

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

All Saints

01st November 2026

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

We have just celebrated the Year of St Francis, marking 800 years since the saint's death. One of the Church's best-known and most beloved saints was as remarkable in his passing as he was in life. In his Canticle, composed shortly before his death, he wrote:

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
From whom no one living can escape…
Blessed are those whom she will find in your most holy will,
For the second death will do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
And give him thanks and serve him
Humbly but grandly!

St Francis willingly embraced Sister Death, having been granted by God a vision of the blissful life of heaven awaiting him. His heroic and exemplary life can inspire and encourage us, but it may also leave us feeling unworthy or disempowered, for few are called or gifted to live such a life or die such a graced death. Yet nothing is lost: the road to sanctity lies open before each of us. This Feast of All Saints inspires and encourages us, giving us hope that the life of glory enjoyed by the saints awaits us too, by God's mercy and grace.

For Jesus, our life in heaven is rooted in, and springs from, our life now, here below. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted witnesses can all rejoice, for they are blessed and filled with God's grace.

The path to sainthood is both carrot and stick: we are inspired and encouraged yet also challenged and urged forward. The mystical vision of St John in Revelation appeals to our imagination and presents a visual symphony of heaven, where all the redeemed surround the throne of the Lamb, the Lord who was slain and is alive. Our only response to this vision is adoration and praise. We are enticed onward and upward: what those who have gone before us achieved is also promised to us.

The first letter of John teaches that our transformation and translation into God's glory is not our work but God's: 'We know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.' Moses, who merely glimpsed the Lord's glory, came down from the mountain with his face shining. We hope in the Lord and are purified, made pure as he is pure.

What practical steps might we take towards sainthood? Wise words, variously attributed to a business entrepreneur and to Buddha, are surely helpful here:

Watch your thoughts; they become words; watch your words; they become actions; watch your actions; they become habits; watch your habits; they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

For the Christian, this becomes a powerful, transformative path to sanctity. It invites us to be formed by the Word of God as we encounter it in the Scriptures and in the Church's liturgy. At Mass, we are immersed in the Word of God: in the greeting, the sacred dialogue between priest and

people, the readings, the surrounding symbolism, the prayers and hymns, and the dismissal, which sends us out to share what we have received.

The Word of God shapes our thoughts, keeps us focused on God, and orients us toward him. Imbued with the Word, we increasingly act in God's ways. Beginning with our divinely inspired thoughts, we eventually arrive at the destiny prepared for us: the glory of the kingdom of heaven. Suddenly, the daunting task of becoming saints can seem manageable, something we can all focus our efforts on.

Today's feast reminds us of something else, something vital: we are not merely on a personal, individual journey where we can become lost, confused, or discouraged. We are a pilgrim people, travelling together, offering one another help, support, consolation, inspiration, encouragement and hope. As we journey together, we arrive at our heavenly destination together and are welcomed into the community of all who have travelled before us and triumphed against the odds. We are now eternally among the blessed.

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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: **£18,098.38**

Contactless **£55.00** *(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.

November Blessing of Graves. On Saturday, 7th November, I will bless the graves of your family

members at **Long Lane Cemetery at 11.00 am**, **Stanwell Cemetery at 2.00 pm**, and **Staines Cemetery at 3.00 pm**.

November List. Envelopes for the names of your departed loved ones are now available in the narthex. Please place the completed envelopes in the wooden box at the back of the church. *We will offer two Masses per week in November for the souls of your departed family and friends on the November list.*

First Holy Communion 2027 and **Confirmation 2027.** Application forms are now closed.

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).***

FUNDRAISING

After reviewing quotes to replace the church windows and identifying 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 Canon Peter Newby and the parishioners of St James, Twickenham in the Upper Thames Deanery, and for staff and students of St Mary's College, Twickenham.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the proper use of wealth: that, not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Mass Intentions 01st – 08th Nov 2026

Sun	**01st**	**All Saints**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass Cleonie Lourenco - Birthday
		10.30 am	
Mon	**02nd**	**06.00 pm**	Mrs Inacihna Pinheiro - 1st Death Anniversary
Tues	**03rd**	**06.00 am**	Pauline Downing – RIP
Wed	**04th**	**09.30 am**	
Fri	**06th**	**06.00 pm**	Soul of Anthony Sagaya – 1st Death Anniversary
Sat	**07th**	**06.00 pm**	
Sun	**08th**	**32nd Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	Adler Fernandes – 5th Birthday

This Sunday's readings, 01st Nov – All Saints Sunday
Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a
Next Sunday's readings, 08th Nov – 32nd Sunday in the OT
Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

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 November is dedicated to
THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY



The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise.
The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament, prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection." It was believed that "they who had fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

- Excerpted from Liturgical Meditations, The Sisters of St. Dominic