

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
Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

21st Sunday in the OT

23rd August 2026

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" - Matthew 16:15

In 2015, the artist known as Banksy created a sculpture called *How Heavy It Weighs*. It depicts an overloaded remote-controlled boat and was raffled on Instagram to raise money for refugees. Banksy has consistently supported refugees, including donating wood and other materials to refugee camps in Calais for building shelters. He uses his art to highlight the plight of migrants and society's negative attitudes towards them. When he spoke about his work depicting Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, with a black bin bag over his shoulder, he said, 'We're often led to believe migration is a drain on the country's resources, but Steve Jobs was the son of a Syrian migrant. Apple is the world's most profitable company… and it only exists because they allowed in a young man from Homs.'

In 2020, Banksy funded a rescue boat to save refugees who faced danger in the Mediterranean after being forced to flee from their homes because of war or persecution. The mission statement for the vessel states that, 'We on board the *Louise Michel* believe we are all individuals; nationality should not make a difference to what rights one has and how we treat each other.'

Jesus has been spending time on the way to Jerusalem, teaching the people who come to see him. They ask him questions, sometimes out of real interest, sometimes trying to catch him out. Today he asks his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' Perhaps he'd overheard gossip about his possible identity, which seems beyond that of a carpenter from Nazareth. We can't be sure why people might have been gossiping about Jesus, although many people like to be part of elites or special groups that only a few can join. Do they want to be associated with Jesus because they believe his message, or from a desire to be seen with a celebrity?

Jesus, as so often, challenges his listeners' ready-made assumptions and value judgements. 'But who do you say that I am?' It's a question which demands a personal response and commitment. Peter replies, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' He has glimpsed the reality of Jesus. His answer is an 'I believe' that enables Jesus to declare Peter to be the rock on which he will build the Church. He does not say that the road will be easy. He knows that Peter has much to learn. However, as Pope Francis said, 'He tells us things as they truly are: the doorway is narrow'.

Peter's declaration of faith in Jesus gives him no time to worry about whether he is part of a special group, an elite who will be rewarded. Instead, Jesus focuses on what it will mean to Peter to be the rock on which the Church will be built. Glimpsing the truth of Jesus' identity invites commitment and confers responsibilities. Life will not be easy; it will be full of difficulties and challenges which will eventually lead to Peter's crucifixion. He will learn and grow through his experience, become more loving, and learn to care more about others. His faith in Jesus will be a constant challenge to change, to be transformed. He will unite or divide communities through his attitude toward them, but Peter's new role is to work with the other disciples to bring hope.

How do the other disciples react when they hear Peter call Jesus 'the Christ, the Son of the living God'? Do they suddenly realise that Peter has expressed something that their hearts have known but not yet put into words? We don't know.

People will come from east and west, north and south, and as we read in Luke's Gospel, they will 'recline at table in the kingdom of God'. How wonderful that sounds – but it isn't yet the right time for the disciples to rush out into the towns and villages with the good news about Jesus. It's too early. Calvary, the resurrection and Pentecost must happen first. The Father has revealed Jesus' identity, but even Peter, the 'rock', needs the Holy Spirit's strength and guidance. Jesus tells his disciples to say nothing. They will lead the Church, but Jesus is still planting the seeds. Gradually, people will see that 'a carpenter from Nazareth' is building the Church and inviting them to say with Peter, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

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PRAYER LIFE IN THE PARISH

First Friday of the Month - Holy Hour from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm, followed by Holy Mass.

First and Third Sundays of the Month: We have the Siro-Malankara Mass at 2.30 pm.

ACTIVE LIFE OF THE PARISH

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, we serve tea and coffee 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 cup of coffee!*** ☕

Every 2nd Saturday: Garden Cleaning. Every 4th Sunday: Church Cleaning.

Dear Parents/Elders: Please note **STRICTLY NO FOOD** in the Church, and please give the Children **SOFT TOYS ONLY**

Dear All, please note that ***NAPPIES must not be put in the TOILET BINS;*** they should be taken with you and disposed of in the bins at home.

Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories last week.

