

Sunday Ordinary Time

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

24th Sunday in the OT

13th September 2026

Probably one of the most difficult of Jesus' teachings is that we must love anyone who sins against us. Not only that, but we are told to forgive the wrongs they have inflicted on us. We are all aware of the dreadful things that human beings can do to one another. But who is my enemy? Does this just mean the one who has invaded my territory and attacked my home and family? Or do I have to forgive the bully who tormented me? Must I forgive the person whose lies or abuse have ruined my life? Or the scammer who has stolen my money and my identity? The answer is yes. Jesus' words are unequivocal. If we seek the salvation of our souls we must forgive to the utmost – even 'seventy-seven times'. It is a hard teaching.

It seems impossible to go through life without being offended by someone. We are very inclined to hold grudges against people we think have wronged us, particularly if we feel they've done us an injustice. Sometimes the matter is relatively trivial. At other times, the offence can be grievous. Who can forgive the murder of a child, for example, or the grief caused by terrorism? Of course, the ultimate words of forgiveness came from Jesus himself on the cross: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

Jesus understood the entire question of forgiveness is complicated. In today's Gospel, his parable illustrates his knowledge of human nature. Even if we have been treated well and let off our punishment, it is easy to give way to the temptation of inflicting pain on somebody else. We all know about the bully who has been bullied in the past and takes it out on other people, or the abuser who was abused in childhood.

Jealousy and spite are responsible for a great deal of misery in many people's lives. Revenge can be a motive for many acts of violence. It is also often a theme in popular entertainment. But 'an eye for an eye' goes against all Christian teaching. The need for forgiveness will always exist. We are generally not dealing with questions of murder in our daily lives, but with trying to cope with the challenges of living in harmony. Even within the family, making or accepting an apology is not always easy. Husbands and wives are often under stress. Sibling rivalry can be a very real source of discomfort. There is rarely an easy solution to the problem of hurt feelings and betrayal.

However, in the first reading today we are told it is sinful to hold on to anger. If we seek God's forgiveness for our own sins, we must forgive others the wrongs they have done to us. We must show mercy if we want God's mercy.

When we say the Lord's Prayer, do we really think about the words 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'? Often, we speak the words thoughtlessly, heedless of their true meaning. Truly, we must ask forgiveness for our own failings, but in return must forgive the failings of others, whatever they may be.

Pope Leo says the answer is love. In his Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te, he says, 'Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant… and reconciles enemies… Love is, above all, a way of looking at life and a way of living it'.

Many of us tend to see life from a negative point of view. We are forever making decisions about our own behaviour and that of others. However, instead of finding fault and being inclined to criticise and condemn in the family, the workplace, school, college or society, we must teach the

virtues of love and compassion, treating others with consideration. Human lives are a kaleidoscope of experiences and emotions: we interact with one another in so many ways that it is impossible not to feel anger at times. But we are called upon to pardon any offence committed against us and we must not harbour hatred.

So, as we seek God's mercy, we follow Jesus' words: we forswear anger; we are willing to reconcile ourselves with those we might think of as enemies. We sinners accept our own guilt and ask for pardon. Our souls are God's and we are granted eternal life if we show love to our neighbour by forgiving them in all circumstances, even the most difficult.

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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: **£13,966.38**

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 **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	**13th**	**23rd Sunday in the OT**		
		(Sat Vigil)	**06.00 pm**	Jackie & Azam Khan RIP
			10.30 am	Thanksgiving – Cathy Afonso
Mon	**14th**		**06.00 pm**	Healing of Margaret Boyes
Tues	**15th**		**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving – Korah Naique (Birthday)
Wed	**16th**		**09.30 am**	Thanksgiving – Alda Melane
Fri	**18th**		**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving – Charleston Lourenlo
Sat	**19th**		**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving – Atien Pereira
Sun	**20th**	**24th Sunday in the OT**		
			10.30 am	Thanksgiving – Estrocio (Birthday)

This Sunday's readings, 13th Sep – 24th Sunday in the OT
(Mass book page 128)

Sirach 27:30 – 28: 7; Romans 14: 7- 9; Matthew 18: 21- 35.

Next Sunday's readings, 20th Sep – 25th Sunday in the OT

Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20: 1-16

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "Lord of Life, You have given us the gift of water, source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope. It quenches thirst, nourishes the earth, and heals wounds. We see with pain so many brothers and sisters who lack clean water, who walk for miles to find it, who become ill due to its scarcity. Forgive us for turning it into a commodity, forgetting that it is a universal gift, a right without borders, meant for all your children. Let's **#PrayTogether**"

10th 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.