



## 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 from this week onwards, unless announced differently.
- ✘ **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 in September.
- ✘ **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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

**“IS THERE ANYONE WHO LONGS FOR LIFE?”**

Saint Benedict puts these words into the mouth of the Lord, in the Prologue to his famous Rule. However, you do not have to be a Benedictine monk or nun to yearn for life. No. All of us do! It is written into our DNA – even the laziest of us – so, as we desperately struggle to get out of bed in the morning, yawning, stretching and scratching, the great yearning for life is hotting up in us. This yearning and longing, this urge and restlessness driving us to eat and drink, to achieve, to grow, to make love, is like an insatiable pressure inside of us. Mostly it is unconscious, but certainly there.

You can see it clearly in all nature; in plants, for example. In one of his books, Ronald Rolheiser, the Canadian priest, tells of a friend who decided to get rid of a bamboo plant growing in his drive. He cut it down; took an axe to destroy as much of its roots as possible; poured poison on it; then buried it under several feet of gravel, and finally paved over it with thick cement. Quite a job!

Two years later, the pavement heaved as the bamboo plant began slowly to break through the pavement! Some plant, its life force, its blind pressure to grow and reach the light, just could not be thwarted. This power, this energy to grow, is in all living things. If you put a two-inch band of solid steel around a young water melon, as it grows it will, slowly but surely, burst that band of steel. Yet there is more power, yearning and striving for life in you and me, than in any bamboo plant. And if someone put a two-inch band of solid steel around you, somehow you could burst it too.

You can see this yearning for life in babies at the breast, blindly groping for their mother’s milk. You can see it in teen-agers, all agitated with over-active hormones and raging adrenalin. Young people are yearning for life when they get a holiday tan in a cubicle at the Sun Bed Centre! Even drink and drug abuse, and pornography, is fuelled by this insatiable urge to be alive. Kicks! Older people who dress like teen-agers; ladies who face-lifts; men who dye their greying hair, or have breast reduction surgery, are all caught up in the urge to be fully alive, and be seen to! But the very best place to answer this yearning, this longing for life and love, is through prayer; simple, regular, daily, persevering prayer, and above all, by taking part in the Mass.

In the Sunday Mass, through the Word of God and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, our present life is not simply affirmed or enriched, but NEW life is given us, God’s won life. At Sunday Mass we can connect with him who “gives life to all living things ...” the one who is the “Lord and giver of Life”, the Holy Spirit; the Spirit that raised Christ from death to new life! In the Mass God breathes new life into us; it is like mouth to mouth resuscitation. And the Sacrament of Holy Communion is like receiving a blood transfusion.

How do we know that this is “for real”, that it is not just a nice theory, a concept, a pious idea? How do we know we actually share God’s life; that we are not just existing, or vegetating ...? How? That we have the desire, the will and the strength to love and serve the other; and that we do this with freedom, overcoming our selfishness and self-seeking, and that we look for no reward.

Yes, God’s grace – his own life in us – can break through the concrete that sometimes buries us. God’s grace can burst the solid steel band that sometimes constricts us. Pray these words:

**“O GOD, FOR YOU I LONG, FOR YOU MY SOUL IS YEARNING.  
 EVEN MY BODY PINES FOR YOU. ”**

**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 391-394</i>	<b>Mass Times &amp; Readings</b> <i>Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 62; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27.</i>	<b>Mass Intentions</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023</b>	<b>NO 6pm Mass</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023</b>	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  9am Mass  11am Mass	People of the Parish  Pierpaolo Carvelli RIP