FUNDRAISING 2026 – Collection gathered to date: **£12,983.36**

Contactless **£30.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Holy Communion 2027. Application Forms will be available on the parish website from 01 September 2026. ***The closing date for submission is 31st October 2026****. You will also find the* ***Application Form QR code*** *in the* ***Narthex****. No Application will be accepted after the closing date.*

Please note the Holy Mass on **Tuesday, 8th Sept 2026**. The Mass timing has **changed from 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm.**

THIRD ANNUAL CHARITY DINNER DANCE

Join us for our **Third Annual Charity Dinner Dance** on **Saturday, 10 October 2026, from 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm.**

Come and enjoy an evening of delicious food, music, dancing, fellowship, and fun, while supporting our parish fundraising efforts. It promises to be a wonderful occasion for our parish community, families, and friends to come together in support of a worthy cause.

Date: Saturday, 10 October 2026
Time: 5:30 pm – 11:00 pm

Please save the date! For further details, including ticket information, to book your tickets, please contact the following members: **Margaret 07877744426, Trish 07742436682, Gosia 07975639411, Rejy 07894496622, Pelazia 07411581438, Vishal 07414730905 and Agostinho 07440303094.**

We look forward to welcoming you to a memorable evening in support of our parish.

ST. DAVID'S CHOIR FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Join us on **Sunday, 13th September, immediately after the 10:30 AM Mass**, for a special St. David's Choir Fundraising Concert in the parish hall.

This event promises to be an enjoyable couple of hours of music, fellowship, and community spirit.

ADMISSION:

- ***£5 per person***
- ***Children under 10 – Free***

During the event, refreshments will be available, along with an exciting raffle, making it a wonderful opportunity to spend time together while supporting our parish.

Tickets/sign-ups will be available through the ChurchSuite Events page from Monday, 10th August. Simply **scan the QR code** on the event poster to reserve your ticket. No payment is required when booking through ChurchSuite — reserved tickets can be paid for at the entrance on the day of the concert.

Printed tickets will also be available to purchase from **Saturday, 15th August**, at weekend Masses.

All proceeds from the concert will go towards St. David's ongoing fundraising efforts, helping us continue the important improvements and projects that benefit our parish community.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for your incredible generosity and continued support of St. David's Parish. Your encouragement and commitment make these projects possible, and we hope you will join us for what promises to be a memorable afternoon of music, friendship, and celebration.

We look forward to welcoming you on September 13th!

FUNDRAISING

Following a review of quotes to replace the church windows and identify further essential roof repairs, we have launched a fundraising campaign with **a target of £50,000** over the coming months. To make giving easier, ***a collection box for Fund Envelopes has now been placed under the Divine Mercy Photo Frame.*** We will also offer contactless giving options and host various parish events to support the appeal. ***A progress poster is displayed at the church entrance and will be updated every two weeks.*** We are grateful for your continued prayers and goodwill as we work together to preserve our church. **Thank you for helping us care for this sacred space for future generations.**

Thank you for your continued support and care for our church.

Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding representative, Pelazia Rodrigues. You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 7798 9356 or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

For Jobs, please visit the diocese Jobsite at: https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick and housebound in our parish.

For Fr Sidon Sagar and Fr Anthony Cruz and the parishioners of St David's, Stanwell in the Upper Thames Deanery.

For the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that in large cities often marked with anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community

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Mass Intentions 23rd – 30th Aug 2026

Sun	**23rd**	**21st Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	
		10.30 am	
Mon	**24th**	**St Bartholomew, Apostle**	
		06.00 pm	All souls in the purgatory
Tues	**25th**	**06.00 pm**	
Wed	**26th**	**09.30 am**	
Fri	**28th**	**St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**	
		06.00 pm	
Sat	**29th**	**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Twyla Fernandes' Birthday
Sun	**30th**	**22nd Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	

This Sunday's readings, 23rd Aug – 21st Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 22: 15, 19-23; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20
Next Sunday's readings, 30th Aug – 22nd Sunday in the OT
Jeremiah 20: 17-9; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*Music fosters communion. It helps unite our hearts to overcome differences between people and bring everyone together in praise of God through a symphony of voices.* ***#GeneralAudience***."

19th August 2026



The month of August is dedicated to
THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

This month, let us honour our beloved Mother in a special way by offering as many rosaries as possible in reparation for the sins and blasphemies against Her Immaculate Heart and Our Lord Jesus, for the conversion of sinners, and for our own personal intentions. Mother dear, accept our prayers and lead us to Jesus, Your Loving Son. **Amen.**