

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 2nd Sunday of Lent – 25th February 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

Sunday 25th February 2024 Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	2nd Sunday of Lent People of the Parish Sebastiao - RIP Michael Sullivan - RIP
Monday 26th February No Mass	
Tuesday 27th February 10am	St Gregory of Narek Lorraine Breakspeare - RIP
Wednesday 28th February 10am	Ada Jutha - Thanksgiving for prayers answered
Thursday 29th February 10am	Eileen Delaney - Thanksgiving
Friday 1st March 10am	St David, Bishop Jo Surla - RIP
Sunday 3rd March Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	3rd Sunday of Lent People of the Parish Ann and Tom Devine - RIP Anniversary Lorna Marie - RIP - Birthday

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

As the time of the Passion approaches, the foreboding of the disciples grows. Jesus sustains them with this vivid manifestation of himself in glory. On the holy mountain of revelation they see him transformed. It was a real visual experience, though described in symbols familiar from the Bible - brilliant white clothes and so on. Moses and Elijah are seen there because they also had experienced the vision of God on the holy mountain: Moses when he had received the Law from God on Mount Sinai; Elijah when he encountered God in the cave on Mount Horeb. The disciples were frightened, confused and overcome at the awesome experience, and yet, at the same time, comforted in such a way that Peter wanted to prolong it. Their reaction to the presence of the Lord will later be reflected by that of Christian mystics – both a reassuring terror and a frightening homeliness, the awareness of a presence which is awesome yet comforting - an experience which cannot fully be put into words. The Voice from Heaven is an echo of the Voice heard at Jesus’ Baptism. There, however, the Voice was addressed to Jesus, whereas here it is spoken to the disciples, proclaiming Jesus as authorized teacher, the one who speaks with the authority of the Beloved Son. When and how do you meet Jesus? How do you respond to God? Are you frightened of God, or is God a comfort to you?



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 26: 8-9
Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First reading:

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
God put Abraham to the test.
‘Abraham, Abraham’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 115(116):10,15-19
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:
‘I am sorely afflicted,’
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord’s name.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading:

Romans 8:31-34
With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone

accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt17:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard:
‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

Communion Antiphon Mt 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 393.10, loose plate £439.18. 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.

This weekend Fr Tony is away with family. We welcome Fr Tony Sammarco, who will be celebrating our Masses.

FPW Youth Group

Our new Youth Group will meet again this Thursday, 29th February, at 6.30pm for pizza, music and Youth Alpha. It's open to anyone between the ages of 13 and 18. Please join us!

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday during Lent at 7.00pm. This is preceded by our Lenten video series 'My Father's Father', at 6pm in the hall.

Parish Vision Afternoon

Over the last few months there have been some new initiatives - Alpha, the Connect Group and our new youth club - aimed at deepening the culture of evangelisation and formation in our parish. I'd now love to have a discussion about the next steps we can take on this journey.

Next Sunday, 3rd March, after the 12pm Mass we're going to have a Parish Vision Afternoon. It will consist of two talks - one about the missionary identity of the parish and a second about a vision for the future, followed by a discussion to gather thoughts and ideas about the next steps. Anyone involved in ministry in the parish - as readers, cleaners, members of the Alpha team, Eucharistic ministers, leaders of our national associations, finance committee members and so on - is welcome to attend. It will last a couple of hours and we will provide sandwiches and refreshments. Please come along and be part of this important discussion! God bless, Fr Tony.

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. There are envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. This weekend, we welcome a speaker from Mary's Meals to speak



more about this initiative. So, clear out your drawers and have a look under the sofa for foreign currency! Currently Mary's Meals feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education - by giving Mary's Meals your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child. Mary's Meals feeds in over 18 countries. Because of our low costs we can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year!

*We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender



My Father's Father

God is Father - this is the life-altering revelation of Jesus. Yet, how many of us struggle to know that we have a Father in heaven who knows, loves, and chooses us as His sons and daughters? Join Fr. Dave Pivonka on this 6-part video series as he journeys home to reflect on the urgent need to know God as a Father.

We will be showing this powerful series every Friday during Lent, at 6pm in the hall, prior to Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

Alpha

Our next Alpha season will take place after Easter. Please look out for more information in due course!

A Day with Mary

Information on A Day With Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at www.adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

The CAFOD Lent Fast Day took place last Friday, 23rd February. We will take a second collection on the weekend of 2nd/3rd March. Donation envelopes are available at the back of church.

James told us that when his family had no food, he faced a terrible choice: stay home and stay hungry or put everything on the line to go out onto the water in his small canoe. Five fishermen a month - many he called 'brothers' - were dying in storms at sea. Just like him, they couldn't afford the life jackets, compasses and other equipment they needed to stay safe at sea and get a good catch.

Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good.

Thank you for all your support!

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 have raised 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.

Connect Group

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 14th March at 6.30pm, when we'll be exploring the significance of the prayer of petition..

