

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.

12pm

People of the Parish

Familiarity with Jesus' answer to the question about the greatest commandment blunts our awareness of its startling directness. Many answers could be given, perhaps singling out any one of the ten commandments as the greatest, the most important basis of society. A frequent answer to the question was and is the Golden Rule which exists in many cultures: 'Do not do to another what you would not have done to you'. This is basically a selfish answer, protecting one's own interests. By contrast, Jesus' answer hits home, turning us away from self to God. 'Love' (not 'obey' or 'adore' or 'fear' or 'reverence') is the command. Love is not simply the warmth of companionship or of sex, but is the willing generosity of mother to helpless young child or daughter to helpless old parent, of wife to alcoholic husband or husband to paralysed wife, seeking no reward but the happiness of the receiver. Paul gives a useful check-list about love in chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthians. John's first letter provides a useful summary: 'No one who fails to love the brother or sister whom he can see, can love God whom he has not seen'. How do we put into practice this commandment to love?



Third Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

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. Ps 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First reading: Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this:

“You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

Responsorial Psalm

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;

my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king

and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we

started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation:

Cf. Ac 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Or:

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 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 369.00, loose plate £350.84. 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 on Saturdays

Please remember that we now have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament between 5pm and 5.45pm on Saturdays. Do take advantage of this opportunity to spend time with Jesus, present on our altar

Calling our young people!

Westminster Youth Ministry is hosting a Summit event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Tuesday 31st October at 7pm. The Summit is aimed at young people aged 13-18 years old, for an evening of food, games and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It would be wonderful if a group of young people from our parish could attend. Please speak to Fr Tony if you are interested. We will meet at Five Precious Wounds at 6.30pm and walk up to the Shrine (10 minutes) together.

All Saint's Day

Wednesday 1st November is the Solemnity of All Saint's. This is a Holy Day of Obligation (or, to put it another way, an extra opportunity to come to Mass during the week!). There will be Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Month of the Holy Souls

November is the month to remember and pray for the Holy Souls. Please place the names of your deceased loved ones for whom you wish to pray in one of the envelopes available at the back of church. Holy Mass will be offered for them in the month of November.

First Holy Communion 2023-24

Our first preparation session for our First Holy Communion programme takes place next Sunday, 5th November, at 10.45am in the parish

centre. Subsequent sessions will be on 12th, 19th, 26th November and 3rd December. The 12pm Mass next Sunday will be the Enrolment Mass at which the First Holy Communion children will all participate. From next Sunday, parents should sign the attendance register which will be at the back of church.

Deacon Andrew is away from the parish for several weeks from this week. We appreciate everything he does for our parish, and wish him an enjoyable and well-earned rest!

Forthcoming funerals

Dudley Henry RIP

The funeral of the late Dudley Henry will take place on Wednesday 8th November at 11.00am. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday was celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world on 22nd October! Please pray for the mission of the church throughout the world. On 4/5th November we will have a second collection for Missio, the Pope's charity for the missions. Please call 02078219755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift or setup a direct debit and gift-aid your donation if possible. Missio.org.uk.

Friday collection

As many of you know, we are blessed in having music at our Friday morning Mass and Adoration. This is enjoyed by our own parishioners and by those who visit us from other parishes. To help defray the cost for our Friday music, from the start of November we are going to introduce a collection at the end of Mass and Adoration. If everyone who comes on a Friday donates just a pound or two to this collection it will go a long way to covering these costs and helping the parish in difficult financial circumstances.

Collection for albs for our altar servers

It is wonderful that we now have so many young altar servers at our Sunday Masses. Their presence adds great dignity to our celebrations. Unfortunately the albs (robes) that they wear are now quite old so we would like to buy some new ones for them to wear from Christmas onwards. We had a second collection for this purpose last weekend. We have raised £340. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Alpha

Please continue to pray 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.

Alpha participants

For those attending Alpha: please remember we will meet again, following our half-term break, at 6.30pm on 2nd November. Our away-day at St Patrick's, Neasden, is from 11am-4pm on 4th November.

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.

Holy communion for the sick and housebound

Are you able to help with the important role of taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound? Just one visit a month to someone at home can make a world of difference to them. If you can help, please speak to Fr Tony. You will receive training and be enrolled as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Universe Catholic Weekly

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

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, starting from **5th November**. 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.

Baptism preparation

The next baptism preparation session, for parents wishing to have children baptised, will be on Tuesday 7th 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

Friday 17th 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.

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
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.

KARAOKE NIGHT

Our next parish social event is our Karaoke Night on Friday 17th November. Come along and sing some of your favourite tunes!
From 7.00pm until 9.00pm. Entry £5 at the door, including soft drinks/light refreshments.
All welcome!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

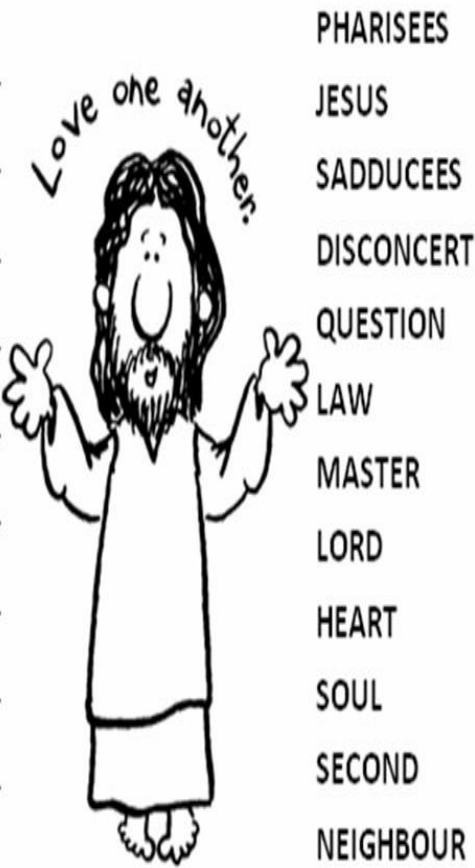
"To be a saint is not a privilege of a few...all of us in baptism have the inheritance of being able to become saints. Sanctity is a vocation for everyone."

Pope Francis
All Saints Day

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

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



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