



# PRECIOUS WOUNDS BULLETIN

The Five Precious Wounds Catholic Church,  
Brentfield Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 8ER

**Mass Times:** Saturdays 6 pm;  
Sundays 10 am & 12:00 noon.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am.  
**Holy Hour:** Fridays after Mass  
**Confessions:** Fridays after Mass from 10:40 am  
to 11:20 am, Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm  
**Office open:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday,  
10.30am – 2.30pm  
**Website:**  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>  
**Telephone** 020 89653313  
**email** stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk

**Clergy:** Father Tony Thomas  
(tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk) and  
Deacon Andrew Safo-Poku  
**School:** Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk)  
**Nigerian Friends** meet Monthly on the 2nd Sunday of  
the month at 1 pm  
**Ghanaian Association** meet Monthly on the last  
Sunday of the month at 1 pm  
**Filipino Association:** Mass on the First Sunday of the  
month at 3 pm  
**NeoCatechumenal Way:** Wednesday evenings at  
8.00pm and Saturday evenings at 8pm in the hall

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (4<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

### TODAY'S MASS READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Is 30: 19, 30  
O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**First reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10  
A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)  
He does not judge by appearances,  
he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the  
land.  
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,  
his sentences bring death to the wicked.  
  
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,

faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,  
the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion feed together,  
with a little boy to lead them.  
The cow and the bear make friends,  
their young lie down together.  
The lion eats straw like the ox.  
The infant plays over the cobra's  
hole;  
into the viper's lair  
the young child puts his hand.  
They do no hurt, no harm,  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the  
Lord  
as the waters swell the sea.  
That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to  
the peoples.  
It will be sought out by the nations  
and its home will be glorious.



**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.

**Second reading:** Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Lk3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

'Repentance' seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values. Is my scale of values compatible with those of the Kingship of God? How far do they coincide?



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

## **This week's Mass intentions**

**Saturday 6.00pm** - Patrick & Mary Ann Flanagan - RIP Anniversary

**Sunday 10.00am** - Michael Timlin - RIP

**Sunday 12 Noon** - People of the Parish

**Tuesday 10.00am** - Dennis Hartnett - RIP

**Wednesday 10.00am** - Michael Cutinha - RIP

**Thursday 10.00am** - Jahrye Mahon

**Friday 10.00am** - Esther and William Seath - RIP

## **Last week's collection**

Planned giving £415.50; Loose plate £341.40. Our parish relies entirely on your donations to pay our bills, so thank you for making a difference! Many are now switching to making a standing order with their banks to make their weekly contributions. For more information, please visit our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/donate/> and follow the link to making a donation.

## **Change to the weekday Mass schedule**

Fr Tony writes: After a year in Stonebridge, I have reviewed the parish schedule and from this week I will be taking my rest day on Mondays. This means weekday Masses will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10.00am. The church will be closed on Mondays. The office opening hours will be 10.30am-2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I thank you for your understanding and apologise if this causes anyone any inconvenience.

## **Advent and Christmas**

A booklet with the times of all our Advent and Christmas services is now available. Here is an important date for your diary: our **Annual Carol Service on Thursday 15th December at 6.30pm**, followed by a reception and raffle in the hall. All welcome!

## **Open House**

There will be **NO** Open House this week. The next Open House will be between 5pm and 6pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, when you can see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment

## **Confessions during Advent**

There will be extra opportunities to go to Confession during Advent. As well as our regular Confessions on Friday mornings (10.40am-11.20am) and Saturday evenings (5.15pm and 5.45pm), a priest will be available to hear Confessions during the **10.00am and 12.00pm Masses today (4th December)**. Please do avail yourselves of this opportunity to receive God's grace and forgiveness during this penitential season.

## **Red poinsettia plants**

Do you think you can bring a poinsettia plant or two to decorate the church for Christmas? As in other years, we would like to make the church look beautiful with a sea of red plants! You can leave your plant donation by the Sacred Heart Chapel.

If you cannot donate a plant, please consider making a donation towards the cost of our Christmas flowers. There is a donation box in the wall on the left immediately as you come into church. Thank you!

## **Volunteers needed to decorate the church for Christmas**

After the 12.00pm Mass on 11<sup>th</sup> December, we need as many helpers as possible to help put up Christmas decorations in church. This is so that the church looks festive for the carol concert on 15<sup>th</sup>. Please come along if you can!

## **Second collection next weekend**

Next Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, is known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. 'Gaudete' in Latin means 'Rejoice', and on Gaudete Sunday we rejoice that the Lord's coming is close at hand.

On Gaudete Sunday, priests and deacons traditionally wear rose-coloured vestments for Mass. However, while Fr Tony has a rose-coloured vestment, Deacon Andrew does not! On 11<sup>th</sup> December, therefore, we are going to have a second collection to buy a rose-coloured vestment for Deacon Andrew – please give as generously as you can.

### **Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral**

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are raising funds towards the cost of replacing the sanctuary floodlighting in Westminster Cathedral. The present floodlighting is very old and replacement parts are not available, also it uses a great deal of power generating a huge output of heat. A new system would be easily maintained and save electricity.

There is a unique opportunity to do this through The Big Give where donations made online after 12:00 noon, Tuesday 29 November 2022 to 12:00 noon, Tuesday 6 December 2022 are matched by generous matched funders. A donation of £100 would contribute £200 or £225 for taxpayers agreeing to gift aid their donation. Please use the link below to give online. <https://tinyurl.com/FriendsBG22>

### **Baptism preparation classes**

Parents wishing to have their children baptised should attend a class on one of the following dates: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> June. Classes begin at 7.30pm and take place in the hall. Please let Fr Tony know if you would like to attend ([tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk)).

