

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



2nd Sunday of Easter,

Divine Mercy Sunday

24th March 2024

“Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

A young woman, who looked very emaciated, sat every morning at the lamppost outside Warren Street tube station in London. She begged for a few coins in an old, rather battered, McDonald's cup. Wrapped up in an old blanket, she endured the cruel, cold wind which blew strongly between the tall buildings. Further down Tottenham Court Road, sleepers woke up from their restless sleep and stirred in their grubby sleeping bags with a few pieces of cardboard as their mattresses. Here and there, some had small tents which had been erected next to the shops to gain heat from the ventilation ducts.



Most people walked by the woman; some placed a few coins in her cup. Most days, James also passed by, not offering her any money, thinking that it would be misused, likely to be spent on alcohol or drugs. One day he gave her one pound. A few days later he did the same again and she asked, “Can you buy me a cup of coffee please?” Stirred by her pathetic face and her pleading question, he said “yes” and went into McDonald's. Not having visited McDonald's for years, he was now confronted with screens for placing an order and little human contact. Negotiating this, he walked out and gave the coffee to the young woman. “What is your name?”, he asked. “Tina”, she replied. The woman by the lamppost was afterwards always “Tina” and not just another anonymous face. He began to think more about her. The pattern repeated a few times and then she disappeared. He wondered, “What happened to Tina, is she dead or alive?”

Thomas struggled to believe in Jesus, risen from the dead, and the new life which he offered him. But Thomas' doubt was even stronger, he was stubborn, and he said, “Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my fingers in the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe”. He made demands of Jesus and the other apostles. Thomas was arrogant. It must have been a struggle to stay with those who believed and were full of joy. Now he found himself on the margins.

God relentlessly pursues those who try to escape from him, never abandoning them, and protecting them unceasingly under the shade of his outstretched hand. The risen

Jesus seeks Thomas out to speak to him and prove that he is risen from the dead. He appears to Thomas and invites him to do exactly what he has demanded. Thomas touches the wounds of the risen Jesus and says, "My Lord and my God". He believes.

We belong to the Body of Christ through baptism. This is not an abstract reality but real, earthy, and fleshy. We meet Christ when we love our brothers and sisters as neighbours. St Francis of Assisi, leaving his rich life behind, despised lepers in general. But when he kissed one leper whom he met on the road to Assisi, his bitterness was changed to sweetness. St Francis recognised him as having the same dignity as one of God's children.

We do not see the risen Christ directly like Thomas and the others to whom he appeared for forty days. Rather we meet the risen Christ through prayer, his Word, the sacraments, and other people. We walk by faith and not by sight. We rejoice in being those people of whom Jesus says, "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

James meeting Tina, buying her a cup of coffee, knowing her name, was a meeting with Christ. It deepened his faith. He began to understand more deeply the meaning of Christ's Body on earth. This meeting began to build a relationship between two people, between whom there had existed a great gulf.

Actions speak louder than words. Many people find Christian outreach to the poor and the vulnerable, to the hungry and the needy, credible as a witness to the Gospel of Christ. This is the reason why St Francis of Assisi is loved by many people. Whilst not everyone is called to his radical way of life, we must each ask how we can live more simply and more generously towards others.

Just as the apostles testified to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power and were given great respect, so this parish community witnesses to the power of belief in Christ by touching the wounds of Christ in our own here and now.

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Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week

Contactless **£78** (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

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in preparing the church for Easter. This includes those who covered the statues, prepared for Palm Sunday and for the Easter Vigil, and beautifully decorated the church with flowers. A special mention to the choir members for their melodious voices that praised God. May God bless you all. I also thank you for all the fundraising through the Easter Raffles.

First Friday of the Month - Holy Hour from 5.00pm to 6.00pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Please note that there will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays before Mass during Lent as there will be Stations of the Cross. We will resume after Easter.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass

all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Shenda in St Michael's parish office (01785 252230 or ashford@rcdow.org.uk) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **Monday 15th April 2024**.

Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) for admission to St Michael's Nursery at St Michael's , Ashford Presbytery on Wednesday 10th April , 11.00am – 12 noon and 6.45 - 7.30 pm. Please try to come at this time, rather than seeking an individual appointment.

Marriage Care Volunteers Needed!

Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. We are looking for Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators to prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage (full training is provided for this role), Qualified Relationship Counsellors to support couples in distress and Trustees to provide governance and strategic direction for the organisation. For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

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.*

Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers, 28th March to 1st April 2024 organised by St Peter's Pilgrimages Package price from £490.00 Please visit www.stpeterspilgrimages.com or contact office@stpeterspilgrimages.com for more details.

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, Fay 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

Before Stations of the Cross on Friday evening from 6.00pm 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 (see: Parish Life → Sacramental Preparation → Baptism)

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 those who are in the final stages of life, and their families, may receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Mass Intentions 07th - 14th April 2024

Sun	07 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	
Mon	08 th		06.00pm	Azlan Pereira (2 nd Birthday)
Tues	09 th		06.00pm	
Wed	10 th		09.30am	Mausinho Dourada RIP (4 th Ann.)
Fri	12 th		06.00pm	
Sat	13 th		06.00pm	
Sun	14 st	3 rd Sunday of Easter	10.30am	

This Sunday's readings, 07th April - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31

Next Sunday's readings, 14th April - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2: 1-5; Luke 24: 35-48

The Pope says, "The righteous person is honest, simple, and straightforward. They do not wear masks, but present themselves for what they are. "Thank you" is a word they use frequently, knowing that no matter how generous we strive to be, we always remain indebted to our neighbour." [#GeneralAudience.](#)" 03th April 2024

Month of April is dedicated to

HOLY SPIRIT

To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (Catechism of the Catholic Church)



The Holy Spirit is the Person of Love in the life of God. He is also like a breath, an aspiration of infinite Love, from which we draw the breath of life. On the day of Pentecost the Divine Spirit communicated such an abundance of life to the whole Church that to symbolize it "there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they (the Apostles) were sitting."

But it is also for us that the Holy Spirit has come, for the group in the Cenacle represented the whole Church. **The Holy Spirit came to remain with the Church forever. This is the promise of Jesus Himself. He dwells in the Church permanently and unflinching, performing in it without ceasing His action of life-giving and sanctification. He establishes the Church infallibly in the truth. It is He Who makes the Church blossom forth with a marvellous supernatural fruitfulness, for He brings to life and full fruition in Virgins, Martyrs, and Confessors those heroic virtues which are one of the marks of true sanctity.**