

# FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

# CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Parish Bulletin – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**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

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> Saturday 6pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Mary Ann and Patrick Flanagan - RIP Anniversary Lin Thomas - Healing Ann Obi - RIP
10am 12pm	
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> 10am	Catherine McCarthy - RIP
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> 10am	<b>St. John Bosco, Priest</b> Michael O’Brien - RIP
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> 10am	Isobel Scherf - Birthday - Thanksgiving <b>The Presentation fo the Lord</b> Myranda Devonish - Thanksgiving
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> 10am	
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> Saturday 6pm	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Gail Marshall Atienza - Birthday, Thanksgiving People of the Parish Gifty Roberts - RIP
10am 12pm	

## 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

The growing authority of Jesus is the theme of the early part of Mark’s gospel and today’s story is an excellent illustration of this. Jesus has already called the disciples. He calls and they simply follow: it seems that he is a total stranger to them, yet has such authority that they drop everything to follow him. Now in the synagogue he teaches on his own authority. He does not quote the interpretations of others, as rabbinic teachers did, saying, “Rabbi X says this,” “Rabbi Y says that”. No, Jesus teaches, “I say to you...”. He seems to be master even of the Law. But it is God’s Law. Only God has authority over it, so who does Jesus think he is? On one level he is a teacher to be compared with Moses, one who is to come into the world, the teacher prophesied in today’s first reading. But he is more than this. To confirm the power of his teaching, he shows what authority he has by overcoming an unclean spirit, wringing from it the snivelling protest, “Have you come to destroy us?” and the acknowledgement that he has a special link with God.



**What are the qualities of a good teacher?**

**How does Jesus, the good teacher, reveal his authority?**

# 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:**

Ps 105: 47  
Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

**First reading:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Moses said to the people: ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

*O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

*O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’*

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

*O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’*

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

*O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’*

**Second reading:**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and

devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:**

Mark 1:21-28  
Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.  
In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

**Communion Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18  
Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,  
for I call on you.

# AROUND THE PARISH



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 474.00, loose plate £310.90. 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.

### Fr Tony's parents write:

We would like to thank the parishioners of the Five Precious wounds for all your prayers and kind thoughts, and the Masses that have been offered for Lin's recovery from cancer. They have given us comfort and strength during a difficult time. Best wishes, Lin and Anthony Thomas.

### Candle sales

Due to cost increases, the price at which we sell candles no longer reflects what the parish pays for them. In fact, we now make a loss on each candle sold.

Regrettably, this means that from the beginning of February, we will have to raise the price of our candles as follows:

Tea lights - 25p (remains the same)

24-hour votive lights - £1.50

Pillar candles - £2.50

If parishioners wish to purchase whole boxes of candles, we are very happy to order them from our suppliers. However, we currently make a substantial loss on these so in future we will have to charge the following prices, as follows:

Box of 96, 24-hour votive lights - £90

Box of 24 pillar candles - £40.

Thank you for your understanding.

### Toilets in the hall

We are pleased to let you know that the finance committee has approved the refurbishment of the gents' and ladies' toilets in the parish hall. Prior to work this work commencing, however, we have been advised that a small amount of asbestos needs to be removed. For the time being, the main toilets will be closed, but facilities will be available in the former nursery area. Please follow the signs in the hall.

### Blessing of throats

Next Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, is the feast of St Blaise, when we celebrate the traditional blessing of throats.

This year, the blessing of throats will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February after the 10am Mass.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. There will be Masses with the imposition of ashes at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

### Palm crosses

If you have any palm crosses from last year, please bring them back to the church. They will be burned and used for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Many thanks.

### Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 is the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. There will be a Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2.30pm, celebrated by the Cardinal, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Those who would like to attend can give their names to the parish office.

### Connect Group

Recently we had the first of our post-Alpha Connect groups. Despite the freezing weather (outside and inside the parish hall!) there was a good turnout and we had a great discussion on the theme of "Why pray?"

The Connect group is for anyone who's done Alpha (and all those who are curious) to come together once a month to connect with each other and with God. We'll follow the same format as Alpha: food and social time, praise and worship music, video input and small group discussion.

To begin with, our input will be from The Prayer Course (<https://prayercourse.org/sessions/>). Our next Connect group will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm, when we'll be exploring the prayer of Adoration: how we can enjoy God's presence in praise and worship.

PS - for those who haven't had a chance to do Alpha yet, we're going to run it again later this year. Look out for further announcements.

### Christmas Crib

Our Crib will remain in the church until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord ('Candlemas') on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Donations made at the Crib will be sent to the Catholic Children's Society.

### Second collection – White Flower Appeal

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the SPUC White Flower Appeal last weekend. A grand total of £395 was raised.

### Youth group

Our youth group has good food, games, friendship, maybe a video if we have time (Alpha youth). All aged 13-18 are welcome. Our next one will take place this Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.30pm in the hall. Please bring along a completed parental consent form, which you can obtain through the office. All welcome!

### Confirmation

Last year, a small number of our young parishioners was Confirmed in a joint celebration with St Patrick's, Neasden. Due to the reduced numbers, Fr Patrick and I have decided we will celebrate Confirmations on

alternate years for the time being, as many other parishes now do. So our next Confirmations will take place in Spring, 2025. Please look out for enrolment details in the autumn.

### Open House

The Open House will resume again in February. This is an opportunity to see Fr Tony without an appointment (for form signings etc). Please come to the presbytery between 5pm and 6pm on Tuesdays.

### First Saturday Devotion

Each month the Filipino community will celebrate the First Saturday devotion to Our Lady at 4pm. This will be followed as normal by Adoration and Confessions, and Mass at 6pm. Next celebration on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. All welcome.

### Baptism preparation

Please note that the next baptism preparation will no longer take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January but will be held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** instead.

### First Holy Communion 2023-24

The next First Holy Communion session takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.45am in the parish centre. Parents should sign the Mass attendance register which will be at the back of church.

**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.

### Christian Leadership Formation: application deadline 25 February

Are you currently in Year 12? Are you passionate about bringing your Catholic faith into the public square? The Christian Leadership Formation programme offers the opportunity to engage with Catholic academics, politicians and professionals; broaden and develop your critical thinking, analytical and learning skills; and receive a certificate validated by the University of St Mary's, Twickenham. Bursaries available for any level of subsidy required. Find out more: [www.christianleadershipformation.com](http://www.christianleadershipformation.com)

### Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Open Morning for 2024-2025 Intake – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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. To arrange a visit please contact the school office on 0208 961 5037.



# 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](mailto:tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Permanent Deacon:**  
Rev. Andrew Safo Poku  
[andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish administrator:**  
Violet D'Souza  
[stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk)

**Safeguarding representative:**  
Janeen Nwosu  
[stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
**Primary School**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://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.

## FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS CATHOLIC CHURCH

POST-ALPHA  
CONNECT GROUP

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
AT 6.30PM



Please join us on 15<sup>th</sup> February to explore the prayer of adoration: how we can enjoy God's presence in praise and worship.

The Connect group is for anyone who's done Alpha (and all those who are curious) to come together once a month to connect with each other and with God. We'll follow the same format as Alpha: food and social time, praise and worship music, video input and small group discussion.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"All for God and for His Glory. In whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your main goal "**

St. John Bosco, Priest  
whose feast day falls this Wednesday

## CHILDREN'S CORNER


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

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

CAPERNAUM  
TEACH  
SPIRIT  
QUIET

SABBATH  
SCRIBES  
DESTROY  
ORDERS

SYNAGOGUE  
UNCLEAN  
HOLY  
OBEY



## 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.*