

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

27th Sunday in the OT

04th October 2026

In the far north of England, the remains of Hadrian's Wall attract tourists and archaeologists alike. Emperor Hadrian ordered it built during the Roman occupation of Britain. Although the Romans had conquered most of the country, they found the northern tribes too much to handle and built a wall to keep them out.

Until recently, one place along Hadrian's Wall drew visitors for its beauty and the sense of peace it offered. In a dip between two hills was a lone sycamore tree that had stood for over a hundred and fifty years. It needs a poet to describe it, but perhaps it is enough to say it was a lovely scene. On the morning of 28 September 2023, visitors were shocked to see that the tree had been felled the previous night with a chainsaw in an act of vandalism. The shock, sadness and anger were not confined to Britain but made headlines in many countries, including the USA, India and Australia. It hit hard, like the sudden loss of an old friend: a beautiful part of God's creation destroyed. This lovely, felled sycamore could be a parable about what reckless humanity does to the Lord's work.

Today is the last day of the Season of Creation, which started on 1 September. The idea began in 1989, when Patriarch Dimitrios of the Eastern Orthodox Church asked his people to pray and act for the good of Creation, our common home. Over the years, the idea attracted other Churches and has now spread all over the world. It is no coincidence that the season finishes on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, who died 800 years ago this year. Francis saw in all Creation the loving presence of Jesus; that is why he could talk of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Sister Water and Brother Fire, and even Sister Death. More of what that means in a moment.

In many of his parables, Jesus uses imagery from nature: sheep, goats, wheat, corn, trees, and so on. His story of the vineyard in today's reading is lost on his hearers, who do not realise it applies to them. In the parable, the tenants see the delights of Creation in the vineyard and its grapes, which will produce wine for their comfort, as something to possess and exploit rather than receive with gratitude. And in answering Jesus' question, they still do not get it: they are the murderous tenants.

We will soon say the Creed together, and there is a sentence in our proclamation of belief in our Lord Jesus Christ: 'through him all things were made'. It is such a profound statement that it is almost hidden in a throwaway line. But 'were made' can be replaced with 'are made': it is a continuing process. As it says in the Eucharistic Prayer, 'all Creation rightly gives you praise'. And in a while, when the bread and wine are brought to be offered at the altar, they are presented to God in gratitude that these physical fruits of the earth, through the work of human hands, will soon become our spiritual food and drink. These simple things take on an eternal dimension.

St Francis expressed his wonder at Jesus' love for us in a letter he wrote: 'O humble sublimity, O sublime humility. The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles himself that for our salvation, he hides himself under an ordinary piece of bread... Look at the humility of God and pour out your hearts before him! Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by him! Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that he who gives himself totally to you may receive you totally.'

Pope Francis reflected on the Eucharist in his letter titled *Desiderio desideravi* ('I have eagerly desired'). These are the opening Latin words of a passage from St Luke's Gospel, in which Jesus tells his disciples how much he had longed to eat the Passover meal with them. Pope Francis wrote, 'For us, a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need him.'

Jesus, we need you. Come into our hearts, hearts you created, restless until they rest in you.

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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.

20th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£246.71** and Envelope: **£10.00.**
21st Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£204.57** and Envelope: **£25.00.**
22nd Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£204.26** and Envelope: **£5.00.**
23rd Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£211.06** and Envelope: **£0.00.**
24th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£253.24** and Envelope: **£0.00.**
25th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£193.43** and Envelope: **£5.00.**

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

Contactless **£83.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) for Secondary School Admission. Certificates will be issued in the Parish Hall on **Sunday 18th September from 11:30 am.** *Join us for a cup of tea and for the certificate. Do not forget to bring int h with you your* ***child's baptism certificate*** *and* ***First Holy Communion certificate****.*

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 and to book your tickets, don't hesitate to 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.

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 the just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Mass Intentions 04th – 11th Oct 2026

Sun	**04th**	**27th Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass – Maria Pereira
		10.30 am	Avelino & Ira Toscano – RIP
Mon	**05th**	**06.00 pm**	Xavier and Adeliade Deniz – RIP
Tues	**06th**	**06.00 am**	Tony Conway - RIP
Wed	07th	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	
		09.30 am	Jabamalai Kumary – Birthday Intention
Fri	**09th**	**St John Henry Newman, Priest and Doctor of the Church**	
		06.00 pm	
Sat	**10th**	**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Kiyan Naique & Socorrihna
Sun	**11th**	**28th Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Aurora Rebello - RIP

This Sunday's readings, 04th Oct – 27th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43
Next Sunday's readings, 11th Oct – 28th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22: 1-14

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*In this era of artificial intelligence, it is becoming urgent to distinguish human art from what machines produce. There is an ontological difference, even before an aesthetic one, between art and what a machine can generate through statistical calculation based on millions of images created by others. Algorithms lack the spark of humanity. For this reason, the Church wishes to renew an alliance with artists and cultural institutions to safeguard our humanity.*"

02nd October **2026**

The month of October is dedicated to
THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY



"Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources — from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church — it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven. "If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. Many are the favours granted to private individuals through its devout recitation: few devoted users of the Rosary cannot testify to experiencing its power in their own lives. If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary.