

# FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



### Parish Bulletin – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

##### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

No Mass

##### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

10am

##### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

10am

##### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

10am

##### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

10am

##### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Joseph Moran - RIP

People of the Parish

Philip John Herman - RIP

Jose Marcial Atienza - Thanksgiving

Magdalena Omnas -Healing

Gregory Howard Marshall-RIP Birthday

Funeral Mass of Shaun La-Crette

##### Palm Sunday

Sean Prunty - RIP

Gerald O'Neill - RIP Anniversary

People of the Parish

#### 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

This is the third of the great Johannine gospel readings on the Sundays of Lent which lead up to and prepare us for the baptisms of the new members of Christ at the Easter Vigil; today's gospel grips us with the story of Jesus' gift of life to his friend Lazarus. This is not the same thing as the gift of life to us by Jesus in the resurrection, for Lazarus returns to ordinary human life, and will die again, whereas the Christian resurrection transforms us into a new way of life, giving us a life which is a participation in the divine life for ever. Rather, the resurrection of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs, his marvellous works which point towards and hint at this final gift of divine life. The first of the signs was the transformation of the water of the Law into the wine of the messianic wedding banquet at Cana. These signs show who Jesus really is. As well as showing the divine power of Jesus – for only God can give life – they also show the real, human love of Jesus for his friends. He is upset by Lazarus' death and weeps for him, sharing the human sorrow of his family as he shares our sorrows too.



**Is death something to fear?**

# TODAY’S MASS READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 42: 1-2  
Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is  
faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

**First reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14  
The Lord says this: I am now going to open your  
graves; I mean to raise you from your graves,  
my people, and lead you back to the soil of  
Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord,  
when I open your graves and raise you from  
your graves, my people. And I shall put my  
spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall  
resettle you on your own soil; and you will  
know that I, the Lord, have said and done this –  
it is the Lord who speaks.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 129(130)  
With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption.

**Second reading:** Romans 8:8-11  
People who are interested only in unspiritual  
things can never be pleasing to God. Your  
interests, however, are not in the unspiritual,  
but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has

made his home in you. In fact, unless you  
possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not  
belong to him. Though your body may be dead  
it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then  
your spirit is life itself because you have been  
justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised  
Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he  
who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to  
your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living  
in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn11:25, 26  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the  
Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**Gospel:**John 11:1-45  
There was a man named Lazarus who lived in  
the village of Bethany with the two sisters,  
Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the  
same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus,  
who anointed the Lord with ointment and  
wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent  
this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love  
is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said,  
‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s  
glory, and through it the Son of God will be  
glorified.’  
Jesus loved Martha and her sister and  
Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill  
he stayed where he was for two more days  
before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to  
Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long  
since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you  
going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?  
A man can walk in the daytime without  
stumbling  
because he has the light of this world to see by;  
but if he walks at night he stumbles,  
because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend  
Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The  
disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest  
he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used  
referred to the death of Lazarus, but they  
thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus  
put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your  
sake I am glad I was not there because now you  
will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas  
– known as the Twin – said to the other  
disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’  
On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had  
been in the tomb for four days already.  
Bethany is only about two miles from  
Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha  
and Mary to sympathise with them over their  
brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had  
come she went to meet him. Mary remained  
sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If

you had been here, my brother would not have  
died, but I know that, even now, whatever you  
ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’  
said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I  
know he will rise again at the resurrection on  
the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies  
he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never  
die.  
Do you believe this?’  
‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the  
Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to  
come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called  
her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The  
Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing  
this, Mary got up quickly and went to him.  
Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was  
still at the place where Martha had met him.  
When the Jews who were in the house  
sympathising with Mary saw her get up so  
quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking  
that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw  
him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord,  
if you had been here, my brother would not  
have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those  
of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in  
great distress, with a sigh that came straight  
from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’  
They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept;  
and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved  
him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He  
opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not  
have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing,  
Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a  
stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take  
the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by  
now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus  
replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe  
you will see the glory of God?’ So they took  
away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes  
and said:  
‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.  
I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand  
round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent  
me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice,  
‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came  
out, his feet and hands bound with bands of  
stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to  
them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’  
Many of the Jews who had come to visit  
Mary and had seen what he did believed in  
him.

**Communion Antiphon:**  
Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

# AROUND THE PARISH



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving £468.40, Loose plate £667.86. 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.

## 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 at our Masses this weekend. There will be an opportunity to complete the forms at the end of 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.

## Weekday Mass changes

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

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.** Mass will be at the earlier time of 9.15am.

## Funeral Mass of Shaun La-Crette

The funeral of Shaun La-Crette will take place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10am. May he rest in peace.

## Confessions

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

## Holy Week services

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

## REPOSITORY

We thank those who have already volunteered to help run our shop (the repository) at the back of church. For the shop to remain viable, we do need a few more people to come forward. Without a rota of volunteers, the shop may be closed for a while after Easter. If you think you can spare some time to help, please speak to Fr Tony or Deacon Andrew.

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

## 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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.

## First Holy Communion classes

The next children's class is today, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:

Join us on our pilgrimage/retreat to the Holy Land, led this year by Bishop John Sherrington and Fr John Farrell OP.

Dates: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Route: Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem. Flying from Heathrow on BA.

Cost is for full board £2265 per person sharing a room, £682 single room supplement. Travel insurance essential.

You can book online at <http://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL> or call Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666 or Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage office 0207 798 9173.

## Vocations to the priesthood

On Wednesday 17th May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The regular evening Mass will be at 6.00pm, followed by a gathering downstairs in the Social Centre for a short presentation and informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.



# 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](mailto:tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk)

**Permanent Deacon:**  
Rev. Andrew Safo Poku  
[andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish administrator:**  
Violet D'Souza  
[stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk)

**Safeguarding representative:**  
Janeen Nwosu  
[stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Primary School**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> March (5pm-8pm) and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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

Christian hope sustains us in committing ourselves fully to the new evangelization and to the worldwide mission, and leads us to pray as Jesus taught us: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" – Pope St John Paul II

- Pope St John Paul II-

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

E	T	N	M	E	D	N	O	C	T
Y	Y	I	Y	L	Q	O	F	E	H
T	A	R	A	U	H	I	S	D	R
H	D	W	E	S	H	T	A	E	O
G	N	O	A	T	O	S	A	T	W
U	U	M	D	N	L	E	S	E	O
A	O	A	I	A	Y	U	U	I	D
C	R	N	W	A	W	Q	D	Q	N
N	G	K	A	E	R	B	Y	A	D
E	N	O	T	S	T	S	R	I	F

DAYBREAK

WOMAN

CAUGHT

ADULTERY

LAW

CONDEMN

DEATH

STONING

TEST

GROUND

QUESTION

FIRST



## 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, Valda Baptist, Maureen Ferriter, Omolara Ademuyiwa, Theophilus Ademuyiwa**

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