

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

25th Sunday in the OT

20th September 2026

'Do you begrudge my generosity?'

Have you ever felt unfairly treated by your boss? Perhaps you don't feel you earn enough for the job you do, or maybe you've felt short-changed for all the effort you've put in. Many of us have been there! There is something to annoy us all in today's parable of the vineyard labourers. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay each person one denarius a day, he continues to hire new people, including some at the eleventh hour. When he comes to pay them, all are given the same, which leads the first-hired to grumble and complain – why should they be paid the same as those who only did an hour's work? The landowner replies, 'Do you begrudge my generosity?' The landowner is clearly not a businessman; he's not interested in paying the going rate – what he does is simply not fair. Surely, we should get what we earn?

God's love for us knows no bounds and doesn't conform to our conventional notions of justice. It is freely given to all in equal measure: those who have been Christians all their lives and those who come late to the party; those who worship every Sunday and those who never darken the door of a church; those who shout 'Lord, Lord!' and those who don't. God has a generous love beyond all our understanding, beyond all our human notions of fairness and 'what is right'. Jesus is telling his followers that this unlimited love keeps on giving: there is no end to it. It cannot be earned by hard work and is freely given to all.

The needs of those who arrive late to the vineyard are no less than those of those who got there early. The latecomers aren't necessarily lazy; they are the ones 'no one has hired', people who were overlooked, marginalised and desperate, those whom society puts at the back of the queue. They too have families to feed and bills to pay – the landowner asks the workers to look with solidarity on their brothers and sisters and be grateful for his benevolence. Similarly, God knows what we need, and

God isn't being unfair to the first group, who receive exactly what had been agreed: he is being extraordinarily generous to the last. This is the heart of the Gospel: God never gives us what we deserve; he gives us what we need.

The landowner asks the question: 'Do you begrudge my generosity?' In the original Greek, this is literally, 'Is your eye evil because I am good?'

We too can have this 'evil eye': perhaps by being envious of our neighbour's blessings or good fortune, or by feeling cheated because life appears to have treated others better than us. Surely we deserve better treatment? However, the moment we start counting our merit we lose sight of the fact that the vineyard itself is a gift. Just being invited by Christ to work for the kingdom is the primary reward, the 'pearl of great value'. We work in the vineyard not to get a wage or 'brownie points' in heaven, but because we love the landowner.

Our ego-driven self always seems to want love to be earned rather than freely given. But God's love which cannot be measured out like this: one person will never receive more than another. Grace is not a finite pie; if God gives a large slice to someone else, that doesn't leave less for us. Of course, this is all a gift, and we are free to walk away from God. But this parable tells us that

even if we come back at the eleventh hour, we will still receive the fullness of his love. Thus, 'the last will be first'.

Note that we can often agree with parables like this in our heads whilst our hearts scream, 'No way!' This is only human. It's only when we start putting Jesus' ideas into practice that we will know whether we really believe them and whether we have really changed. Can I see myself in solidarity with my neighbour rather than in competition? Can I rejoice in God's generosity rather than grumbling about fairness?

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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 **£0.00** *(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 are available on the Parish Website from 15th September.

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, don't hesitate to get in touch with 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.

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

Mass Intentions 20th – 27th Sep 2026

Sun	**20th**	**24th Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Thanksgiving – Atien Pereira (6th Birthday)
		10.30 am	Thanksgiving – Joshua Estrocio (Birthday)
Mon	**21st**	**06.00 pm**	Lourenco Caetano Sequeira RIP
Tues	**22nd**	**06.00 pm**	Jozef Celousky RIP
Wed	**23rd**	**09.30 am**	Joe D'Mello RIP
Fri	**25th**	**06.00 pm**	Vernon Noronha RIP
Sat	**26th**	**06.00 pm**	Matias Francisco & Lerina Menezes RIP
Sun	**27th**	**25th Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Tommy Oliver RIP

This Sunday's readings, 20th Sep – 24th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20: 1-16
Next Sunday's readings, 27th Sep – 26th Sunday in the OT
Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*The vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice, and free participation in constructing the common good.* #GeneralAudience

16th 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.