

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 4th Sunday of Lent – 19th March 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 March

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

Monday 20th March

No Mass

Tuesday 21st March

No Mass

Wednesday 22nd March

10am

Thursday 23rd March

10am

Friday 24th March

10am

Sunday 26th March

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

People of the Parish

John Duffy- RIP

Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary

St Joseph, husband of the BV Mary

Josemarie David Marshall-Sp.Intention

Saint Turbius of Mangrovejo, Bishop

Regina Isobelle Atienza - Sp. Intention

Medina Masbad Retz- B'day, Thanks

5th Sunday of Lent

Joseph Moran - RIP

People of the Parish

Philip John Herman - RIP

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

The second of the three great Johannine readings about water, light and life (which point to the baptisms of Easter) gives us the splendid account of Jesus bringing light to the blind man in the Temple. It is full of Johannine contrasts and irony. The 'Jews' or the Pharisees think they have the light and knowledge, but the more they abuse the man born blind, the clearer their own darkness and ignorance become. The more they try to thrust the blind man away from Jesus, the more they push him into seeking refuge in him. Much of the colouring of the scene comes from the controversies towards the end of the first



century, when the Pharisees were the only branch of Judaism to survive after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The New Testament shows that there was bitter opposition between those Jews who accepted the divine claims for Jesus, and those who rejected them. This is especially clear in the fear of the blind man's parents (recounted in the longer version of Sunday's Gospel) that they would be excluded from the synagogue if they accepted that Jesus' grant of sight was a sign of his divine mission. The doughty and pugnacious man born blind has no such hesitation!

What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world? How can you bring this light of Jesus to other people?

TODAY’S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 66: 10-11
Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22(23)
The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.
The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 8:12
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel:John 9:1-41
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?’ ‘Neither he nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus answered ‘he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

‘As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here when no one can work.
As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.’

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how do your eyes come to be open?’ ‘The man called Jesus’ he answered ‘made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, “Go and wash at Siloam”; so I went, and when I washed I could see.’ They asked, ‘Where is he?’ ‘I don’t know’ he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had

come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, ‘Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.’ His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, ‘He is old enough; ask him.’

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, ‘Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.’ The man answered, ‘I don’t know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He replied, ‘I have told you once and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’ At this they hurled abuse at him: ‘You can be his disciple,’ they said ‘we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man replied, ‘Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don’t know where he comes from! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn’t do a thing.’ ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him. Jesus said: ‘It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.’ Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘We are not blind, surely?’ Jesus replied: ‘Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, “We see,” your guilt remains.’

Communion Antiphon:
The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving £405.00 Loose plate £466.18. 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

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.

Gift Aid

If you are currently registered for Gift Aid but are no longer eligible, please let Violet in the office know, so that we can update our records.

Open House There will be no Open House this week.

Fr Tony will be away on retreat from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday. We welcome Fr Jonathon Stogdon, who will celebrate our 10am Mass on Wednesday.

Weekday Mass changes

Tuesday 21st March There will be no weekday Mass. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Friday 31st March. A funeral will take the place on the 10am Mass. There will be no Adoration, Benediction or Confessions.

Tuesday 4th April. Mass will be at the earlier time of 9.15am.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday during Lent, at 7.00pm. This will be preceded by our scripture study 'No Greater Love', at 6pm. {See further details on back page}.

Confessions

There will be extra opportunities to go to Confession during Holy Week, including during the 10am and 12noon Masses on Palm Sunday, 2nd April.

Holy Week services

A booklet with details of all our Holy Week services is available at the back of church.

Repository

We are very grateful to Michelle Atayan who, as many of you know, has been running our repository (the shop at the back of our church) single-handedly for some time now. Many people value having this facility. However, for it to remain viable, we need more volunteers. If you think you can spare some time to help run the repository, please speak to Fr Tony or Deacon Andrew.

Planned giving envelopes

Planned giving envelopes for the new financial year 2023-24 are ready for collection. They can be collected at the back of the Church after Mass today and 26th March. If you can remember your envelope number, it will be helpful while collecting your envelope box.

If anyone would like to contribute their offertory through planned giving envelopes, please let us know. We can provide you with the new envelopes.

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.

Missio

It is now time to empty your Missio Red Box. Please bring it to Church and give to Eileen O'Brien or leave at the Repository.

Registration Form

Our parish register is several years of date. We therefore plan to create a new database, and will be giving out registration forms our Masses next weekend. There will be an opportunity to complete the forms during Mass. Please know that any data we hold will only be used for parish purposes and will not be passed on to a third party. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

First Holy Communion classes

The next children's classes are today, 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.

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



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.

Parish Administrator Role

Do you have experience working as an Administrator or Bookkeeper? Would you like to play a part in the mission of Jesus and his church? If so, please see the link for the job description and application form for the role of Parish Administrator at Our Lady of the Holy Souls RC Church, Kensal New Town. The closing date for application is Friday 27th March: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-administrator-our-lady-of-the-holy-souls-catholic-church-kensal-new-town-parish/>

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.

AROUND THE PARISH

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

KONKANI RETREAT HERE IN STONEBRIDGE

The Konkani community are holding a Lenten retreat here in our church on Monday 27th March (5pm-8pm) and Saturday 1st April (2pm-5pm). The Saturday session is aimed at young people in particular and the theme is ‘A future filled with hope’. The retreat will be given in Konkani but will be translated into English. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

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.

An evangelizing community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization. Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving.

- Pope Francis -

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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

BLIND SPAT PASTE
SPITTLE SIGHT RESTORED
PROPHET PARENTS DISCIPLES
SINNERS DEVOUT BELIEVE

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, Walda Baptist.

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