

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



5th Sunday of Easter,

28th April 2024

"It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

The world is full of gardeners and, just as with flowers and fruit, gardeners come in all shapes and sizes. We have the professionals who dedicate their lives to producing the best of blooms, new and old, and we have the city dwellers with nothing but window boxes and indoor plants who still manage to create havens of beauty and interest. Then there are those who grow plants commercially to feed the world's population.

Over the last hundred years we have seen the development of all sorts of chemical and mechanical aids to enhance productivity. This was followed by the rather terrifying discovery that many of these aids were having a destructive effect on the environment and the birds and bees that were nature's system of support for growth. Some of the food being produced, at its best, could be lacking in nutrients. At its worst, it could prove toxic. The movement now, sometimes called the slow movement, is looking to find ways of working with nature rather than against it. Nature is to be regarded as our bosom friend rather than as an enemy that must be subdued. This approach will take time and we don't know whether we have that luxury. Our earlier ideas of progress are resulting in rapid climate changes and the consequent transformation of the planet into a desert, which of course will not bear fruit. How shall we enable our earth to bear fruit that will last?

Jesus is very fond of the image of the vine. He also uses other pastoral images: the flowers of the field, ears of corn and seed that is sown, but he likens the kingdom of heaven to a vineyard on more than one occasion and stresses our responsibility for helping the vines to flourish. In today's reading he goes even further and speaks of himself as the vine of which we are the branches. He then uses images from the practices of cultivating a vine to deepen our understanding of how we may become his disciples. The images he uses apply equally to vine cultivation today as in the time of Jesus. You can't leave a vine to its own devices. It will just sprawl all over the place and produce leaves rather than fruit. To counteract this tendency the vine grower severely prunes each vine during the winter months.

Jesus says we are pruned by his words. It is through listening to him that we stay on the right course and produce fruit. If we don't do this, if we don't remain attached to him, then we are like dead branches that are good for nothing but to be thrown away. There is no easy choice: we either submit to being pruned, that is, to be formed and developed by his teaching, or we are thrown on the fire. Jesus will go on to say that this is the

mystery of his love, the Father's love for him and his love for us. Bound to him through this love we can survive the troubles earthly life brings us and be able in our turn to bear the love that will last.

We sometimes think of our lives as purely enclosed by our individual occupations and relationships. Our responsibilities end at the garden gate. The state of our present world urges us to extend that viewpoint so that we ask more wide-reaching questions. Is there anything I can do in my life that will make this world a better place to live in? The image of the vine as expressed by Jesus may help us to find a way of responding to this challenge. As Jesus sees it, we can only bear fruit if we are in union with him. We celebrate that union in the Eucharist, where his word also helps us to see our way more clearly. The fruit we then bear is not restricted to being kind to our family and friends but to seeing how our stewardship of the world may best be achieved. If this is done by working with nature rather than against it, it is also achieved by working with the many others who are working with the same intent, even if their values and motivation may, in other ways, differ from ours.

The fruit we are trying to bear is literally a fruit that will last and is grown, not through exploitation, but through cooperation and shared goodwill - and as the civil rights anthem once encouraged us, "we shall overcome someday!"

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Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week

Contactless **£20** (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

This Sunday 28th April 2024: we have the parish cleaning after the 10.30am Holy Mass. We kindly request some extra helping hands to keep the House of our Lord clean and tidy.

Teas and Coffees Next Sunday after 10.30am Mass

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

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or by contacting the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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 28th April - 05th May 2024

Sun	28 th	5 th Sunday of Easter (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	Megan Pugsley - For wellbeing. Stephen .K. Lo - RIP
Mon	29 th	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	06.00pm	
Tues	30 th		06.00pm	
Wed	01 st		09.30am	
Fri	03 rd	Ss Philip and James, Apostles	06.00pm	
Sat	04 th		06.00pm	
Sun	05 th	6 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am	

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

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

Next Sunday's readings, 05th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

The Pope says, "Faith is born of the compassionate gaze with which God looks upon us. It softens the hardness of our hearts, heals our wounds, and gives us new eyes to gaze upon ourselves, others, and every situation we experience, even the most painful."

26th 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*)