



# 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.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (11<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

### TODAY'S MASS READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon:** Phil 4: 4-5  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6,10  
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 145(146):6-10

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

**Second reading:** James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has  
had the autumn rains and the spring rains!  
You too have to be patient; do not lose heart,  
because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do  
not make complaints against one another,  
brothers, so as not to be brought to  
judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to  
be seen waiting at the gates. For your  
example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the  
name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Is 61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the  
poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was  
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him,  
'Are you the one who is to come, or have we  
got to wait for someone else?' Jesus  
answered, 'Go back and tell John what you  
hear and see; the blind see again, and the  
lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf  
hear, and the dead are raised to life and the  
Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and  
happy is the man who does not lose faith in  
me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus  
began to talk to the people about John:  
'What did you go out into the wilderness to  
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then  
what did you go out to see? A man wearing  
fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine  
clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what  
did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I  
tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is  
the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger  
before you;  
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born  
of women, a greater than John the Baptist  
has never been seen; yet the least in the  
kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not  
fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will  
save us

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgement, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising



the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God. How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

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

**Saturday 6.00pm** - People of the Parish

**Sunday 10.00am** - Philomena McMellan - RIP  
Anniversary

**Sunday 12 Noon** - Ann Obi & Family - Intentions

**Tuesday 10.00am** - Chuck Bismark - Intentions

**Wednesday 10.00am** - Anna Joaquina Andrade -  
RIP

**Thursday 10.00am** - Charity Ufomba - family  
Intentions

**Friday 10.00am** - Emma and William Webb - RIP

## **Last week's collection**

Planned giving £446.40; Loose plate £343.43.  
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.

## **Advent and Christmas**

A booklet with the times of all our Advent and  
Christmas services is now available at the back  
of church.

## **Advent Carol Concert**

This year's Advent Carol Concert will take place  
this Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm in the  
church, followed by a reception and raffle in  
the hall. Please join us!

## **Confessions in Advent**

As well as our usual Confession times, there  
will be extra periods of Confession on Thursday  
22<sup>nd</sup> December between 6pm and 7pm and on  
Christmas Eve between 11am and 12pm

## **Open House**

There will be an Open House this Tuesday  
between 5pm and 6pm in the presbytery, to  
see Fr .Tony briefly without an appointment.

## **Sunday lunch - 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Please join us for our first social event of 2023!  
We are hosting a Sunday lunch in the hall after  
the 12.00pm Mass: a traditional roast followed  
by desert. Tickets are £15 per person  
(excluding wine) and there will, of course, be a  
raffle! You can reserve a ticket through the  
office or at the Carol Concert this week. Please  
come - all welcome.

## **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**

Today (11<sup>th</sup> December), after the 12.00pm  
Mass, 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

This 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.

**The Bethlehem Nativity Group** who visited our parish to sell hand carved olive wood from the Holy Land, is going to have a Christmas day sale at St Joseph's in Wembley this coming Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, from 9 am till 9 pm. Please visit and support their work and consider buying a special Christmas present for yourself or a loved one.

## 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.*

## 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**

Please note there is no First Holy Communion class today (11<sup>th</sup> December). The next activity is the Advent workshop which takes place next Saturday (17<sup>th</sup> December) from 11.30am in the hall. Parents are warmly invited to attend the Nativity play that the children will perform at the end of the workshop, at 4.00pm. The Nativity will last approximately 40 minutes.

*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.

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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?

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
										SCRIPTURE
										WOMEN

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



**"The Father spoke One Word, which was His Son, and this Word, He always speaks in eternal silence, and in silence must it be heard by the soul"**

*- St. John of the Cross,  
whose feast day falls on 14<sup>th</sup> December*



# THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 35:1-6,10** 'God himself is coming to save you'

**James 5:7-10** 'Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon'

**Matthew 11:2-11** 'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen'

## **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Numbers 24:2-7,15-17** 'The oracles of Balaam'

**Matthew 21:23-27** 'I will not tell you my authority for acting like this'

## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

**Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13** 'All peoples shall invoke the Lord's name and serve him'

**Matthew 21:28-32** 'Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you'

## **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor**

**Romans 45:6-8,18,21-25** 'I, the Lord, shall create deliverance'

**Luke 7:19-23** 'Are you the one who is to come?'



## **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**Isaiah 54:1-10** 'With great love I will take you back'

**Luke 7:24-30** 'A prophet, and much more than a prophet'

## **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Isaiah 56:1-3,6-8** 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples'

**John 5:33-36** 'John was a lamp alight and shining'

## **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Genesis 49:2,8-10** 'Until he comes, the sceptre will not pass from Judah'

**Matthew 1:1-17** 'The ancestry of Jesus Christ, the son of David'