

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

28th Sunday in the OT
11th October 2026

'Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' - Matthew 22:4

In Jane Austen's novel Emma, Emma Woodhouse is the main character. She is wealthy and has decided not to get married. She is 'handsome, clever and rich, with a comfortable home and a happy disposition'. But she does love to be heavily involved in other people's lives. Jane Austen herself said that she had created 'A heroine whom no-one but myself will much like,' but as the plot thickens, we can find both good and bad in Emma. She is a very human character. In the novel, we see Emma's local community very much through her eyes. She is an important part of this community, along with Mr Knightley, the only person who dares to stand up to her. She makes terrible mistakes – misinterpreting other people's behaviour and pushing other characters around. She is used to getting her own way – her mother died when she was young, and she has been running the household since then. Her father is there, but not very present or communicative. She has a lot to learn about life, other people and, of course, herself. She is so busy finding out what others are up to that she forgets to reflect on her own behaviour. But she has a good heart. Her life changes when her governess, who has become a good friend, leaves to get married. After that, we follow her through her challenges, learning and setbacks.

This parable starts with a feast, a huge banquet that a king has prepared for his son's wedding. Guests have been invited, but they all find excuses not to come. The king tries three times until the hall is finally full. In the end, he has invited everyone, 'both bad and good'.

This story teaches us that everyone is welcome; everyone is invited to the great feast that God has prepared for us. God is generous and loving; everything we need is offered to us in abundance. We are all welcome at the table; no one is left out. But it's not a one-sided relationship. God reaches out with love. God is love. Are we ready to respond?

This parable makes clear that some of us are not ready – we are too busy; maybe we have too many distractions. The invited guests refuse the offer because they prioritise other things. Some of us are unwilling to change, like the guest at the end of the story. He's invited and he's happy to come along to the feast, but he won't put on his best clothes so that he can fully experience the joy, goodness and happiness on offer.

Emma, in the story we heard about, is too busy trying to change the way other people behave to even look at her own behaviour. She tries to steer people in the way that she thinks is best for them, rather than supporting and encouraging them. Even though she has a good heart and acts with the best of motives, she fails to consider what others in her community want. She pushes people around like pieces on a chessboard, or avatars in a video game. It's only after she starts to reflect on what she is doing and makes changes in her own attitudes and behaviour that she can make a proper contribution to her local community.

In the parable Jesus tells, many people are invited to a feast. Who would not want to go? But all of them have other priorities. The invitation drops to the bottom of the to-do list. This is a challenging parable. Even the guest who does turn up is not allowed in. He has not changed his clothes. What does this mean? It suggests that turning up on autopilot is not enough. We need to take the time to reflect, to pray and to make changes to our own attitudes and behaviour so that we can fully

participate in the feast on offer. **Of course, everyone is busy. We have somehow constructed a society where it feels like there is no time – no time to spend with our family, no time to help others, no time simply to stop, rest and pray. Our value as humans is measured only by our productivity, as if we were robots. Yet as humans, as children of God, this pause, this moment to reflect on who we are, to pray and to listen to God's voice in our life, is key. How else can we respond to God's invitation to fully participate in the feast on offer?**

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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.

26th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£233.15** and Envelope: **£10.00.**
27th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£282.79** and Envelope: **£5.00.**

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

Contactless **£25.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Teas and Coffees; do not forget to join in.

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

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.

Thank you for the **Third Annual Charity Dinner Dance** **Last Saturday, 10 October 2026.**

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 Stephen Beale and the parishioners of The Sacred Heart, Teddington, and the Sons of Divine Providence of Hampton Wick in the Upper Thames Deanery.

For the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that the mental health ministry, be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. .

Mass Intentions 11th – 18th Oct 2026

Sun	**11th**	**28th Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass – Kiyan Naique & Socorrihna
		10.30 am	Aurora Rebello - RIP
Mon	**12th**	**06.00 pm**	Tracey Herriven Hamp – Good Health
Tues	**13th**	**St Edward the Confessor, Patron of the Diocese**	
		06.00 am	John Palmer – Good Health
Wed	**14th**	**09.30 am**	
Fri	**16th**	**06.00 pm**	
Sat	**17th**	**06.00 pm**	
Sun	**18th**	**29th Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Perpetua Lobo – Thanksgiving Mass

This Sunday's readings, 11th Oct – 28th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22: 1-14
Next Sunday's readings, 18th Oct – 29th Sunday in the OT
Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b; Matthew 22: 15-21

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*Intelligence must draw on memory. The mind must not simply compile data — as an algorithm now does more quickly than we can — but recall lived experiences, which contain depths of meaning that only the human soul can recognise, and connect more deeply with the goodness of these experiences. Everything that is good begins "with the Spirit" and thus possesses a breath, a dynamism and a sense of communion that, once experienced, are engraved upon the heart.*" **FULL Text Click HERE**

08th 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.