*The Church calls Baptism '...the basis of the whole Christian life [and] the gateway to life in the Spirit' (CCC 1212). As a sign of the importance of this sacrament, parents who wish to have their children*

*baptised should be attending Mass on a weekly basis.*

### **World Youth Day**

Westminster Youth Ministry is going to Lisbon from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Francis and 2 million other young people! I would LOVE some young people from our parish to travel to with this group, to experience the love of Jesus with other new and growing disciples. Please know that the parish will help you with fundraising for your trip. There are more details here: <https://dowym.com/events/world-youth-day-lisbon/>.

### **Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society**

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Through their Crisis Fund, CCS is providing immediate, practical support to families in need. Recently CCS helped a young mother who had to give up work to care for her five-year-old daughter who had been diagnosed with cancer. Her daughter often felt cold, so the mother would keep the heating on to help her child feel warm and comfortable. The family could just afford rent and food but had no way to pay their rising energy bills. CCS provided a one-off grant to help them get through winter. The mother said:

*"I felt so helpless and scared. All I wanted to do was look after my daughter, but I couldn't stop worrying about how I would pay our bills. You have taken that worry away and now I can focus on caring for my child. Thank you."*

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib)

**CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas**

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

### **First Holy Communion classes**

The first preparation class for First Holy Communion takes place today, 4<sup>th</sup> December, at 10.45am.

Attendance at Mass is important at any time, but especially as we prepare our youngsters for their First Holy Communion. This year, we are asking parents of First Holy Communion children to sign a register of attendance at Sunday Mass. This will be available at the back of church during the 6.00pm (Saturday) and 10.00am and 12.00pm (Sunday) Masses. Please do sign this register; your presence at Mass with your child will be a great support to them at this important stage in their faith journey.

### **Confirmation 2023**

Confirmation enrolment will take place early in the New Year, with the preparation classes and the celebration of the sacrament taking place in the Spring.

**Sick or housebound** Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound: Betty O'Reily (Elizabeth), Eileen Dowd, Marcella Frawley.

*Please give the names of any sick or housebound you would like mentioned in the newsletter to Fr Tony or Violet, our administrator.*

**Mass intentions** Arranging to have a Mass celebrated for someone's intentions, or for the repose of their soul, is a great act of faith and love.

If you would like to book a Mass intention, please do so by phoning the parish during office hours (see above), by visiting the repository on Sunday mornings, or by taking a Mass intention envelope and putting it through the door or the presbytery.

### **Monthly devotions**

**First Saturday Devotion – Rosary Group:** first Saturday of each month at 4.00pm in the parish hall.

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** third Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

### **Tea and coffee after Mass**

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the 12.00pm Mass on Sundays and after all weekday Masses.

### **School Office Receptionist/Admin Assistant – Vacancy**

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in Stonebridge is seeking to appoint a Receptionist/Admin Assistant for a January 2023 Start. If you are interested in the position, or would like further information please visit the school website [www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk) or contact Shahla Sharyf on 0208 961 5037. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

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### **School Information**

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#### **Our Lady of Lourdes Nursery**

in the midst of a busy community, Our Lady of Lourdes is an oasis of calm that provides a fantastic learning environment for your child to develop. Our wonderfully spacious and colourful learning environment has the most up-to-date facilities to encourage your child's development. Our staff are highly qualified, dedicated and caring, with a wealth of experience in delivering early years education. We provide a free hot lunch for all full-time children. We offer fun packed activities across the week to develop skills and understanding through play.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER



This wordsearch is inspired by today's Gospel.  
How many hidden words can you find?

E	D	U	J	O	N	H	E	A	E	TIBERIUS
I	O	A	S	N	P	R	E	E	S	PILATE
P	R	S	U	H	J	D	N	L	S	JUDEA
L	E	Y	I	O	U	E	Y	A	A	HEROD
I	H	L	R	J	L	S	N	E	E	PHILIP
H	I	A	E	I	A	N	S	T	A	ITURAEA
P	I	L	B	N	A	N	A	L	R	LYSANIAS
I	S	A	I	A	H	L	N	I	U	ABILENE
E	T	A	T	R	I	U	N	P	T	ANNAS
M	S	A	H	P	A	I	A	C	I	CAIAPHAS
										JOHN
										ISAIAH

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

...in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of JESUS CHRIST, the SAVIOUR of the human race, was preserved from all stain of original sin...

-Pope Pius IX  
Ineffabilis Deus

# **LTHIS WEEK'S LITURGY**

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Second Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 11:1-10** 'A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse'

**Romans 15:4-9** 'Christ is the saviour of all men'

**Matthew 3:1-12** 'The one who follows me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

## **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Isaiah 35:1-10** 'The return of the redeemed through the desert'

**Luke 5:17-26** 'Your sins are forgiven you: get up and walk'

## **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December - St Nicholas, bishop**

**Isaiah 40:1-11** 'Consolations from the heart of Jerusalem'

**Matthew 18:12-14** 'The one lost sheep gives him more joy than the ninety-nine that did not stray'

## **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor**

**Romans 40:25-31** 'The Lord strengthens the powerless'

**Matthew 11:28-30** 'My yoke is easy and my burden light'



## **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed**

**Virgin Mary - Solemnity**

**Genesis 3:9-15,20** 'The mother of all those who live'

**Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12** 'Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ'

## **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin**

**Isaiah 48:17-19** 'If you had been alert to my commandments, your happiness would have been like a river'

**Matthew 11:16-19** 'They heed neither John nor the Son of Man'

## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-12** 'The prophet Elijah will come again'

**Matthew 17:10-13** 'Elijah has come already and they did not recognise him'