

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

23rd Sunday in the OT
06th September 2026

"Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour."

A story is told about a Roman nobleman who died, leaving enormous debts that he had successfully concealed during his lifetime. When the estate was put up for auction, Caesar Augustus instructed his agent to buy the man's pillow. When some expressed surprise at the order, he explained, "That pillow must be particularly conducive to sleep, if its late owner, in spite of all his debts, could sleep on it." While this little story might make us laugh, being in debt is a serious affair. It creates stress and leaves many people feeling vulnerable and afraid. Few of us with any sense of responsibility would be able to sleep well at night if we were in serious financial debt. We might also find it emotionally and spiritually difficult if we owe another person a debt of forgiveness and healing. Our three readings today speak in some way about being in debt to, or having responsibility for, our brothers and sisters.

Ezekiel, in today's first reading, gives us the typical image of an Old Testament prophet and preacher. He warns his listeners about sin and judgment and brings their attention to the wickedness around them. Throughout the Old Testament, we often see the prophets deliver harsh judgments against the people of Israel as they stray from the path God has laid out for them. In essence, what the God of Israel wants is for all to be saved and return to the path of goodness and right.

In the second reading, Paul says, in his letter to the Romans, that love is the only debt worth incurring. It is the only thing that "cannot hurt your neighbour" This is a recurring theme with Paul: elsewhere, in his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes, "the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself." We can hear the same theme in Ephesians: "follow Christ by loving as he loved you".

Matthew speaks in today's Gospel of how we might win back our brother or sister, should there be a conflict between us. Matthew is offering us a path to reconciliation and healing. In reality, we will all, at one time or another, disagree with others, possibly even with family members. Matthew offers us an opportunity to find a different and better way to heal and forgive.

The threat the prophet Ezekiel speaks of is not external. It is internal. This call to healing and forgiveness is personal to each of us. It is an invitation to look inwards and to seek what separates us from the love of God and our neighbour. Likewise, when Paul invites us to take on the "debt of mutual love", we might ask: how can we do this? The answer could be found in the first letter of St Paul to the Christians at Corinth. Here Paul advises them that "Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence

and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end."

Such an attitude of love is surely the backdrop to approaching those who hurt or wrong us. If we live by these principles of love, we will desire not only our own healing but also the restoration of our relationship with our brother or sister. In seeking to live out the message of our readings today, we might ask ourselves: what do we do when we see someone straying from the path of faith? Do we shrug our shoulders and say, "That's their choice", or do we try to win them back with love and understanding? Equally, what do we do when we are hurt by someone close to us? Do we ruminate on the hurt done to us, or do we seek to win back those who have hurt us by adopting a loving approach? As "love is the one thing that cannot hurt [our] neighbour," let us try to be more loving and to offer words of love and healing to those we meet this week.

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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.

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 are available on the parish website. ***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.*

Confirmation 2027. Application Forms will be available on the Parish Website from 15th September.

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.

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 and an exciting raffle will be available, making it a wonderful opportunity to spend time together while supporting our parish.

Tickets/sign-ups are available through the ChurchSuite Events page. Simply **scan the QR code** on the event poster to reserve your ticket. No payment is required when booking through ChurchSuite — you can pay for reserved tickets at the entrance on the day of the concert.

Printed tickets will also be available to purchase 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 sincerely thank 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 for replacing the church windows and identifying 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 job site 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	**6th**	**23rd Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	
		10.30 am	Cecilio Sedenio & Arturo Mass RIP
Mon	**7th**	**06.00 pm**	
Tues	**8th**	**06.30 pm**	Thanksgiving – Rohan & Aiza Braggs
Wed	**9th**	**09.30 am**	Rufina Cardozo RIP 8th death Anniversary
Fri	**10th**	**06.00 pm**	
Sat	**11th**	**06.00 pm**	Jackie & Azam Khan RIP
Sun	**12th**	**24th Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Thanksgiving – Cathy Afonso

This Sunday's readings, 5th Sep – 23rd Sunday in the OT
(Mass book page 125)
Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Romans 13: 8-10; Matthew 18: 15-20
Next Sunday's readings, 13th Sep – 24th Sunday in the OT
Sirach 27:30 – 28: 7; Romans 14: 7-9; Matthew 18: 21- 35

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "The Church cannot remain passive or indifferent to what happens in the world. Rather, she is called to journey alongside humanity, especially in light of the rapid and profound changes taking place. #GeneralAudience"

2nd September **2026**

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.