

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



3rd Sunday of Easter,

14th April 2024

"Peace be with you"

It's beautiful and broken. Using stones and fire as their tools, Ancient Egyptians created the huge, 1200-ton, granite monument, now known as the Unfinished Obelisk. Before its completion, the huge stone, bigger than Cleopatra's Needle in London, broke, and 7—10 years of hard work were abandoned. How did the workmen feel? Had they wasted their time in Aswan, or did they just shrug their shoulders and move to the next project, unaware that, 3500 years later, visitors from across the world would marvel at their achievements? Aswan's granite quarry had supplied many Ancient Egyptian monuments, but centuries of labour were almost forgotten as desert sand covered the site. The Unfinished Obelisk was only discovered in 2005 because someone wanted to build a house and, in laying the foundations, found previously unsuspected and immensely important archaeology. As a result, the hot, back-breaking work of our anonymous ancient ancestors now enriches modern lives in ways that they could never have imagined. The broken stone is a beautiful, living witness to commitment, skill, and perseverance despite hardship. Its very brokenness was also its healing.

Today's Gospel opens in the Upper Room. The two disciples who met Jesus at Emmaus tell their companions — who were still in hiding - the good news of Jesus' resurrection. One of the Emmaus returnees, Cleophas, was apparently St Joseph's brother. So why, on Good Friday, was he missing from his nephew's crucifixion and his sister-in-law's side? Why did his wife stand with Mary at the foot of the cross and help with Jesus' burial — and he didn't? Why did he and another disciple head off to Emmaus, leaving his wife and the other women to complete their heartbreaking anointing of Jesus' body? Was he embarrassed? Did he feel guilty? Was he too upset - but what about the care he should have shown — and apparently didn't - towards Mary, the mother of Jesus?

Most of today's Gospel focuses on Jesus' unexpected visit. The disciples had fled from Jesus in his hour of greatest need. Afraid for their own safety, they ran away. They didn't visit Jesus' tomb, but instead hid in shared grief, fear, and shame. They knew their cowardice and betrayal. When the women returned from Calvary and the tomb, did they voice their opinions of the men's behaviour, or did they find them too crushed to need to say anything? When Jesus appeared in their midst, the disciples thought they saw a ghost. They deserved his anger, but he didn't criticise them or make them feel any worse than they already did. He didn't condemn their weakness or highlight the women's courage. Instead, Jesus surprised them with a greeting of peace and a request for food.

Their brokenness wasn't terminal. Jesus started the healing process.

Throughout Jesus' public ministry, he nurtured his disciples, giving of himself in ways beyond their understanding and expectations. His followers often muddled along, following Jesus because they recognised that, in their limitations, they needed him. Following Good Friday, the disciples felt broken, but they couldn't turn back the clock and undo the flaws they had discovered in themselves. Jesus had died and they had done nothing to protect him.

But we're like that, aren't we? It's easier to see our brokenness than our loveliness and yet, to Jesus, it's that loveliness which he sees first. He knows the cracks that we try to hide even from ourselves, knows that they can hold the clue to recovery and wholeness. The ancient Egyptians working on the huge obelisk didn't see the tiny cracks which would eventually grow and potentially destroy their efforts. Yet those cracks would highlight something beautiful: brokenness needn't destroy. New and unimagined beginnings are possible.

Someone who is unaware of their own imperfections doesn't learn from experience and can be very insensitive towards others. Their brokenness cannot be healed because they can't see the flaws - and so small cracks grow bigger. Some of the world's most beautiful people are those who have learned humility, compassion and understanding through their own difficult experiences. Their struggles have opened their eyes and hearts to the goodness in others. They have room for growth. There's room for Jesus.

The disciples were very different people after meeting the post-resurrection Jesus. He offered them the possibility of a fresh start and so they started to grow through their weaknesses. Their brokenness became something beautiful and a lasting example of healing and new beginnings. Jesus' invitation to his disciples is offered to us. Let's celebrate our own brokenness and the loveliness which Jesus can repair and make even more beautiful.

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Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week

Contactless **£100** (Weekly collection of the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)
Monthly standing order **£210.00**. Thank you for your offertories to the Parish.

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday we have teas and coffees in the parish hall - *Remember, the joy of tea and coffee lies not just in the beverages themselves but in the shared moments and conversations. Cheers to building beautiful connections over a cuppa!* ☺

Dear brothers and sisters, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your generosity and unwavering support. Your contributions to the Easter Raffles have made a significant impact. **Special thanks to the Parish council team and especially Margaret for their tireless efforts in raising a commendable sum of £1,625.** Your dedication has not gone unnoticed. The funds raised have been put to excellent use! We recently replaced the parish hall's side fire exit doors, which had been broken for quite a long time now. **The total cost of this essential upgrade was £4,474.99 (please check the noticeboard at the entrance of the church).** Now, our community is safer and better equipped. May your kindness continue to ripple through our parish, bringing light and hope to all. With Prayers. -Fr Sidon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We thank God for the wonder of the creation, we also are grateful for all the benefits and blessings we received from them. Sometimes we need to make decisions that might seem odd and against nature, and it is not always true. We the parish have made one such decision, **that is to remove the Willow Tree in our garden. As its root always goes deep and has caused damages to parking drains that costs a lot to fix.** We are going to remove it and of course place another tree in its place. **We thank God for many memories we create and blessing that come through it.**

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

Priest Training Fund

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently **49** men studying at Allen Hall seminary, **13** of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year **3** deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Certificates 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.*

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 14th - 21st April 2024

Sun	14 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	Albino Toscano - RIP Thanksgiving (For Fr Carlo' speedy recovery)
Mon	15 th		06.00pm	Piedade & João Xavier Braganza - RIP
Tues	16 th		06.00pm	Levina & Matias Francisco Menezes - RIP
Wed	17 th		09.30am	M. P. Varghese - RIP
Fri	19 th		06.00pm	
Sat	20 th		06.00pm	
Sun	21 st	4 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	

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

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

Next Sunday's readings, 21st April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 8-12; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18

The Pope says, "The joy of the Resurrection is ours, because it was given to us on the day of our Baptism. May we embrace the joy of this **#EasterSeason!** Let us hasten to seek out the Risen Christ in the Eucharist, in His forgiveness, in prayer, and in charitable deeds."

11th 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*)