



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
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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (29th January 2023)

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 105: 47
Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First reading: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13
Seek the Lord,
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek
refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

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

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

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.

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

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.

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

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.

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny
against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call
on you.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In Matthew's Gospel these eight blessings stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. They are ways of living out God's blessing.

The first and the last knit them all together with the phrase 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. In his Gospel, Luke also begins his Sermon on the Plain with four such blessings – only his blessings focus more on those who are materially poor and in need, whereas Matthew's concentrate on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian, 'poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus came to proclaim the kingship of his Father, and these are ways of living it. For each beatitude, do you know someone who exemplifies the attitude? Which is your own favourite? For most of them there are gospel incidents in which Jesus illustrates how to live out the beatitude, like the entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the gentle king, or the love he shows in his welcome to sinners, or his bringing peace to those tortured by disease or contempt, or his purity of heart in his single-minded pre-occupation with his Father's will, or finally his acceptance of persecution for what he knew to be right.



Which of these qualities would you like to have more of?

Which quality will bring you closest to Jesus?

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

This week's Mass intentions

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

Sunday 10.00am - People of the Parish

Sunday 12 Noon - Francisco Quinones - RIP Anniversary

Tuesday 10.00am - Annelie Shotwell Jacinto -Sick-Special Intentions

Wednesday 10.00am - Charity Ufomba - Family Intention

Thursday 10.00am -Isobel Scherf - Birthday - Thanksgiving

Friday 10.00am - Gail Marshall Atienza - Birthday - Thanksgiving

Saturday 6.00pm - Mary Brian Shanahan - RIP Anniversary

Sunday 10.00am - Pelagia Fernandez-Thanksgiving

Sunday 12 Noon - People of the Parish

Last week's collection

Planned giving £433.50 Loose plate £355.15. 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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

From the beginning of February, there will be an extra period of Adoration each week, between 5.00pm and 5.45pm on Saturdays. This is in addition to the Adoration which takes place after the 10.00am Mass on Fridays. All are welcome to come and worship Jesus present on our altar.

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.

Parish lunch last Sunday

Many thanks to all those who attended the parish lunch last Sunday. It was a very happy occasion and we raised over £1300 towards church funds! We are grateful to those who helped set up the hall, prepare the food, serve, and help in any way. And particular thanks to Cecil and June, for providing the original inspiration. We hope to have another such event before long!

Lenten scripture study – advance notice

During Lent, we will be running the scripture study, No Greater Love. Here's what others have said about this course:

"No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love as you draw closer to Jesus than you ever have before".

No Greater Love will run for 5 weeks from Friday 3rd March at 6pm, before Station of the Cross at 7pm.

The Alpha Course in Stonebridge

Fr Tony writes: As some of you know, I didn't grow up as a practising Christian, but came to faith when I took an Alpha Course 20 years ago. Alpha changed my life! It runs over several weeks and is a space where anyone – believers or

non-believers alike – can come together to chat about faith, life and God in a friendly, open and informal setting.

Last week at Five Precious Wounds we began a trial Alpha Course with a small number of parishioners. In due course, all being well, I would love to run an Alpha to which the whole parish will be invited. Please do pray for God's blessing on this new initiative; that, through it, parishioners may have a deeper experience of the Father's love and a renewed friendship with Jesus Christ.

New parish noticeboard

Many thanks once again to the family of the late Jean Edinborough, who have donated our new parish noticeboard. It looks fantastic, and we are very grateful.

Baptism preparation classes

Parents wishing to have their children baptised should attend a class on one of the following dates: 7th February, 18th April, 6th 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).

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.

Congratulations to our newly baptised children

Congratulations to Kivarni McDermott-Mark and Akira McDermott-Mark, who were baptised here yesterday (Saturday 28th January). We are delighted to welcome you as the newest members of our parish!

First Holy Communion classes: The First Holy Communion classes will continue today 29th January, and thereafter 5th February, and 12th February, 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

Our Confirmation preparation will take place in April and May, with the Sacrament of Confirmation being celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington in June. Please take an application form from the back of church and bring it to the enrolment meeting (date to be confirmed).

