

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary time – 12th 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 12th November

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

Monday 13th November

No Mass

Tuesday 14th November

10am

Wednesday 15th November

10am

Thursday 16th November

10am

Friday 17th November

10am

Sunday 19th November

Saturday 6pm

10am

12pm

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

People of the Parish

Michael & Nellie Naughton - RIP

Anniversary

Alberta Plaza - RIP Anniversary

Holy Souls

St Albert the Great, Bishop

Anthony Rose & James Thomas

Mills - RIP Anniversary

St Margaret of Scotland, St.

Gertrude, St. Edmund of Abingdon

Holy Souls

St Elizabeth, St Hilda, & St Hugh

Jeanna Robinson - RIP

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Patrick and Mary Ann Flanagan -

RIP Anniversary

People of the Parish

Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Of course they weren't bridesmaids! According to the custom of the time the girls were attendant on the bridegroom, to greet him with their lamps as he arrived at the wedding-reception. Anyway, half of them weren't ready, let him down, and then found themselves shut out.



There is a subtle difference between the parables given in Mark's and Matthew's gospels. In Mark they are all about the sudden coming of God's Kingship in history, at the time of Jesus. Jesus proclaimed that the crisis was now. In him God's reign had arrived: it was time to take drastic action. Matthew's parables take a longer-term view: there will be a final judgement at the end of time, for which we, in the Church and in the course of history, must prepare. Some will and some won't. Some will be found to be wheat, others to be weeds. When the catch of fish comes in, some fish will be thrown away, some kept. Some will be sheep and others goats. Each year, as the liturgical year draws to a close, the Church reminds us of this. And the End will be sudden and unpredictable, like a burglar on the one night I forgot to lock the door, or like a mouse-trap snapping shut, or like the unpredictable moment of birth pangs.

Am I ready for the coming of Christ?

What does it mean to be like the wise bridesmaids and have oil in my lamp?

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.

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 87:3
Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First reading:

Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 62(63):2-8

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Second reading:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord’s own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord’s coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord

for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation:

Mt24:42 44
Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 25:1-13
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.” But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.” They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.” So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 22:1-2
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.

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.

Parish social events

THIS FRIDAY - KARAOKE NIGHT - FROM 7PM TO 9PM. 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.

Alpha celebration

On Thursday 14th December at 6.30pm, we are holding a celebration evening to mark the end of our parish Alpha course. Join us for food, conversation, testimonies and praise and worship music. If you haven't been to Alpha, you are very welcome to join us for a preview of the next season.

Youth Group - calling 13-18 year olds

We would love 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. There'll be a video, pizza and music. All welcome!

The repository

The repository (church shop) is now 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? If so, please speak to Fr Tony.

Damage to pews

A number of our pews have been badly scratched, apparently by children using pencils or playing with sharp-edged toys. We love children being in church, but we ask parents to be mindful of the impact of their behaviour. Thank you for your understanding.

Items left at the back of church

Please do not leave prayer cards, magazines etc. at the back of church without checking with Fr Tony first. They are likely to be removed otherwise.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Carital Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

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.

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 Holy Communion programme takes place today 12th November, at 10.45am in the parish centre. Subsequent sessions will be on 19th, 26th November and 3rd December. 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

Michael Smith RIP

The Requiem Mass of the late Michael Smith will take place on Friday 8th December at 12.00pm.
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.

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
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 - THIS WEEK!

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

"The greater and more persistent your confidence in God, the more abundantly you will receive what you ask"

St. Albert the Great
Whose feast day falls this Wednesday

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

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

TEN BRIDESMAID LAMPS
FIVE BRIDEGROOM FOOLISH
SENSIBLE WEDDING OIL
DOOR AWAKE HOUR

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.