

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th February 2023

Welcome to everybody at Mass today and especially to anyone who is new or visiting. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 19th February

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

Monday 20th February

No Mass

Tuesday 21st February

10am

Wednesday 22nd February

10am

7pm

Thursday 23rd February

10am

Friday 24th February

10am

Sunday 26th February

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

7th Sunday of the Year

John Conneely RIP

Vania and Myranda - Thanksgiving

Iola Peter RIP Birthday

St Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor

Vincenzo Zuddas - Healing from cancer

Ash Wednesday

Trevor Thomas RIP

Maria Theresa Muir RIP

St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

John Macleod RIP Anniversary

Phelomen Popo RIP

1st Sunday of Lent

Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary

Bhargava Family's Intentions

Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass:

6pm Saturday (Said Mass), 10.00am (Sung Mass), 12pm (Mass with hymns)

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday – Friday 10.00am

Holy Days of Obligation:

10.00am and 7.00pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.00-5.45pm

Confessions:

Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.15-5.45pm

NeoCatechumenal Way:

Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm and Saturday evenings at 8pm in the hall

Nigerian Friends:

Monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1.00 pm

Ghanaian Association:

Monthly on the last Sunday of the month at 1 pm

Filipino Association:

Mass on the First Sunday of the month at 3 pm

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Following on from the four adjustments of the Law in last Sunday's gospel come two more, perhaps the most demanding. The Law of Moses had limited revenge: only a tooth might be taken for a tooth, only an eye for an eye, not life itself. Jesus, however, will not tolerate even this limited vengeance; he allows no revenge at all. Again and again in the course of the gospel Jesus returns to this need for unconditional forgiveness. We daringly engage ourselves with this teaching whenever we say the Lord's Prayer, 'forgive us just as we forgive...'. The final demand, however, is the most challenging of all. There is in fact no passage of the canonical scripture which encourages 'hate your enemy'. In any case, just as God lavishes his benefits of life, sun and rain on good and evil alike, so we must put no limits to our love. Only in this way – think of the first reading! – can we attempt to honour and imitate the holiness of God. This is what it means to be a son of God, 'sons of your Father in heaven': only by following in his way and by fulfilling his designs can we be integrated into his family. There can be no enmity in Christianity.



Can I really forgive with no trace of animosity?

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been
bountiful with me.

First reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them:

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is compassion and love.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is compassion and love.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is compassion and love.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his

rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Communion Antiphon: Ps 9: 2-3

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving £442.90 Loose plate £355.91. 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.

FAITH APPS FOR YOUR PHONE

Here are some great apps to help you develop your faith, which you may be interested in exploring:

Bible in one year • Hallow • Amen • Laudate • Universalis • The Catholic App



AROUND THE PARISH

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We now have 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.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls this Wednesday, 22nd February. There will be Masses with the imposition of ashes at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Staff and pupils from our primary school will join us at our morning Mass.

Palm crosses

If you have any palm crosses from last year, please do bring them back to the church. They will be burned and used for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Many thanks.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday during Lent, at 7.00pm, beginning on Friday 24th February. (From 3rd March this will be preceded by our scripture study 'No Greater Love', at 6pm. See further details on back page).

Church gardening

If any parishioners have gardening skills, and some time to offer to the parish, please speak to Fr Tony. We need some help maintaining the grounds around the church. Many thanks.

Baptisms at Five Precious Wounds

Fr Tony writes: it is a great blessing that so many children are presented for baptism at Five Precious Wounds. 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. If they do not yet do this, they are asked to attend weekly Mass for three months before attending a baptism preparation class and setting a baptism date.

Application forms for baptism are available from the parish office and on our website (<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/wp-content/uploads/sites/102/2023/02/Baptism-Application-Form-2023-LATEST.docx.pdf>).

First Holy Communion classes

Our First Holy Communion programme continues this Friday, 24th, with our parents' evening at 7pm in the hall. The next children's classes are on Sundays 5th March, 12th March, 19th March and 26th March 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.

The funeral Mass of the late Kathleen M Power is on Tuesday 21st February at 11am. Please pray for the repose of her soul. May she rest in peace.

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 (also available online at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/wp-content/uploads/sites/102/2023/02/Confirmation-Enrolment-Form-2023.docx.pdf>) and bring it to the enrolment meeting after the 12pm Mass on Sunday 12th March.

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.

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

You'll see our contactless giving machine on the right 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.

CAFOD - Family Fast Day

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is on Friday 3 March 2023. By fasting on the day or by having a simple meal please donate to CAFOD. There will

be a second collection on the weekend of 4/5th March after Mass. You can donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>. More information on the noticeboard.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony: Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023

Funds raised by the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal this year will be shared between Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

We are delighted to share news of some forthcoming parish social events. Please put the following dates in your diary and know that all are welcome!

Sunday 7th May at 1pm - Bring and share lunch to celebrate the Coronation

Sunday 28th May at 1pm - Pentecost celebration with Filipino food

Sunday 13th August at 1pm - Annual parish festival and BBQ

Sunday 15th October at 1pm - Parish Sunday lunch

Sunday 17th December at 6pm - Parish carol concert and reception.

More information about each event will be published in due course.

AROUND THE PARISH

HOW TO CONTACT US

Telephone:
0208 965 3313
Website:
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>
Parish priest:
Fr Tony Thomas
tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk

Permanent Deacon:
Rev. Andrew Safo Poku
andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk
Parish administrator:
Violet D’Souza
stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding representative:
Janeen Nwosu
stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Primary School
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

The parish office is open from 10.30-2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
There is an ‘Open House’ each Tuesday between 5.00pm and 6.00pm to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.
The church shop (repository) is open after the 10.00am and 12.00pm Mass on Sundays.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY – NO GREATER LOVE

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.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The Quote of the Week over the coming weeks will reflect the Church’s teaching on the importance of evangelisation.

“Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelisers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ”.


- Pope Francis

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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

WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
DEVIL
FASTED
FORTY
HUNGRY
STONES
LOAVES
ANGELS
FOOT
SATAN
WORSHIP



TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS

There are refreshments in the hall after the 12.00pm Mass on Sundays and after all weekday Masses.

Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat!

PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound:

Pete Julien, Amar Atienza, Betty O’Reilly (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.