifelong friends and disciples of the carpenter from Nazareth. Their transformation from strangers to something far deeper happened gradually. Andrew and Simon Peter could not foresee a martyr's death. John was unaware that, as Jesus died, he would receive the responsibility of caring for Mary for the rest of her life. Jesus sometimes felt frustrated in teaching the future leaders of the Church. Yet he also knew that having sparked his disciples' curiosity, they would follow him until, like him, they paid the ultimate price for their fidelity.

**“There is no such thing as a stranger: only a friend whom we have not yet met.” Understanding and appreciating another person is a risky process that needs openness and sharing what matters. Can I make the effort to discover the riches that God has placed in another person's heart? Might a stranger become a friend?**

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**Offertory Collection** - Thank you for your offertories last week

Contactless **£55** (Weekly collection of the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)  
Monthly standing order **£210.00**. Thank you for your offertories to the Parish.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Peace Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.** Pax Christi, the Catholic Movement for Peace in England and Wales, relies on our support to continue their work of peace-making.

*“The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.”*

If you would like to support the work of Pax Christi, you will find donation envelopes in the narthex – please place in the offertory collection bags.

**Next Sunday:** Please join us next Sunday for Teas / Coffees after the Mass, do join in for a hot cup of tea/coffee with some goodies.

**Caritas Westminster** has provided the parish with vouchers as part of their response to food poverty within the Catholic Diocese of Westminster. If you live in our parish and are

struggling financially, please contact **Lee Gibson on 07713 760281** and she will be able to issue you with Tesco vouchers. All requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

**Mass Intentions.** If you wish to book a Mass, please drop your intention envelope in the box at the back of the church in the offertory collection or through the presbytery letterbox. *Please use the new blue donation envelopes if you are able to make your Mass offering under Gift Aid.*

### **Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)**

**Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life**

**Dates: 16-18 February 2024**

**Location: Liverpool**

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

***Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.***

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

**For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)**

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**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, Fey Worley on [stanwellsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stanwellsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk).

You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 7798 9356 or [safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk)

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### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

*During Adoration before Saturday Evening Holy Mass (and by appointment)*

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*To arrange a baptism please refer to the parish website*

*For the parish Mass timetable, please refer to the parish website:*

**<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanwell>**

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### **PLEASE PRAY**

**for all the sick and housebound in our parish.**

**for the Religious men and women living and working in the Upper Thames Deanery.**

**for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.**

# Mass Intentions 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm
Tues	16 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>		09.30am
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the Ordinary Time	10.30am

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## This Sunday's readings, 14<sup>th</sup> January – Second Sunday in the OT

1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20; John 1: 35-42

## Next Sunday's readings, 21<sup>st</sup> January – Third Sunday in the OT

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

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**The Pope says**, "Peace requires respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Attempts to introduce new rights, which are not always acceptable, lead to instances of ideological colonisation that create divisions rather than fostering peace, as in the case of gender theory."

- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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## January is dedicated to HOLY NAME OF JESUS

"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). **Christ's name is chosen in heaven**, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "*Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, **and thou shalt call his name Jesus***". The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. **He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends.** Jesus is our all. **In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments.**

