


# ST DAVID's RC CHURCH

**64, Everest Road, Stanwell,**
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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


## 22nd Sunday in the OT

**30th August 2026**

***'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'***

**Who among us is not afraid of suffering? Nobody ever said that life would be easy. At some point, all of us will experience loss, sadness and pain. Perhaps a relationship ends, or we experience depression or anxiety. For some, serious illness or the death of a loved one can be a terrible burden to carry. Sometimes other people create and impose our cross. For Jeremiah, in our first reading, his cross was the ridicule and condemnation of those around him.**

**None of us can escape the cross, which is part of being human. Each of us will carry it at some point in our lives. For some, it will be a lifelong burden.**

**We are tempted to believe that following Jesus should make life smoother, safer and more secure. But in today's passage, Jesus confronts that assumption head-on. He tells the disciples that the path he walks leads not to immediate triumph but to suffering, and that anyone who follows him must be prepared for the same.**

Jesus gives Peter a sharp reprimand: 'Get behind me, Satan!' Peter was focusing on the wrong things: he wanted to avoid pain and death. But Jesus is telling him to see things differently—that suffering and death can lead to new life and resurrection. In fact, spiritual renewal and growth often follow a crisis or some disaster.

Various explanations have been offered for Jesus' instruction to take up our cross and follow him. One interpretation is that Jesus acknowledges the burdens we must shoulder, but they should not prevent us from discipleship. Broken relationships, illness or caring for a sick family member should not stop us from being a follower of Christ. By accepting our situation and trusting in God, we can ease the burden of carrying such crosses. In fact, elsewhere in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light'. The invitation here is also to let Jesus shoulder our burden. The one who carried his own cross to Calvary is offering to help us carry ours. We are to walk the same path that he did.

For this to happen, we may have to acknowledge and embrace our own weakness and vulnerability, recognising that we cannot do this on our own. By placing our trust in Christ, we can see that he is by our side, experiencing our pain and bearing it with us. In the words of Pope Francis, 'There is no cross, big or small, in our life which the Lord does not share with us.'

**Pain and suffering receive meaning through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. We save our lives by losing them. And we lose our life through sacrificial self-giving love.**

**Another interpretation of today's Gospel is that, by taking up the cross, we surrender ourselves to the will of God. We are dying to self to discover who we really are and why we are here. Taking up our cross can be a positive action – loving the unloved, reaching out to that person whom everyone else ignores, volunteering for a charity. Perhaps we have never thought of things this way – 'denying ourselves' to help someone else, and in the process finding our true identity. Taking up the cross is not about losing our life; it is about finding it—in new and surprising ways and places we never thought existed.**

**When we take up our** cross and allow Jesus to help us, we are, in this way, also helping Jesus to carry his.

In our second reading, Paul says we must think like Jesus, who wants us to experience a life of total love and freedom. In a culture that tells us to 'look out for number one', Jesus calls us to costly love. In a world that avoids suffering at all costs, he invites us to trust God, even in pain. Can we accept Jesus' call for a radical reorientation of our lives? Can we move away from a selfish preoccupation with our own self and towards a life of love and self-giving, accepting suffering as a path to transformation and union with 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;*** take them with you and dispose of them in the bins at home.

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***Offertory Collection*** - Thank you for your offertories last week.

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

Contactless **£20.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

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## 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,** with a procession followed by the Holy Mass.

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### MISSION RED BOX THANK YOU AND APPEAL

**Next weekend** we will welcome Fr Joseph to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world mission, and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

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### 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. At Springwest Academy in Feltham.**

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.***

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## 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!***

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## 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.

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**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 job site at: https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/***

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**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 30th Aug – 06th Sept 2026

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| **Sun** | **30th** | **22nd Sunday in the OT** | | |
| | | **(Sat Vigil)** | **06.00 pm** | Twyla Fernandes Birthday – Thanksgiving Mass |
| | | | **10.30 am** | |
| **Mon** | **31st** | | **06.00 pm** | Soul of Caetan Jose Cardozo 11th death Anniversary |
| **Tues** | **01st** | | **06.00 pm** | Muriil (Healing Mass) |
| **Wed** | **02nd** | | **09.30 am** | |
| **Fri** | **04th** | | **06.00 pm** | |
| **Sat** | **05th** | | **06.00 pm** | |
| **Sun** | **06th** | **23rd Sunday in the OT** | | |
| | | | **10.30 am** | |

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**This Sunday's readings, 30th Aug – 22nd Sunday in the OT**
Jeremiah 20: 17-9; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27
**Next Sunday's readings, 06th Sep – 23rd Sunday in the OT**
Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Romans 13: 8-10; Matthew 18: 15-20

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**Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message:** "*The liturgy is not merely an outward observance, but a living encounter with God. Let us participate in the liturgy consciously, devoutly, and actively, so that we may grow in faith.* ***#GeneralAudience***."

**26th August 2026**

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The month of September is dedicated to
**OUR LADY OF SORROWS**



The name of Our Lady of Sorrows centres on the extraordinary and bittersweet suffering the Blessed Mother experienced during Christ's Passion. As seen in the artwork above, her agony is composed of "***The Seven Dolors,***" that pierced the Heart of Mary. Dürer's portrayal of each event encompasses the central figure of Christ's sorrowful Mother. Holy Mother, imprint deeply upon my heart the wounds of the Crucified.