

# 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



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the OT

04<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*"He cured many who were suffering."*



If you've ever come into contact with a charity or other organisation that works with people who are really down on their luck — people who are suffering from homelessness, say, or unemployment, or drug and drink problems - then you will have heard tales of how it's not just the experience of physical suffering that is so hard, but how troubled they have been, often feeling as if they have no hope left. But you often hear remarkable stories of transformation — of how those who have fallen by the wayside have been picked up by an organisation and helped to have their lives turned around. Even more extraordinary are the stories of those who, with help, have not only rebuilt their lives and rediscovered hope, but have then volunteered to help others. It's like a reverse domino effect: once one is built up, others are too. A community is

**formed where once people felt isolated, worn down by life, and are now healed.**

This account from Mark's Gospel is typical of many of the stories of Jesus' ministry. It is the Sabbath and Jesus has been to synagogue with James and John, and then they went on to Simon and Andrew's house. They would have followed tradition by resting for the rest of the Sabbath, until they discover that there is someone in need — Simon's mother-in-law, who is sick. So, Jesus puts scruples to one side and focuses on what matters and attends to the woman. She is only the first of many to call for his help that day. By sundown, the end of the Sabbath, practically the whole town is crowding into the house.

**Nobody of faith is turned away, but eventually there comes a time when even Jesus needs a break. It's worth noting how often we are told in the Gospels that Jesus takes times to pray. Prayer is as much a part of his life as action before he again fulfils his mission by preaching. There is one line in this Gospel that could easily be overlooked but is deeply significant because it confirms how the impact of Jesus means conversion: when Simon's mother-in-law is cured of her fever, she doesn't relax, or run to tell people all about it. It is her moment to wait on the others — to serve them, just as Jesus had served her.**

The verses from Job, heard as part of the readings, suggest a sense of isolation, of

feeling that life offers no purpose, no meaning, and is overwhelming. Those are sentiments that could equally be expressed by people today. Job's world seems very small: he doesn't look out to others, nor is there a sense of God being there to sustain him.

Mark's Gospel is very different. Even on a quiet Sabbath day, this world is teeming with people: Jesus and his apostles, Simon's mother-in-law, the crowds who flock to Simon's house. Jesus is at the centre of a community. There is not the same isolation. But it is Jesus who makes a difference, turning to each person who needs him, one by one. Like those who follow him in Mark's Gospel, we too can have our lives transformed by Jesus. Conversion requires trust, though, and like those who came to Simon's house at the end of the Sabbath day, trusting that Jesus would cure them, so we must be ready to offer him our trust if we are to undergo our own conversion.

**A cure of a physical ailment may take a moment and last a lifetime, but conversion is not a one-off. Like a physical cure, it is about one's life changing for good, but it also requires our constant engagement. Conversion is a relationship, a mutual exchange between God and ourselves. God's love is there for us - but are we willing to reciprocate?**

**We glimpse an insight into what full engagement - that conversion - means from what happens to Simon's mother-in-law. Jesus overturns the Sabbath order to cure her of fever that day, and what he gives to her inspires her to in turn give to others as she waits on them. Conversion brings us to God, just as the encounter of Simon's mother-in-law with Jesus brought her to God. But sustaining our conversion needs prayer, just as Jesus also needed prayer. And that prayer will also help us build our relationships with our communities. Converted to Jesus, ready to serve others, we will, unlike Job, be able to cast aside our melancholy and our eyes will indeed see joy.**

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**Offertory Collection** - Thank you for your offertories the last 2 weeks:

**3rd Sunday of OT** was Envelopes **£35.00** and Loose Plate **£176.55**

**4th Sunday of OT** was Envelopes **£43.00** and Loose Plate **£172.39**

Contactless **£0** (Weekly collection of the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)

Monthly standing order **£210.00**.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fr Sidon Sagar.** Please keep Fr Sidon in your prayers as he enjoys a break with his family. 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.

**Ash Wednesday, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.** There will be Mass with the distribution of Ashes at 7.00pm.

**Lent My Day by Day booklets are now available at the back of church.** Please place your donation, £1.00, in the basket.

**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 see the priest. *Please use the new blue donation envelopes if you are able to make your Mass offering under Gift Aid.*

**Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm,** during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. To book a place (free), please contact Shenda Holmes in the parish office on 01784 252230 or [ashford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ashford@rcdow.org.uk)

**Special collection for the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem.** Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked parishes to hold a collection in response to the appeal from the Latin Patriarch in

Jerusalem for support especially for those in Gaza.

*"In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.*

*The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims."*

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc. to many in the West Bank. Cardinal Nichols hopes we can respond to this direct appeal from the Latin Patriarch and the work which he is able to effect. **There will be a retiring collection here at Mass on *Ash Wednesday* to support this cause.**

**Homes for Ukraine programme.** Caritas Social Action Network are working in partnership with one of their member charities, St John of God Hospitalier Services, to co-ordinate a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainian displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. More information can be found at: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>  
You will find some prayer cards at the back of the church.

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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.  
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 on Friday evening and on Saturday evening from 5.30pm before 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 Fr Sidon Sagar, Fr Carlo Mazzotta, the parishioners of St Michael's and for the staff and patients of Ashford Hospital in the Upper Thames Deanery.**

**for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that those who are in the final stages of life, and their families, may receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.**

# Mass Intentions 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

Sun	04 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Ordinary Time</b> (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	Cecilia Souza RIP Intentions of Sr Litty
Mon	05 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Perpetua and Aniceto - in thanksgiving
Tues	06 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Cecilio Sedenio RIP
Wed	07 <sup>st</sup>		09.30am	Cecilio Sedenio RIP
Fri	09 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Hannah Connors intentions
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>		06.00pm	Cecilio Sedenio RIP
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Ordinary Time</b>	10.30am	Lucas Rodrigues RIP

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## This Sunday's readings, 04<sup>th</sup> February – Fifth Sunday in the OT

Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-2; Mark 1:29-39

## Next Sunday's readings, 11<sup>th</sup> February – Sixth Sunday in the OT

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45

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**The Pope says,** "Let us pray together for the many civilians who have fallen victim to wars. May their cry of pain touch the hearts of world leaders and give rise to projects for peace."

- 1 February 2024

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## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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."

