

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 34th Sunday in Ordinary time – 26th 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 26th November	Christ the King - Solemnity
Saturday 6pm	People of the Parish
10am	Lin Thomas - Healing
12pm	Gifty Roberts - RIP Anniversary
Monday 27th November	
No Mass	
Tuesday 28th November	
10am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 29th November	
10am	LoraineMarshall Parungao - Birthday Thanksgiving
	St. Andrew, Apostle - Feast
	Marlyn Sancion - RIP
Thursday 30th November	
10am	
Friday 1st December	
10am	Holy Souls
Sunday 3rd December	1st Sunday of Advent
Saturday 6pm	Frank Gilmore - RIP Anniversary
10am	Annie Diada - Thanksgiving
12pm	Iris Julien - 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

Today’s Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus’ discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew’s Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew’s report on Jesus’ life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus’ Passion and Resurrection.



In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that [last week’s parable](#) of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today’s Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew’s Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

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:

Rv 5:12; 1:6
How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First reading:

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17
The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.
As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23):1-3a,5-6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation: Mk11:10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.
‘Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”
‘Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.”
‘And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

Communion Antiphon Ps 28:10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 394.14, loose plate £347.05. 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: as many of you know, my mum, Lin, has been diagnosed with an aggressive lung cancer. She will be beginning a 6-week course of radiotherapy around Christmas time. Please continue to pray for my mum's healing and for my family's intentions at this concerning time. I greatly appreciate the many kindnesses that have been shown to us. God bless you.

Parish social events

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

Red Box Holders

It is time to empty your Red Box for Missio. Please hand in to Eileen O'Brien or the Church Repository.

Thank you

Recently we have had a number of second collections and social events. Thank you for your generosity in supporting them. The sums raised were as follows:

CAFOD £185

Missio £400

Sick & Retired Priest £550

Altar Servers Albs £470

Karaoke £220

Parish Lunch £735

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!

Open House There will be no Open House this Tuesday. The next Open House, when you can meet Fr Tony without an appointment, will be on Tuesday 5th December between 5pm and 6pm in the presbytery.

The repository

The repository (church shop) is now open again on a limited basis. Are you able to help in the repository so we can extend the 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.

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 26th November, at 10.45am in the parish centre. Subsequent sessions will be on 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.

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

Let there be peace on earth: Young Adult Advent Retreat

Come and take time aside with other young adults aged 18-35 this Advent. We will have time to reflect and pray to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

When: Saturday 16th December 2023, 10:30am-2:30pm

Where: FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA (a short walk from London's Euston station)

Who: facilitated by Sr Anouska Robinson-Biggin fCJ (The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) are an International Congregation of Catholic Sisters founded by Marie Madeleine d'Houët in France in 1820)

Cost: By Donation

For more information book your place email: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

AROUND THE PARISH

HOW TO CONTACT US

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0208 965 3313
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Parish priest:
Fr Tony Thomas
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Permanent Deacon:
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Parish administrator:
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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

“If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus... We must pray to Jesus to give us that tenderness of the Eucharist.”

St Teresa of Calcutta

Alpha celebration evening

Thursday 14th December 6.30pm

Join us for an evening of food, conversation, testimonies and praise and worship music.

If you’ve not done Alpha, come along for a preview of our next season.

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

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

GLORY
SHEPHERD
FOOD
FIRE

ANGELS
HERITAGE
STRANGER
DEVIL

THRONE
HUNGRY
CURSE
VIRTUOUS



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:

Lin Thomas, 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.