

ST DAVID's RC CHURCH

64, Everest Road, Stanwell,
Staines upon Thames, TW19 7EE

Tel: 01784 252230
e-Mail: stanwellparish@rcdow.org.uk
WWW: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanwell/

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

30th Sunday in the OT

25th October 2026

"***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and… your neighbour as yourself.***"

'It's not fair,' said Jamie. 'It's just not fair,' he muttered repeatedly as he walked slowly round the playground with his friend Alex.

'What's not fair?' asked the puzzled classroom assistant who was pushing Alex's wheelchair.

'It's not fair that Alex has Pelizaeus–Merzbacher Syndrome and I only have cerebral palsy,' said Jamie.

Gifted, big-hearted, and with an insatiable love of words, Jamie had forgotten the challenges he faced in his youth and had become a champion for those he considered less fortunate than himself. Jamie could talk (a lot!), while Alex couldn't utter a word. Jamie could walk short distances, but Alex needed a specially adapted wheelchair because he had to lie supine. Jamie had some useful residual vision, while Alex was registered blind. Jamie considered himself Alex's best friend, but also his 'bodyguard'. Along with a quick temper, Jamie could use his fists. Indeed, the classroom assistant was more alert regarding Jamie than she ever needed to be with Alex.

Jamie himself was a vulnerable child who could not grasp the intricacies of the law. Having watched lots of crime movies, Jamie had a romanticised notion of 'good' and 'bad'. He once accosted a visiting policeman, held up his wrists to be handcuffed and said cheerfully, 'Arrest me, Officer!' He was greatly disappointed when the policeman dismissed his plea, saying he was far too busy with real police work, such as safely escorting old ladies across the road. The irony was lost on Jamie.

While staff did their best to educate vulnerable children in school, Parliament fiercely debated conflicting legislation that eventually became law.

In Scotland, the Freedom of Information Act came into effect at the beginning of 2005. Education Services were kept busy organising in-service training for staff. At one such event, the Head of Legal Services walked staff through the new law. During question time, one headteacher asked, 'How does all this fit with the Data Protection Act?' Staff were already familiar with the Act, which came into force in 1998. The speaker became very animated. Smiling, he replied, 'It's sure to cause much debate in the future. Lawyers are waiting for a test case to surface in the courts.' He was delighted.

If Scottish law was becoming ever more complex, it was nothing compared with the minutiae of Jewish Law that Jesus encountered when he came to save us from sin and reveal the wonder of God's great love for us. The Sadducees and Pharisees had their own lawyers who enjoyed pitting one law against another. They tried to trick Jesus, who saw love of God and neighbour as paramount. Jesus saw the Law as a means to this end, not an end in itself.

In the Book of Exodus, we read how God passionately defends the weak and vulnerable and expects his people to do likewise. For those who do not share God's compassion, the warning is stern: 'my wrath will burn'. If, on their walks around the playground, anyone had broken this commandment toward his friend Alex, Jamie would have embodied God's wrath.

Francis of Assisi once told his friars, 'Go forth and preach the good news – and use words if you have to!' Francis knew what Paul understood in the early days of Christianity: our greatest sermon

is how we live our lives. We need not say anything. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds his readers how they received the Word with the joy of the Holy Spirit and that their faith in God had 'gone forth everywhere'. People could see the joy of the Gospel, and so Paul could add, 'We need not say anything.'

Jesus invites us to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus teaches us insights revealed, in a veiled way, by our children. They teach us that we are all weak, vulnerable and utterly dependent on the compassion of God. When we rest in his love and extend that love to others, we will begin to understand the fulfilment of the Law.

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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.

28th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£204.43** and Envelope: **£5.00.**
29th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£224.24** and Envelope: **£20.00.**

DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISING Collection - **£8,000.00 –** *Thank you so much.*

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

Contactless **£40.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

📢✨ Announcement: Ven. Father Agnelo Novena Mass ✨📢

St Michael & St David parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate the Ven. Father Agnelo Novena Mass, celebrated by Father Renato Andrade, **on Monday, 9th November at 6:00 pm at St Michael Parish, Ashford**. ⛪🙏

☕🍪 **Tea and coffee will be served after Mass.**

Let us gather as one community in prayer and gratitude. 🙏❤️✨

All Saints, Sunday 1st November. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite Saint for the 9.15am and 11.30am Sunday Masses on 1st November.

Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) signing for Reception 2027 entry will be held in the Presbytery on ***Wednesday 25th November, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm***, and on ***Friday 27th November,***

6.45 to 7.45pm. Please bring your child's Baptism Certificate (no photo on your phone; bring the original paperwork).

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****. We will not accept any applications after the closing date.*

Confirmation 2027. Application forms are available on the Parish Website from 15th September.

FUNDRAISING

Following a review of quotes to replace the church windows and the identification of further essential roof repairs, we have launched a fundraising campaign targeting **£50,000** over the coming months. To make giving easier, ***we have placed a collection box for Fund Envelopes 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 25th Oct – 01st Nov 2026

Sun	**25th**	**30th Sunday in the OT**		
		(Sat Vigil)	**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Starlon & Evelyn Pereira
			10.30 am	Thanksgiving Mass – 3rd Annual Fundraising: Frank & Margaret Sequiera, Parish Council and Social Team
Mon	**26th**		**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Leslie Pereira
Tues	**27th**		**06.00 am**	
Wed	**28th**		**09.30 am**	Thanksgiving Mass – Mrs Maximiona Cabra – Birthday
Fri	**30th**		**06.00 pm**	For Sebastina, Anthony, Menino Souls
Sat	**31st**		**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass Cleonie Lourenco - Birthday
Sun	**01st**	**All Saints**		
			10.30 am	

This Sunday's readings, 25th Oct – 30th Sunday in the OT

Exodus 22: 21-27; 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10; Matthew 22: 34-40

Next Sunday's readings, 01st Nov – All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*The well-being of the individual and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family" (Gaudium et spes, 47). The Church is well aware of this, as shown by the pastoral concern of the Popes who have succeeded one another since the last Council, right up to the two Synodal Assemblies convened by Pope Francis, which were addressed again in recent days by the Heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences.* ***#GeneralAudience."***

21st 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.