

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time – 19th 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 19th November Saturday 6pm	33rd Sunday Ordinary Time Patrick and Mary Ann Flanagan - RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary
10am 12pm	
Monday 20th November No Mass	
Tuesday 21st November 10am	Presentation of the Blessed Mary Bridget, James, Vincent Heraghty and Martin Deane - RIP St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr Holy Souls
Wednesday 22nd November 10am	St. Clement I & St. Columbanus Anita Nicol - RIP
Thursday 23rd November 10am	St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companian Selda Hamdi Atienza -Birthday, Thanksgiving
Friday 24th November 10am	Christ the King - Solemnity People of the Parish Lin Thomas - Healing
Sunday 26th November Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	Christ the King - Solemnity People of the Parish Lin Thomas - Healing Gifty Roberts - 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

It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don’t have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make

As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores abscesses that God loves me helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him “wicked and lazy” and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord’s purposes or for anyone else’s. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.



Just think for a moment: what is your best talent?

Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you?

Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to 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:

Jer 29: 11, 12, 14
The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First reading:

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband’s heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128):1-5
O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Second reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a

pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.
But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation:

Rv2:10
Alleluia, alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-15,19-21
Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.
‘Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”’

Communion Antiphon

Mk 11: 23-24
Amen, I say to you, whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you will receive,
and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 440.13, loose plate £371.84. 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.

A personal request

Fr Tony writes: this week my mum, Lin, was diagnosed with an aggressive lung cancer. She is now waiting for a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Please pray for my mum's healing and for my family intentions at this concerning time. Thank you, and God bless you.

Thank you

Last week an extremely generous parishioner left a significant cash donation on the altar. He or she did so anonymously so the only way to say 'thank you' is through the newsletter. We are very grateful for your kindness and your support of this parish.

The Sick & Retired Priests' collection

Today's second collection is for sick and retired priests' fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility.

Please give using the envelopes in the church. You can also 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. You may also wish to consider becoming a **Patron** of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today, for more information. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Parish social events

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.

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.

First Holy Communion 2023-24

Our First Holy Communion programme takes place today 19th November, at 10.45am in the parish centre. Subsequent sessions will be on 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.

Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on Sunday 3rd December 2023 in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat to prepare spiritually for Christmas, with reflections, prayer, adoration, and confessions. Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock, London W8 4BB. Timings: Mass at 12.15pm, Lunch at 1pm, Retreat from 2pm-5.30pm. Donations only. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

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.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We should let God be the One to praise us and not praise ourselves. For God detests those who commend themselves. Let others applaud our good deeds.”

St. Clement I, Pope
Whose feast day falls this Thursday

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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

DISCIPLES

COINS

MONEY

WONDERFUL

SERVANT

COUNTRY

EARNED

FAITHFUL

THOUSAND

MASTER

MORE

HAPPINESS

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.