Open House

There will be an Open House this Tuesday between 5pm and 6pm in the Presbytery. This is an opportunity to see Fr Tony without an appointment (for form signings etc).

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 2nd March. All welcome.

Baptism preparation

Please note that the next baptism preparation session will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 7pm.

First Holy Communion 2023-24

The next First Holy Communion sessions take place today, 25th February, and 3rd, 10th and 17th March at 10.45am in the parish centre. First Confessions will take place on Saturday 16th March at 11am. Parents should continue to sign the Mass attendance register which will be at the back of church.

AROUND THE PARISH

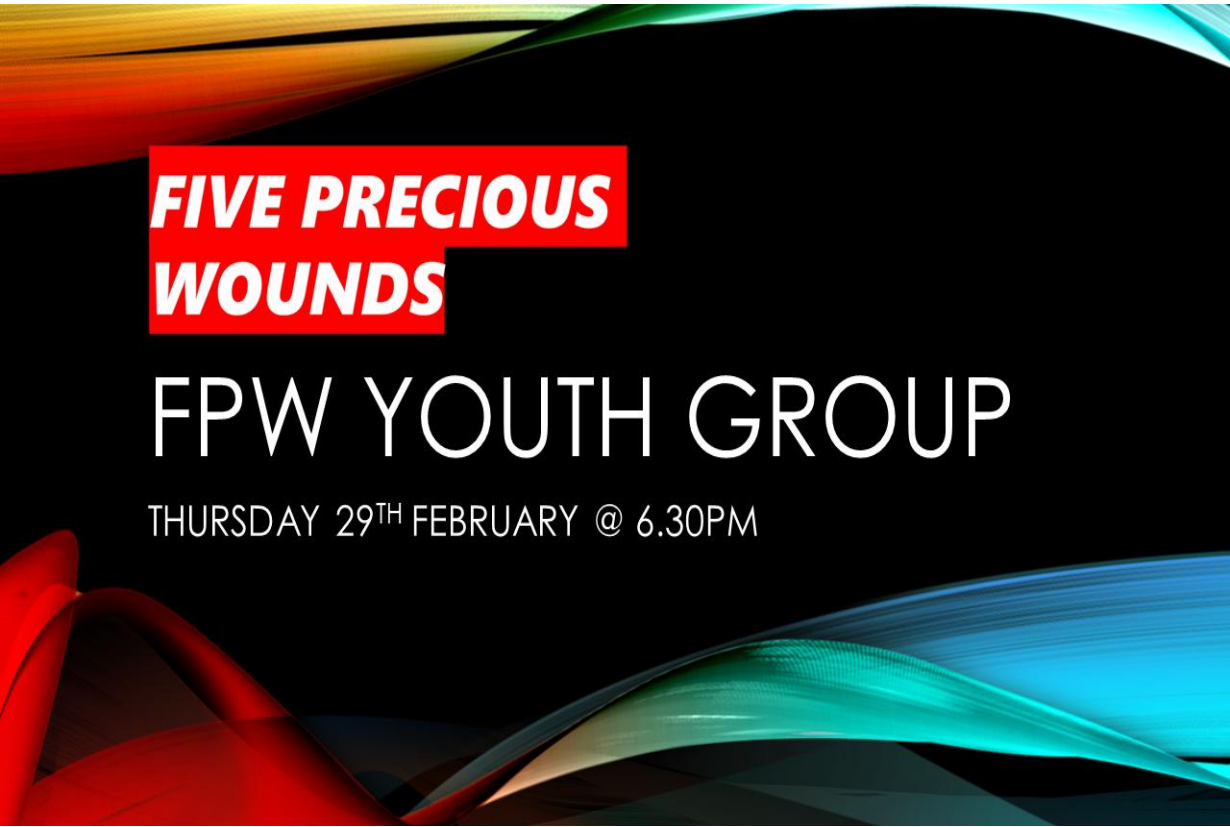
HOW TO CONTACT US

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.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK


“God does not delay to hear our prayers because He has no mind to give; but that, by enlarging our desires, He may give us the more largely.”

-Anselm of Canterbury

CHILDREN’S CORNER

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

Y	E	L	I	H	A	J	I	L	E
L	M	O	S	E	S	C	I	P	N
G	T	O	M	S	E	R	R	O	V
N	I	H	U	T	S	E	T	O	W
I	B	N	R	N	S	H	I	O	H
L	B	G	Z	E	T	C	D	N	I
Z	A	N	N	T	E	A	O	W	T
Z	R	C	O	D	H	E	I	O	E
A	E	A	H	S	A	L	O	N	E
D	E	V	O	L	E	B	O	K	T



MOUNTAIN
PRESENCE
BLEACHER
WHITE
ELIJAH
MOSES
RABBI
THREE
TENTS
SHADOW
BELOVED
VOICE

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, Camilla Rowe, 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.