

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

26th Sunday in the OT

27th September 2026

A father asks his son for help and is refused. Later, the situation changes, and he does what his father wants. The second son initially agrees to work in the vineyard and then doesn't go. One works, and the other does nothing. Both might have good reasons for refusing or agreeing to work: Jesus is merely telling a story and highlighting events that his listeners could all recognise. Can't we all think of similar occasions in our own home? Haven't we all found excuses to avoid jobs we really don't want to do – even when we know they'll take only a couple of minutes?

Jesus knows his audience. Some individuals want to look good, perhaps gaining status in their local community, but do nothing to help the people around them. Then there are others, perhaps known for living less-than-ideal lives, who have hearts of gold and aren't bothered about keeping up appearances: if their help is needed, they are there.

This parable is not about agricultural labour or family dynamics. It is about the difference between appearance and reality, between words and deeds, between outward religiosity and inward conversion. Jesus is speaking directly to the chief priests and elders – those who looked the part, spoke the part, and held the authority of religious leadership. Yet he tells them that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of them. Why? Because those who seemed furthest from holiness were the ones who responded to God's call with repentance and a change of life.

The first son represents those who may say 'no' with their lips or their lifestyle. But something happens: their heart softens, and they turn back. Their 'no' becomes a 'yes' lived out in action. They are not perfect, but they are honest. They allow God to change them. The second son represents those who say all the right things, know how to appear obedient, respectable and devout. But their 'yes' is only a skin-deep performance that doesn't touch their heart or change their life. Their relationship with God remains only lip service.

Which son am I? And perhaps more challengingly, when am I each son? Because the truth is most of us have moments of both. Sometimes we resist God's call when we know what is right but hesitate, delay or refuse. Yet, by grace, we sometimes find ourselves turning back, doing the very thing we once resisted. In those moments we resemble the first son, whose initial refusal becomes obedience. And there are times when we speak the language of faith easily, when we say 'yes' to God in prayer, in church, in conversation – but fail to follow through. We intend to forgive but instead hold on to resentment; to pray but give up on the effort; to serve but stay comfortable. In those moments we resemble the second son, whose actions don't live up to his words.

Jesus' message reminds us that the kingdom of God is not about perfect beginnings but about faithful follow-through. What matters is not whether our first response was ideal, but whether we allow God to draw us into deeper obedience now. Jesus praises the tax collectors and prostitutes because of their willingness to change. They hear John the Baptist's call to repentance, respond, and their messy lives become fruitful. Meanwhile, the self-righteous religious leaders, the 'know-it-alls' who think they are better than everyone else ignore any reasons for change – and disregard God's invitation to become more loving, simple and humble.

Jesus' story of the two sons reminds us that change is always possible and that God delights in every step we take towards him, no matter how late or hesitant. His arms are always wide open and waiting for us. What matters is our response today. Going into God's vineyard means choosing forgiveness when bitterness feels easier, offering kindness when indifference takes less effort, making time for prayer when life feels crowded, speaking truth with love, serving without applause and allowing God to reshape our priorities.

And in this Season of Creation, we might remember the ways in which people are changing and relearning to care for our beautiful world – and we have the joy of watching its response. Working in God's vineyard can be hard work – but it's worth it! It makes flowers grow in our gardens – and in the hearts of the people around us.

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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 – CHOIR CONCERT – £1055.00. *Thank you for your love and support*

FUNDRAISING 2026 – Collection gathered to date: **£18,098.38**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: Tuesday, 29th September 2026, 6.00pm Mass has been moved to 9.30am, as it's the Parish Feast of St Michael's Church. All are welcome to Ashford, St Michael's Church, to celebrate the Feast of the Archangels with our Sister Parish **at 7.00 pm.**

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 the identification of 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 Christian De Lisle and the parishioners of St. Ignatius, Sunbury-on-Thames; and the staff and pupils of St. Paul's College.

For the Holy Father's Prayer Intention for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Mass Intentions 27th Sep – 04th Oct 2026

Sun	**27th**	**26th Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Matias Francisco & Lerina Menezes – RIP
		10.30 am	Tommy Oliver – RIP
Mon	**28th**	**06.00 pm**	Vencila Rodrigues' - Birthday
Tues	**29th**	**Ss Michael, Gabriel and Rafael, Archangels**	
		09.30 am	Manuel & Amelia Gomes – RIP
Wed	**30th**	**St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church**	
		09.30 am	Agnelo & Joe Menezes – RIP
Fri	**02nd**	**Holy Guardian Angels**	
		06.00 pm	For Good Health
Sat	**03rd**	**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Maria Pereira
Sun	**04th**	**27th Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Avelino & Ira Toscano – RIP

This Sunday's readings, 27th Sep – 26th Sunday in the OT
Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32
Next Sunday's readings, 04th Oct – 27th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*To savour God's closeness and human fraternity, we must reject desires that consume our relationships without giving anything in return or filling us with things that cannot nourish us. Such a lifestyle drives us to have everything, but to become no one; to receive countless "likes," but to remain alone with ourselves. When we decide not to follow that lifestyle, we then begin to strive toward righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Those who live with God strive for what is best.*" #ApostolicJourney

25th 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.