OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish Office: 2 Tynemouth Street, Fulham, SW6 2QT
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Parochial Administrator: Fr Richard Andrew richardandrew@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator: Susan Keogh stephendaleroad@rcdow.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed: 10am - 3.20pm

Parish Notices

✠ **THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH - A message from the Vicar General, Monsignor Martin Hayes:**
In recent years the 'pairing' of some neighbouring parishes in the Diocese of Westminster has been both necessary and advantageous. Necessary because of changing demographics and new realities concerning the numbers and the composition of local communities in London and Hertfordshire, the need to rationalise resources and the declining number of men offering themselves for priesthood in the Diocese, with more lay men and woman becoming more actively involved in the life and work of the Church in parishes and more widely, supporting the clergy and fellow parishioners. There is scope to increase such involvement. Advantageous because of the beneficial sharing of resources, human and material, and because the sustainability and viability of parishes are more secure going forward. Across the Diocese there are some twenty such 'pairings', involving forty-plus parishes. Pairings are in all four pastoral areas of the Diocese. 'Paired' parishes have one Parish Priest serving both parishes and churches. Some also have an Assistant Priest if the size of the parishes and the presence of a school or hospital, etc. make this possible, taking into account the availability of priests. Some also have the benefit of the ministry of a permanent deacon, usually a parishioner of one of the parishes, trained and ordained for this ministry.

From 1 January 2025 the parishes of Holy Cross, Parsons Green and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Fulham 2 - Stephendale Road, will be 'paired' with Fr Bernard Akoeso as Parish Priest of both parishes and continuing to reside in Parsons Green. Inevitably there will need to be some adjustments to the present schedule of Masses in both parishes. Both parishes will continue to have a Finance Committee to assist and advise the Parish Priest. Both parishes will continue to have their distinctive identities while being open to parishioners of, and visitors to, both parishes. Parish boundaries will be maintained while being more porous than rigid. 'Less walls, more bridges' is the way forward for parishes. Please do give the support Fr Bernard will need as he takes on additional responsibilities. He has responded generously to what has been asked of him and he will rely on the prayers and goodwill of the communities of Holy Cross and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

✠ **CHRISTMAS MASSES:** We are happy that our newly appointed Bishop James Curry shall be celebrating Mass here with us on Christmas Eve at 10pm. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Our Christmas Day Mass will be at 10am and celebrated by Monsignor Martin Hayes.

✠ **VOLUNTEERS:** Please if you are available to help out in any way over the Christmas period then email the office or let a member of the parish team know. We particularly need someone who knows how to use a pressure washer to clean the step outside the church. Thanks to everyone who helped on Sunday with the removal of the old Missals and replacing them with the new ones. It went very smoothly. A particular thanks to Wilma and her daughters and Kathy Kelly for their help. Many hands make light work.

✠ **TOM AROWOJOLU'S FUNERAL:** Tom's funeral will be held on Friday 6th December at 11am and Fr Joe Ryan will say the Mass. The committal will follow at Mortlake Cemetery, SW14 7BU at 1pm. The funeral reception will be held at Sands End Community Centre, SW6 3EZ from 3.30 – 10pm. Tom was a valued and loved member of our parish and his family would like as many of you as possible to attend his funeral.

✠ **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Please could you donate money for the Christmas flowers and put it into the box in the porch, which is on the wall on the left as you enter church marked FLOWERS. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

✠ **CHRISTMAS FETE:** The Christmas Fete will be held on Saturday 14th December from 1-4 pm. Last year was a very successful day due to the generosity of parishioners donating prizes for the tombola and the raffle. There will be a box at the back of the Church for donations of bottles, chocolates, cakes etc. All will be

gratefully received. All money raised on the day will go to the parish funds.

✠ **CHRISTMAS DINNER:** The annual Christmas dinner will be held in the Hall on Saturday 21st December from 7 pm. Once again we are very lucky to have Francesco cooking up a storm. Tickets will cost £15, or £10 for pensioners and children. This includes a drink on arrival. Please bring your own drinks for the rest of the evening. The night will finish with a grand raffle. Tickets will go on sale this weekend. As we have done for the last few years, all profits will go towards a homeless charity. Last year we sent £700 to Crisis at Christmas. Let's try and beat that figure this year.

✠ **SACRED HEART SCHOOL: 'The Nunnery at Hammersmith' 13 December 2024 7.00pm (doors open 6.45pm)** Sacred Heart High School opened its doors to the public in June 2024 to give a talk about new research into the truly extraordinary history those who have lived and worked on their site in Hammersmith from 1669 to the present day. This was a huge success, described by some as jaw-dropping and riveting. Many who attended in June asked for the talk to be repeated. A new date has been set for a repeat performance (!) on **Friday 13 December** with refreshments after and chance to view the cloister paintings and some historical artefacts. A new discovery will also be announced! No better way for you to spend a winter evening!! Fuller details and tickets are available here: The Nunnery at Hammersmith. Riveting talk with refreshments. | Events | Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith

✠ **THE EVERGREEN CLUB:** They meet on Mondays 1-3pm in the hall for a chat over tea, coffee and cake. There is a weekly raffle, games, monthly bingo and guest speakers. It's a chance to meet new friends and is open to all ages. There's a weekly donation of £3 to cover costs.

✠ **BIDDING PRAYERS:** The diocesan Data Protection Officer has advised that sick people should give their permission for their names to be read out in the Bidding Prayers at Mass, and mention of particular health conditions should not be made unless specifically requested.

✠ **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please can you remember the sick of our parish in your prayers:
Connie Arowojolu; Baby Gloria; Jacqueline Kelleher; Patrick Murphy; Maureen Palmer; Alma Smith.

✠ **PARISH CONTACTS:** Fr Richard is the Parochial Administrator which means he is the priest in charge of our parish. Here's a guide on who to contact for your enquiry. For all other enquiries or if you're not sure who to contact please email the parish office:
Fr Richard Andrew: School forms; Marriage; Deaths; Pastoral needs richardandrew@rcdow.org.uk
Jackie Charles: First Holy Communion and Confirmation: stephendaleroadcat@rcdow.org.uk
Liz Cetin: Baptism Preparation Classes: cetinliz@yahoo.com

✠ **PLEASE GIFT AID YOUR CONTACTLESS DONATIONS:** When making your donation by card there is the option to gift aid your donation on the screen, simply click yes and once you have entered your details you do not have to do it again for future donations. Please ensure that we have the full first line of your address. For more info visit: **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stephendaleroad/donate/other-ways-to-give/**

✠ **SUPPLY PRIESTS FOR NOVEMBER:**

DATE	TIME	CELEBRATION MASS	PRIEST	PAGE
1st December	9 and 11am	First Sunday of Advent	Fr Martin Hayes	82
8th December	9 and 11am	Second Sunday of Advent	Fr Martin Hayes	85
15th December	9 and 11am	Third Sunday of Advent	Fr Martin Hayes	88
22nd December	9 and 11am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fr Martin Hayes	90
24th December	10pm	The Nativity of The Lord – Vigil Mass Christmas Eve	Bishop James Curry	94
25th December	10am	The Nativity of The Lord - Christmas Day	Fr Martin Hayes	102
29th December	9 and 11am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Fr Martin Hayes	105

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. Each lamp burns for a whole week.

This week's special intention is for: Baby Gloria