

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 31st Sunday in Ordinary time – 5th November 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 5th November Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	31st Sunday Ordinary Time Daniel Ryan - RIP Carl Hoyt - RIP People of the Parish
Monday 6th November No Mass	
Tuesday 7th November 10am	St Willibrord, Bishop Michael Smith - RIP
Wednesday 8th November 10am	Medina Villanueva Masbad - RIP
Thursday 9th November 10am	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Jacob Logan Scherf - Birthday
Friday 10th November 10am	St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor Michael Mooney - RIP
Sunday 12th November Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	32nd Sunday Ordinary Time People of the Parish Michael & Nellie Naughton - RIP Anniversary Alberta Plaza - 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 the fiercest of all the hard things which the gospel of Matthew has to say about the scribes and Pharisees. It introduces a sevenfold curse upon them. The Pharisees were the party of the Jews most concerned about the exact observance of the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The ‘scribes’ were lawyers to whom they would turn in the case of a clash between two laws. Their attention to detail and their fussiness often made them lose sight of the real purpose of the Law. However, Jesus was prepared to meet them on the Pharisees’ own ground and debate with them on their own terms. In the gospels, and especially in Matthew (written towards the end of the first century), the hostility of the early Christians to the Pharisees has obviously become fiercer, no doubt because of their persecution of the followers of Jesus. As Matthew warns, ‘They will flog you in their synagogues.’ One of their concerns was obviously the status of the religious leaders. It looks as though they were almost turning themselves into little gods. So here the gospel stresses, by contrast, that all the disciples of Jesus are equal: in Christianity there is only one Father, only one Teacher for all.



What are the charges here levelled against the Pharisees?

What qualities earn Christian leaders the respect of others?

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 37: 22-23
Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

First reading: Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 130(131)

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and forever.

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

Second reading:

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13
Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's

message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation:

1S3:9,Jn6:68
Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 15: 11
You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
O Lord.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 361.00, loose plate £509.78. 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.

Many congratulations to Ben Burney, who was received into the Catholic Church and confirmed at the 6pm Mass here on Saturday (4th November).

Youth Group - calling 13-18 year olds

On Tuesday this week, a group of youngsters from our parish attended the Summit youth event at Our Lady of Willesden. They enjoyed food, games and time of prayer in church. Following this, we would like to establish a youth group in our own parish. If you are 13-18 years old, please put Friday 1st December, 6.30pm-8pm in your diary for our first get-together. All welcome!

The repository - open today!

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 open again between the two Masses on the first Sunday of each month, **starting today, 5th November**. Are you able to help in the repository so we can extend these opening hours even further? If so, please speak to Fr Tony.

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. Mass will be offered for them in the month of November.

Friday collection

As many of you know, we are blessed in having music at our Friday morning Mass and Adoration. To help defray the cost for our Friday music, we have introduced 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.

Lost ring

This week a silver/diamond ring was found in the church. It looks like it may be an engagement ring. If it is yours, please speak to Violet, our administrator.

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. This weekend 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.

The Sick & Retired Priests' collection

The second collection in two weeks' time (18th/19th November) will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to **82** retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back with your donation. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

First Holy Communion 2023-24

Our first preparation session for our First Holy Communion programme takes place today 5th November, at 10.45am in the parish centre. Subsequent sessions will be on 12th, 19th, 26th November and 3rd December. The 12pm Mass today will be the Enrolment Mass at which the First Holy Communion children will all participate. From today, parents should sign the Mass attendance register which will be at the back of church.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Open Morning for 2024-2025 Intake – Thursday 16th November 2023

Nestled in the midst of a busy community, Our Lady of Lourdes is an oasis of calm that provides a fantastic learning environment for your child to develop. Our wonderfully spacious and colourful learning environment has the most up-to-date facilities to encourage your child's development, providing a happy and secure stepping-stone from which your child can progress. Our staff are highly qualified, dedicated and caring, with a wealth of experience in delivering early years education. The children are presented with a wide range of practical experiences intended to motivate, stimulate and challenge and which promote learning through experience and encouragement of independence in preparation for the next stage of their learning journey. We still have limited spaces in both settings for this academic year. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. To arrange a visit please contact the school office on 0208 961 5037. To find out more please join us on Thursday 16th November at 9:00.

Reconciliation sheet

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available twice weekly in this parish: during Adoration on Friday mornings and on Saturday evenings between 5.15 and 5.45pm. If you haven't been to Confession for a long time, there are some useful sheets at the back of church to help you prepare.

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
andrewsafofoku@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

“Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife. .”

St. Leo the Great
Whose feast day falls this Friday

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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

SCRIBES

MOSES

GUIDED

PREACH

BURDENS

SHOULDERS

TASSELS

RABBI

SERVANT

CHAIR

LISTEN

PRACTISE

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:
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.