

ST DAVID'S RC CHURCH

64, Everest Road, Stanwell,
Middlesex, TW19 7EE

☎ : 01784 252230

e-Mail: stanwellparish@rcdow.org.uk

WWW: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanwell/>

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Sidon Sagar



3rd Sunday in the OT

21st January 2024

"Follow me."

In 2006 Qusay Hussein, an Iraqi man from Mosul (Nineveh of the Old Testament), was playing a game of volleyball, cheered on by his family and friends, when a suicide bomb exploded near him, taking away his sight, half his face and nearly his life. Given a second chance at life and speaking of his experience many years later, Qusay said: "I

live in Austin (Texas) now. I've been here almost seven years, and soon I'll have completed my degree at the University of Texas. I'm a refugee, a product of war, but in many ways I feel lucky. Not only am I still here, but I've started a new life doing things I could never have imagined. I'm hopeful about the future. If what I've been through has taught me anything, it is that you should take every opportunity that comes." Today's readings speak of taking opportunities, of being given a second chance and of the invitation to live our Christian faith in new and life-changing ways.

By the time Jonah has the word of God addressed to him "a second time", he has already been seen as the cause of a storm at sea, thrown overboard and swallowed by a big fish - all in his efforts to escape from the God of Israel. Seeing what befell him because of his lack of obedience to God's will, Jonah takes this "second chance". In doing so, he brings salvation to the people of Nineveh. His message is urgent: there are, Jonah tells the people of Nineveh, only forty days left before their city will be destroyed.

In our second reading, Paul reminds the people of Corinth "time is growing short". Paul's language is dramatic and can even appear cruel and outrageous, especially when he suggests that those who have wives should live as though they had none; and those who are mourning should live as though they had nothing for which they should mourn. This dramatic language is because Paul felt the second coming of Christ was imminent and he wanted to shock his fellow Christians into following a more Gospel way of life.

The call to Simon, Andrew, James and John and their response is no less striking. They are going about their ordinary work, casting their nets into the lake, or, in the case of James and John mending their nets in preparation for fishing. Jesus calls his new disciples to believe in the Good News. In fact, Jesus is the Good News, and he is calling them and us to believe in him and all that his kingdom stands for.

Like Jonah and Paul, the disciples leave all to follow Jesus. Jesus then gives them their

new responsibility, to become fishers of men. They are to proclaim the Good News of God's kingdom of love, justice, and peace to those they meet on their journey of life, calling others to follow Jesus just as they have. From mending nets, they will now follow Christ mending broken hearts and bodies and restoring others to the fullness of life. They are given new opportunities to teach, to heal, to hear God's word, firstly in their own hearts and then in the hearts and on the lips of those they serve. Answering Jesus' call literally turned their lives upside down.

As was true in the life of the disciples, Jesus comes to each one of us in our ordinary lives. If, as St Paul says in today's reading, we are "engrossed in the world", we can be blinded to Christ's presence in the day-to-day events of our lives. We will miss the opportunity to follow Jesus, to be bearers of the Good News for those around us and to live our Christian lives fruitfully and faithfully. Our God is a God of "second chances" and of endless opportunity. Like ourselves, neither Paul nor the disciples were perfect, but they were all offered the opportunity to follow Jesus, and some were even given a second chance to understand his mission and message. This can reassure us that, should we fail, God is waiting to offer us another opportunity, to offer us forgiveness and healing and a return to his loving embrace.

© Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word B1, 2023, adapted

Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week

Contactless **£66** (Weekly collection of the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)
Monthly standing order **£210.00**. Thank you for your offertories to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday is **Teas/Coffees Sunday**. Please do join in with all of us in the Hall for a hot cup of Teas/Coffees. To refresh our hearts and minds by sharing in the community time.

Peace Sunday 14th 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.

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 or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

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.

You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 7798 9356 or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

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>

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 21st - 28th Jan 2024

Sun	21 st	3 rd Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am
Mon	22 nd		06.00pm
Tues	23 rd		06.00pm
Wed	24 th		09.30am
Fri	26 th		06.00pm
Sat	27 th		06.00pm
Sun	28 th	4 th Sunday in the Ordinary Time	10.30am

This Sunday's readings, 21st January – Third Sunday in the OT

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

Next Sunday's readings, 28th January – Fourth Sunday in the OT

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

The Pope says, "Here is Jesus' invitation: God has come close to you; recognise His presence, make room for his word, and you will change your outlook on life"

- 20th January 2024

February is dedicated to **THE HOLY FAMILY**

The special devotion which proposes **the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century**. It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. **This devotion soon spread and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this title and himself composed part of the Office**. On account of the flight into Egypt this feast has been observed by the Copts from early times. The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of present-day society. In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

