

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

32nd Sunday in OT
08th November 2026

'Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

It is always very moving to visit a Commonwealth war cemetery. The sight of rows of gravestones stretching into the distance is very poignant. Walking along the rows, one is always struck by how young those who died were. They are mostly young men who gave their lives in service and sacrifice. Their religion is identified, and together they share in death. Different religions express the hope of eternal, immortal life through their symbols.

War is always a tragedy. St Augustine, who argued that, under certain conditions, war could be justified because of human sin, recognised war's tragedy and grieved deeply over the suffering and death it caused. He cried a lament about warfare: 'People say a wise person will fight in wars that are just. But if someone remembers they are human, they will grieve that they must fight at all – even in a just war. Anyone who feels joy at even a just war has lost touch with their humanity.' We weep at warfare and the suffering it causes. We also recognise the lives of those who died so that we might have freedom.

St Paul, writing to the Church in Thessalonica, consoles the early Christians about the Lord's second coming, which they expected, and writes to them about the hope of eternal life. Whether they are alive or dead when Christ returns, all will hear God's trumpet and rise to glory. The sound of the trumpet, as we hear in Handel's Messiah, has become a metaphor for the summons of death and calls for readiness to meet the Lord's merciful judgment.

This theme is repeated in the Gospel. We can understand the virgins carrying their lamps in the context of the wedding feast. After the betrothal, they often waited a long time before marriage. When the wedding day arrived, the bridegroom left his house with his entourage and walked to his bride's home. They then walked to their new house for the wedding feast, led by maiden friends bearing their lamps. Those unwilling to share their oil are not hard-hearted; rather, they fear that if they share it, there won't be enough to keep the lamps burning until they reach the groom and bride's new house. It would be embarrassing to lose the way in the darkness if the lamps went out.

Jesus' parable uses this image to symbolise the need to be ready to meet the Lord whenever he returns. We can think of the virgins as the Christian community waiting for the return of the Lord. Jesus warns his disciples to stay ready for this day and to live with fidelity to the Gospel at all times. The oil can be understood to represent the good deeds of a person's life. As St John of the Cross writes: 'At the end of your life, you will be judged on love.'

The words: 'Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour,' have become a warning to be ready. For those engaged in warfare, both in the Armed Forces and those who are suffering because of war, the closeness of death is a daily reality, and each moment of life is precious.

On this Remembrance Sunday, we pray for those who have died in warfare for freedom and security. We thank God for the chaplains who serve the forces, accompany members of the Armed Forces, and offer consolation and faith to those in their care. We also pray for peace in our world, and that we may find ways to overcome war through dialogue and understanding that lead to peacebuilding. Jesus tells us, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'

This Sunday's readings also call us to face our own encounter with death with courage and Christian faith in Christ's resurrection. This faith leads to hope. It also leads to the love expressed by those who care for the sick and seek to save lives, paramedics and healthcare professionals.

We are encouraged to stay faithful in prayer, reconcile with God through the sacrament of reconciliation, and be open to receiving the sacraments and living a life of loving others.

© Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word A4, 2026, adapted

---

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.

30th Sunday in the OT – Loose: **£157.48** and Envelope: **£20.00.**
All Saints Sunday – Loose: **£186.50** and Envelope: **£10.00.**

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

Contactless **£0.00** *(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. 🙏❤️✨

Thank you, dear children, for dressing up as Saints and encouraging all to be the next generation of Saints. Thank you also to the parish family members for helping children learn about the Saints. God bless you all.

🎄 St David's Parish Christmas Fair – Come One, Come All! 🎄

St David's Parish warmly invites everyone to join us for our Christmas Fair on Saturday, 5th December, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at St David's Parish Hall.
Come together as one parish family to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – a time of faith,

love, generosity and togetherness.

🎟️ **Entry: Just £1 per person – Children under 12 go FREE!**

All parishioners are warmly invited to book a stall and showcase their homemade Christmas treats, handmade crafts, games or other festive creations. Spaces are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Scan the QR code on the event poster to register your stall.

🎄 St David's Parish Christmas Nativity & Children's Performance 🎄

Join us on **Saturday, 19th December 2026, from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm** for a joyful evening celebrating the true spirit of Christmas!
A Christmas Nativity in the church, followed by singing, dancing and wonderful performances by the children of our parish and wider community in the Hall. ***Children who are interested in taking part in the Nativity and other performances, please contact Rejy or Pelazia***

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.*

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 at 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 08th – 15th Nov 2026

Sun	**08th**	**32nd Sunday in the OT**	
		(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass – Evelyn Furtado
		10.30 am	Adler Fernandes – 5th Birthday
Mon	**09th**	**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**	
		06.00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass - Schyler Fernandes's 11th Birthday
Tues	**10th**	**St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church**	
		06.00 am	Family Souls of Pereira
Wed	**11th**	**St Martin of Tours, Bishop**	
		09.30 am	Santana Conceicao Dias – RIP, 4th Death Anniversary
Fri	**13th**	**06.00 pm**	Maxwen Pereira – RIP
			(Holy Souls November List – Personal Intention)
Sat	**14th**	**06.00 pm**	Thanksgiving Mass – Fr John Promise Umrozuru
Sun	**15th**	**33rd Sunday in the OT**	
		10.30 am	

This Sunday's readings, 08th Nov – 32nd Sunday in the OT
Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
Next Sunday's readings, 15th Nov – 33rd Sunday in the OT
Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6; Matthew 25: 14-30

Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message: "*Our likeness to Christ also matures in the midst of difficulties, such as when work seems fruitless, when our strength wanes or when we must start anew. Eventually endurance leaves its mark. Over the years, a gaze can become more merciful, hands more willing to serve and words more capable of comforting. May trials always find us united to Jesus, so that they may help us to grow in His love.* ***#ApostolicJourney #Uruguay***." **06th November 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, people offered prayers and alms for the souls of the dead, thinking "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