Second collection – White Flower Appeal

There will be second collection on the weekend of 4th /5th February on behalf of the SPUC White Flower appeal. SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable, and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. A speaker from the charity will speak for a short while at the end of Masses. Please support this appeal as generously as you can.

World Day of the Sick 2023, Mass for the Sick

Saturday 11th February 2023 is the 31st World Day of the Sick, the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes. There will be a Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2.30pm, celebrated by the Cardinal, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered.

Those who are interested to attend can give their names to the parish office.

Volunteers needed – Find out more Wednesday 1st February.

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster diocese. Could you help us raise awareness about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out by joining our meeting this Wednesday 1st February from 2.30-4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

Thinking about becoming a Catholic?

If you are a non-Catholic thinking about exploring the Catholic faith - or if you are an adult who was baptised but never confirmed - then please consider joining our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) programme. The RCIA is an introduction to Catholic Christianity which can lead to the reception of the sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation. Fr Tony is hoping to start an RCIA programme in the autumn - please speak to him if you are interested.

Sick or housebound Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound: Pete Julien, Amar Atienza, 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.

Contactless Giving

DONA is a new Diocesan scheme to make your weekly giving to the parish (and any one-off giving) much easier. It is a debit/credit card contactless payment system. We have introduced DONA in the parish. You'll see the machine on the left as you enter the main body of the church. Please do use it as you wish, especially if you choose to carry no cash. You can choose to gift-aid your donations if you are a UK taxpayer. Please note that DONA will also be available to make card payments in the repository.

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.

Altar servers

We are once again able to recruit new and old servers for Mass. If you would like your child to serve at the Mass, please give your child's details to Deacon Andrew after Mass. We expect a high standard from our servers. Children must wear black shoes and are expected to arrive 30 minutes before Mass begins to go through training each Sunday.



CHILDREN'S CORNER



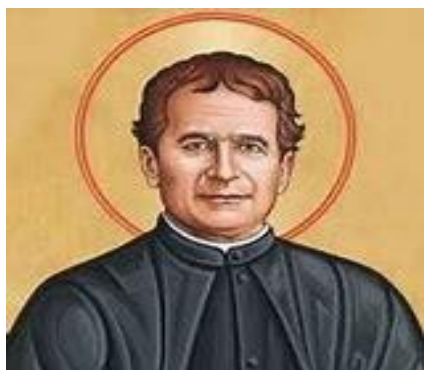
This wordsearch is inspired by today's Gospel.
How many hidden words can you find?

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D
H	F	W	H	O	H		O	I	I
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V
O	L	F	W	S	O	O	T	O	O
D	D	I	T	H	R	R	O	E	R
E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S

BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
SON	PROPHET	HOME



QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"Avoid idleness and idle people; carry out your duties. Whenever you are idle you are in serious danger of falling into sin, because idleness teaches us all kinds of vice"

-St. John Bosco, whose feast day falls on 31st January

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

Sunday 29nd January 2023

Zephaniah 2:2,3:12-13 'In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people'

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 'God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, to shame the wise'

Matthew 5:1-12a 'How happy are the poor in spirit'

Monday 30th January

Hebrews 11:32-40 'The example of the Old Testament saints'

Mark 5:1-20 'The Gadarene swine'

Tuesday 31st January - Saint John Bosco, Priest

Hebrews 12:1-4 'We should keep running steadily in the race we have started'

Mark 5:21-43 'Little girl, I tell you to get up'

Wednesday 1st February

Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15 'God is training you as his sons'

Mark 6:1-6 'A prophet is only despised in his own country'



Thursday 2nd February - The Presentation of the Lord - Feast

Malachi 3:1-4 'The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple'

Luke: 2:22-40 'My eyes have seen your salvation'

Friday 3rd February - Saint Ansgar (Oscar) and/or Saint Blaise, Bishops

Hebrews 13:1-8 'Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and will be for ever'

Mark 6:14-29 'The beheading of John the Baptist'

Saturday 4th February

Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21 'May God turn us all into whatever is acceptable to himself through Jesus Christ'

Mark 6:30-34 'They were like sheep without a shepherd'