


# ST DAVID's RC CHURCH

**64, Everest Road, Stanwell,**
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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


## Christ the King Sunday

**22nd November 2026**

***And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."' Matthew 25:40***

**At twenty, David went to work at an emergency night shelter in London for people experiencing homelessness. He wanted to help, but was overwhelmed by the dirt, the noise and the intensity of it all. It felt chaotic, unfamiliar and far beyond anything he had known before. He threw up a quick prayer—then heard someone singing. He followed the sound and found what looked like a mass of hair sitting on a stool, being sheared like a sheep. The hair was filthy, full of lice. Yet as it was cut away, a voice sang while a guitar played—calm, steady, almost joyful. The singer nodded at David as he stood frozen in the doorway.**

**After a while, the singing stopped, and gentle questions began – who he was, where he was from, what he was doing there? Slowly, through those questions, and as the hair fell away, he encountered a man named John. John told David a little of his story, what to expect at the shelter, and even invited him to go busking.**

**Over the next few weeks, John became David's friend—and in many ways he looked after David as he found his feet. What began as discomfort slowly became connection; what felt overwhelming became human.**

Today's Gospel is often heard as a warning – about the consequences of not living a good life, about eternal punishment. And while fear can change behaviour for a time, it rarely changes the heart. This deeper change of heart lies at the centre of Jesus' parable.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples – those who have already chosen to follow him – to live like him, to love like him, slowly to become more like him. This isn't simply about avoiding punishment; it is about transformation. It is about becoming the kind of people who see as Jesus sees and love as Jesus loves.

**When we recognise that all creation comes into being through Jesus, the Word of God, we begin to see that he is present in every part of creation and in every person. No one is outside his presence. No one is beyond his love. This parable, then, is not just instruction; it is revelation. It reveals where Christ can be found: in those who are hungry, strangers, forgotten. It invites us to relate to others differently – more deeply, more attentively, more like Christ.**

**This Gospel is a first step in our response to the love Jesus has already shown us. We are invited – perhaps even challenged – to love those in need, especially those who at first glance seem to have nothing to offer us in return. Jesus knows that when we begin to serve others, when we allow ourselves to truly encounter people in their reality – not at a distance, but up close – we are changed. Our assumptions soften. Our fears lessen. Our hearts expand. We become more like him. We become who we were created to be – part of the Body of Christ, living and active in the world. In giving ourselves to others, we begin to recognise more deeply the selfless love God has for us. We realise that we have nothing with which to repay him – only the invitation to receive his love and to pass it on.**

Like the story of David, when we move beyond seeing people as strangers and begin to truly know them, something shifts. The kingdom grows – not in dramatic moments but in quiet, human encounters.

**And this must be held alongside one of Jesus' most challenging teachings – to love your enemy. When we begin to see those who hurt us not simply as enemies, but as people acting from places of brokenness or need, it changes how we respond. It doesn't excuse their behaviour – but it opens the possibility of love, of patience, of mercy. And when we recognise that Christ is present in them too, our desire for retribution begins to give way to a desire for restoration. In that moment, the kingdom comes a little closer.**

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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.

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***Offertory Collection*** - Thank you for your offertories last week.

**FUNDRAISING 2026** – collection gathered to date: **£24,324.14**

Contactless **£30.00** *(Weekly collection of the* ***contactless*** *in the Church)*
Monthly standing order: ***£500.00.*** Thank you for your offerings to the Parish.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Friday, 27th Nov 2026, at 5.30 pm:** Adoration, followed by Holy Mass for the Souls of deceased family members, Friends, and parishioners and for those souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for.

Please note that there is **NO 6.00 pm Mass at St David's Church on 19th December 2026.** Do join us for the Holy Mass at St Michael's Church, Ashford, at 6 pm.

Please note that the **Holy Mass for the Feast of St Francis Xavier will be held on Monday, 30th November 2026 at 7.00 pm** at St David's Church, Stanwell. Fr Renato will celebrate Mass in Konkani. All are well.

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## 🎄 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***

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**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).***

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## 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.

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**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/***

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**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.**

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# Mass Intentions 22nd – 29th Nov 2026

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| **Sun** | **22nd** | **Christ the King Sunday** | |
| | | **(Sat Vigil) 06.00 pm** | Thanksgiving Mass - Shanelle Fernandes |
| | | **10.30 am** | |
| **Mon** | **23rd** | **06.00 pm** | Holy Souls – November List |
| **Tues** | **24th** | **06.00 am** | Holy Souls – November List |
| **Wed** | **25th** | **09.30 am** | Thanksgiving Mass – Shalton & Karen. |
| **Fri** | **27th** | **06.00 pm** | Souls in Purgatory |
| **Sat** | **28th** | **06.00 pm** | For the Soul of Anthony Sagaya by Mamtha Sagaya |
| **Sun** | **29th** | **1st Sunday of Advent** | |
| | | **10.30 am** | Thanksgiving Mass - St David's Choir – 4th Anniversary |

**This Sunday's readings, 22nd Nov – Christ the King Sunday**
Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28; Matthew 25: 31-46
**Next Sunday's readings, 29th Nov – 1st Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 63: 16b-17; 64: 1, 3b-8; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

**Pope Leo XIV's Tweet Message:** "*Lord of life, forgive us for storing up instead of sharing, for using goods as power rather than as service. We ask you, Lord, that your Spirit teach us to use what we have — money, time, talents, opportunities — as instruments of fraternity. Let's* ***#PrayTogether****.*"
**20th 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*