



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### **PARISH NOTICES**

- ✘ **SATURDAY: Saturday Evening Mass at 6pm will resume again on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.**
- ✘ **WEEKDAY MASS TIME:** Important Change Weekday Mass will be at 9am on Wednesdays and Fridays unless announced differently in the Newsletter.
- ✘ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 23/24:** Registration for the First Holy Communion 2023/24 is now open. This is for children in year 3 and above. Please do arrange a meeting with the Parish Priest by sending an email at [fortunatopantisano@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fortunatopantisano@rcdow.org.uk) Registration will close soon.
- ✘ **ST THOMAS MORE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 an open evening will be held at St Thomas More School from 4pm please visit [www.stmlc.com.uk](http://www.stmlc.com.uk) for more details or see poster in the porch. Also the school is recruiting a Foundation Governor please speak with Fr Fortunato if you are interested.
- ✘ **EVERGREEN CLUB:** The Evergreen Club resumes on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to meet in the Parish Hall from 1pm to 3pm. All welcome, please do come along at least once.
- ✘ **SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH:** Our Church and parish ministry needs your ongoing financial support to survive. Just a reminder - it costs approx. £6,000 a month to cover just the parish's basic running costs and as you will see from the information shared it's been some time now that we don't manage to cover this cost. We do not receive money from the diocese or Vatican or Government but rely 100% on your support. A regular standing order is a great way to support the parish. The parish finance committee kindly ask parishioners to move away from giving cash or using Planned Giving Envelopes for the Sunday Collection. We are encouraged instead to take out a Standing Order or donate online. Please think about and take action. Thank You!  
Our account details are: **HSBC Bank**  
**Account Name: WRCDT Fulham 2.**  
**Account Number: 41290274**  
**Sort Code: 40-05-20**  
You can also donate online by visiting <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stephendaleroad/donate/>  
Thank you for your generous support!

#### **OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH Has Gone Digital -Again!**

We have two **CONTACTLESS DEVICE** now, one at the back of the church and one on the side next to the candles' stands. You can now use your contactless debit/credit card to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. **PLEASE GIFT AID YOUR DONATION!**



- ✘ **GIFT AID DONATION:** If you pay sufficient UK tax on income or capital gains, or on a pension, then please consider Gift Aiding your donations. Gift Aid is a reclaim against your donation from HMRC on the tax that you have already paid. For every £1 that you donate, the parish can reclaim 25p, and it doesn't cost you a penny! For more info visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stephendaleroad/donate/other-ways-to-give/>

*Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

**MARRIAGE UNDER SEIGE**

Most of us over forty were brought up to accept that sex is for marriage, and marriage is for life. Today, this understanding of sex and marriage, and family life as well, is definitely under siege.

The notion that the only moral way to fully express sexual love is within a life-long marriage, is being challenged.

First, it is being challenged in practice. It is an undisputed fact that most young people today, including Catholics, regard sex before marriage, co-habitation, contraception, and the possibility of divorce, as normal. Second, it is being challenged in theory. Many people quite sincerely believe that the old ideas of sex only within marriage, and marriage for life, are socially conditioned.

This was fine in the past, they say, when we lived in close-knit communities, and people rarely moved far from their family or place of birth. But there has been an evolution in the way we live, and it makes our former understanding of sexual relations, marriage and family life, obsolete.

Many people are convinced that “man” does not have a fixed nature with definable, permanent truths; but that “man” is basically a social construct whose way of life and moral values can change, and should change. In front of this reality the Church is not silent. The Church has something to say. But who really listens to the Church? Very few. Most people only “hear” what the Church is against. NO sex before marriage; NO condoms or contraception; NO divorce or second marriage ...

They think this is the truth, as the Church understands it. But what many people fail to grasp is that this is not the whole truth, as the Church understands it. Because the WHOLE truth includes the reasons why the Church teaches these things, and the pastoral care and concern it can offer to those people who feel they are living outside the Church’s teaching.

Is sex before marriage always wrong? Is contraception always wrong? Is divorce always wrong? The Church can answer these questions, but not with sound-bite, or strong words of condemnation. But in a measured, comprehensive and loving way, a way that does not sacrifice compassion and concern.

**GOD LOVES YOU AS YOU ARE!**

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP**

If you would like the Sanctuary Lamp lit before the Blessed Sacrament for a particular intention. Please speak with the parish office or send an email request to [stephendaleroad@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stephendaleroad@rcdow.org.uk). Suggested donation is £10 for each lamp, which burns for a whole week. You can place your donation in the candle’s box.

This week special intention is for: **Faithful Departed**

<b>Missal Book</b> <i>Mass on page 401-403</i>	<b>Mass Times &amp; Readings</b> <i>Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20.</i>	<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	<b>NO 6pm Mass</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  9am Mass  11am Mass	Private Intention  People of the Parish