

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



4th Sunday of Easter,

21st April 2024

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

Saying goodbye can be a painful experience. Saying a final goodbye to a loved one can be heartbreaking. That's how the apostles must have felt at the Last Supper when Jesus told them that he was going to leave them. Next day he would meet a savage, degrading death. And the apostles? They would take to their heels, convinced that Jesus' mission was a disaster.

Jesus tried to prepare them for it. A few days earlier he had begged them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled", even hinting that when he returned to the Father, he'd be closer to them than ever before. And so it was. Within weeks of his death, these same men were boldly proclaiming, "Jesus is alive. We've seen him in the flesh". They recalled how the apostle Thomas had once asked, "We don't know where you're going . . . so how can we know the way?" They remembered Jesus' precious reply: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

"I am the way" — Jesus doesn't point outwards, as if to indicate a route to be followed. He points to himself, "I am the way". Walking in step with him, we draw closer to God, we understand what it means to have God as our Father.

"I am the truth" - Jesus doesn't simply speak the truth: he is the truth. In everything he does — in his miracles, his care for the sick and rejected, his acceptance of a cruel death - all is truth, a revelation of the true nature of our God. When one of his friends said that all he wanted was to see this Father that Jesus was always talking about, Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus and the Father are equal in every way.

"I am the life" - Life is God's gift to us, a gift so precious that people cling to it even in appalling circumstances. An early Christian writer claimed that the glory of God is a human being who is fully alive. That is what Jesus has come to offer us: "I have come that (you) may have life and have it abundantly."

"Abundant life" - not simply a continuation of life as we know it, but a new and richer life than we could ever imagine, untouched by pain or sadness or distress: the life that was planted in our hearts on the day of our baptism and, like baptism, is ours for ever. No wonder Jesus spoke of it as "being born again"!

All this that we've talked about so far is the message that the apostles were delivering within weeks of the resurrection, and, as Peter tells us in today's second reading, many souls were coming to accept it. I wonder why? Not because of the say-so of a bunch of Galilean fishermen, but because of their personal experience that Jesus is truly the Way

and Truth and Life.

Since that day, countless others have made the same discovery. In his first encyclical letter Pope Benedict explained that becoming a Christian isn't simply a personal decision we make. Rather, it is an encounter we experience with a person. That person, Jesus, gives life a new horizon and a new direction. Ultimately, the reason we are here today is because Jesus is truly the Way and Truth and Life.

The Second Vatican Council was the initiative of Pope John XXIII, "Good Pope John", as he was popularly known. He had quickly endeared himself to countless souls, whatever their religious affiliation, by his humility and gentle sense of humour.

One night, so the story goes, he was pacing to and fro in his room, weighed down by his heavy responsibilities, when he heard a voice. It was the voice of the Lord: "You go to bed, now, I'll pace up and down for the rest of the night". Whatever the origin of the story, its message is still true because, although life still has its difficulties, Jesus remains our everlasting hope. As Peter put it in our second reading today, to hope in Jesus is like being called by God out of darkness into his own glorious light.

Sometimes friends say, "I wish I had your faith". As we know, faith is not of our making. It is a sheer gift of God. And that is precisely why we are here today — to make Eucharist, to give thanks to the Father through his Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, the one God, who is our Way and Truth and Life.

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Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week

5th Sunday of Lent was Envelopes **£48.00** and Loose Plate **£193.90**

Palm Sunday was Envelopes **£20.00** and Loose Plate **£274.18**

Easter Sunday was Envelopes **£0.00** and Loose Plate **£886.03**

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!* ☺

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teas and Coffees this Sunday after 11.30am Mass

Feast of St George, Patron of England, Tuesday 23rd April 2024

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

Kid's Disco Night: Date: May 25, 2024

An evening of joy, dance, and laughter awaits, meticulously crafted by the vibrant youth of our parish. It's more than a party; it's a night to honour the young hearts that will shape the future of our church and our world.

Family Ticket: Only **£5** One ticket grants access to the entire family, promising an unforgettable experience for all.

Offertory Envelopes Available: for those who've requested Offertory envelopes, please reach out to Tricia at **01784 2542028**.

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. 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 gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. 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 21st - 28th April 2024

Sun	21 st	4 th Sunday of Easter (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	
Mon	22 nd		06.00pm	Matilda & Jose Menezes - RIP
Tues	23 rd	St George, Martyr, Patron of England	06.00pm	Georgette Feegrade - RIP
Wed	24 th		09.30am	
Fri	26 th		06.00pm	
Sat	27 th		06.00pm	
Sun	28 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	

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

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

Next Sunday's readings, 28th April - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9: 26-31; 1 John 3: 18-24; John 15: 1-8

The Pope says, "May we learn to cultivate the virtue of temperance. By controlling our words and actions we can avoid useless conflicts and promote #Peace in our society."
#GeneralAudience
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)