

# FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

# CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Parish Bulletin – 24th Sunday in Ordinary time – 17<sup>th</sup> September 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

<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
Saturday 6pm	Bridge Conway - RIP
10am	People of the Parish
12pm	Jimmy O’Brien - Get well Intention
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
10am	Ana Nicole & Senara Wilton - Healing
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
10am	Carl William - Deliverance
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	
10am	Chris Dolan - RIP
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	
10am	Carl Williams - Deliverance
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
Saturday 6pm	Geraldine & Patrick Flanagan - RIP Anniversary
10am	Elizabeth Bagnell’s Intentions
12pm	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
- 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 a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus’ teaching that forgiveness is the life’s-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord’s Prayer, ‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.’ The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord’s Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew’s parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the ‘goodie’ and the ‘baddie’ (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year’s tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months’ wages of a casual labourer.



- Is there anyone you cannot forgive?
- Do you start the forgiveness-process, or wait for the other party?
- What is the best way to show forgiveness?

# TODAY’S MASS READINGS

## 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 • The Catholic App • Universalis



**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf.Sir 36:18  
Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.

**First reading:**  
Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9  
Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,  
who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.  
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

**Second reading:**  
Romans 14:7-9  
The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
1S3:9,Jn6:68  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35  
Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.  
‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

**Communion Antiphon**  
Cf. Ps 35: 8  
How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

# AROUND THE PARISH



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving £396.50, loose plate £363.01. 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.

### Alpha - STARTS THIS WEEK!

Our parish Alpha course starts this Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, at 6.30pm. See more details on the back page of this newsletter. Please join in our prayer for God's blessing on Alpha in Stonebridge:

Heavenly Father,  
fill the hearts of our Alpha guests with the Holy Spirit,  
so that each person may grow in friendship with Jesus,  
and experience the depths of your love in their lives.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### First Holy Communion enrolment

Enrolment forms for our 2023/24 First Holy Communion programme are now available at the back of church. Please bring the completed form, with a passport-photo of your child and a copy of their baptism certificate to the enrolment evening on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm. This programme is for baptised children in year 3 or above.

**The Filipino Community** of our Parish are holding a 'Living Rosary' on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at 2pm, to thank Our Lady and ask for her protection and guidance. All are welcome. Please contact Myles on 07540 144397 or Gail on 07928 574735 for further information, or see the poster at the back of church.

### Church Cleaning

There will be a thorough clean of the church and hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October between 9.30am and 12pm, ahead of the parish Sunday lunch the next day. Many hands make light work so please come along and help!

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on

**Saturday 23rd September 2023.** The parishes of Kensal Rise, Stonebridge, Willesden and Willesden Green will be travelling to Walsingham for the day, along with many other parishes from the Diocese of Westminster. There are only 50 places available on the Pilgrimage, and these will be honoured on a first come, first served basis.

The cost per person is £30, which includes the coach to and from Walsingham, along with a £5 Pilgrimage Levy Fee for Walsingham. Please do bring appropriate clothing for walking, a picnic and water.

There will be two pick up/drop off points on the day. The first will be at 7:00am at either The Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise, NW10 3HT OR St Mary Magdalen's, Willesden Green, NW10 2DD. This will be confirmed once the coach has been filled, the Church with the most Pilgrims will be chosen as the pick up/drop off point. The second pick up/ drop off point will be at 7:30am from Our Lady of Willesden, NW10 9AX. Please go to [transfigparishkensalrise.org.uk/Walsingham-pilgrimage-2023](https://transfigparishkensalrise.org.uk/Walsingham-pilgrimage-2023) to book your place, or take a booklet from the porch of the church.

### A Day With Mary

There will be a 'Day with Mary' in Stonebridge on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, from 10am until 5pm. There is more information in the flyers at the back of church.

### Universe Catholic Weekly

This newspaper is now available in paper format, at £3.50 per issue. If you would like to get a subscribe please contact the office, so this can be arranged for you.

### Transport to church

A wheelchair-bound parishioner needs help attending the 6pm Mass on Saturdays. Could you help by pushing him to church and back (about a 10-minute walk) from time to time? It would be a great blessing if so. Please let Fr Tony know if you are able to assist. Thank you.

### Parish registration

Our parish newsletter is now being emailed to all parishioners who have completed a parish registration form. If you have not received the email please let us know, or complete the registration form which is available at the back of the church.

### Missio Red boxes

It is now time to empty your Missio Red Box. Please give to Eileen O'Brien or Fr Tony. Thank you for your generosity.

### Good news about the repository

As you know, the repository (church shop) has been closed for some time while we looked for new volunteers to run it. A couple of generous volunteers have stepped forward and the repository will soon open again between the two Masses on the first Sunday of each month. Are you able to help in the repository so we can extend these opening hours even further? Please speak to Fr Tony or Deacon Andrew if you can.

**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.

### Baptism preparation

The next baptism preparation session, for parents wishing to have children baptised, will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the hall. Please email Fr Tony if you wish to attend. Parents wishing to have their children baptised should be attending Mass regularly.

### Parish social events

**Sunday 15th October at 1pm - Parish Sunday lunch.** Tickets will soon be on sale at £15 per person. The lunch will have the theme 'A taste of the Caribbean'. There will be some wonderful Caribbean dishes to try, as well as some more traditional English fare too.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 7pm-9pm - Karaoke Night.** Come along to the hall and sing some of your favourite songs! Entry £5 at the door.

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

### Volunteers needed

We currently rely on a very small group of people to carry out the cleaning of the church. Could you spare an hour or so every couple of weeks to help out? If so please speak to Fr Tony or contact Violet in the office. Thank you.

### Mass intentions

If you would like to book a Mass intention, please do so by phoning the parish during office hours, by taking a Mass intention envelope and putting it through the door of the presbytery, or by speaking to one of our stewards at the end of a Sunday Mass.

### 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.



# AROUND THE PARISH

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Address:**  
Brentfield Road, London, NW10 8ER  
**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  
[andrewsafofoku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewsafofoku@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 ALPHA COURSE STARTS THIS WEEK!

Fr Tony writes: the Alpha Course runs over eleven 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.  
We will begin an Alpha course at Five Precious Wounds this **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, at 6.30pm**. All are welcome, though numbers are limited. For further information or to reguister for Alpha, see the the leaflets in the porch, or email [stonebridgealpha@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridgealpha@rcdow.org.uk). Please also 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.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK


***“You must first pray that your inward man may be reformed and grow healthy; for when that is healed, the outward man, too, will be restored to health”***

**Saint Theodore of Sykeon**  
whose feast day falls this Tuesday

## CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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



BROTHER  
SEVEN  
ACCOUNTS  
SERVANTS  
CHILDREN  
DEBT  
DENARII  
PRISON  
DISTRESSED  
PITY  
TORTURERS  
HEART

## 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:

**Anna Nicol, Kadeem Edwards, Amar Atienza, Betty O’Reily (Elizabeth), Eileen Dowd, Marcella Frawley, Valda Baptist, 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.*