Holy Rood Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Limited hours this week
Office Location: Percy Road, WD18 0QA
Charity No. 233699
CCTV operating in Church and on-site 24 hrs

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard O'Brien
Assistant Priest: Fr Tim Mangatal
Deacon: Rev Neville Dyckhoff
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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 20 September 2026

J M J

Hailed as "the great communicator" by Billy Graham and "a prophet of the times by Pope Pius XII, Fulton Sheen was the voice and face of American Catholicism for nearly fifty years. In addition to his prolific writings, Sheen dominated the airwaves, first in radio and later in television, with his signature and well-beloved programme, *Life is worth living*, using simply chalk, charm and charisma. His knowledge of the faith had depth, his intellect; sharp, his wit; unmatched and his storytelling; second to none.

His show drew an average of 30 million viewers a week in the 1950s (*to put that into context, that is nearly 5 million more viewers a week than Coronation Street at its peak in 1980*). Such was the show's influence and commercial success that it was nominated for an Emmy Award which it won in 1953.

Long before podcasts, YouTube and social media which gave religious leaders a way to reach millions, one visionary archbishop became one of the most recognisable Catholic voices not only in America but internationally.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen spent time assisting the Parish Priest of St Patrick's Church in Soho Square, London and regularly preached at Mass during the 1920s through to the 1960s.

He famously called himself the "unappointed curate" of the parish. He spent about eight months living and assisting there full-time early in his ministry and often stayed in the presbytery during later visits.

Sheen was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, and in 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to his intercession, paving the way for him to be ranked among the 'Blessed'.

On 24 September 2026, the Catholic Church will celebrate the beatification of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen in St. Louis, Missouri, marking an important milestone in his cause for canonization.

The occasion offers Catholics worldwide an opportunity to rediscover Sheen's remarkable life, work and legacy.

Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us.

Last weekend we enjoyed and were very much blessed as we celebrated our Parish Feast, spiritually and socially, the Exhalation of the Cross. Thank you to all who came to the parish BBQ and for all who worked very hard behind the scenes to prepare food and cook food, setting up and cleaning up after. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you.

Last weekend, we were reminded that the brutality of the Cross that Jesus carried and died upon, actually brought about great blessings and the promise, if we submit to God, a better life, a prefect life, an eternal life, one day when our earthly lives are over. Nobody really wants to suffer, or see others suffer, but as Christians, we cannot walk away from our crosses. We have to bear them, carry them, embrace them. However, our own crosses are a little lighter and more bearable because of Jesus carrying the Cross on that first Good Friday, the ultimate sacrifice, of Jesus laying down his life for us. How can a parent not sacrifice their own life to save the lives of their children?

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Life Issues So many have been hurt as a consequence of abortion, including families and friends. But there is help and counselling. Please check out notice board or visit sites such as ARCH, www.archtrust.org.uk, SPUC, www.spuc.org.uk, lifecharity.org.uk. Please don't suffer in silence.

Assisted Suicide Bill Following the positive result on Friday 11th September when the bill was defeated, we have been asked to petition our MP's, whichever way they voted, to reassure this countries commitment to improve palliative, hospice and social care and to make high quality care available to everyone who needs it and not to support further attempts to introduce assisted suicide. We must never let our guard down when it comes to protecting all human life.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. **1 Peter 5: 8-9**

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. Please pray daily for vocations to the priesthood.

MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday 20 September
+TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11am Noelle Ford RIP 1st anniv.
12.30pm Manna Joshi Int.
2.15pm Polish Mass
Monday 21 September
St Matthew
12noon Eileen Fernandes Int.
Tuesday 22 September
Feria
8.30am Elizabeth Aniekpon Int.
12noon Jackie Elliot RIP
Wednesday 23 September
Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (Padro Pio)
12noon Fatima Dias Int.
Thursday 24 September
Our Lady of Walsingham
12noon Jackie Elliott RIP
Friday 25 September
Feria
6pm People of Ukraine
Saturday 26 September
Feria
11am Carmel Cattell RIP
6pm Angie Fisken RIP
Sunday 27 September
+TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11am Jackie Elliot.
12.30pm Manna Joshi Int.
2.15pm Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Eileen Thanksgiving
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Tuesday 9am-11.15am; Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Friday 6.30pm-7pm
Saturday 11.30am-12noon & 4.45pm-5.15pm

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK & LAST RITES By request

BAPTISMS Please contact the Parish Office 01923 224085

MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Parish Centre on Friday 25th September from 10am to 12noon. Everyone welcome.

School Form Signing Certificates of Catholic Practice for all school admissions, will be signed Saturday 10th October, 9am – 9.30am, in the Parish Centre. Parents must attend at this time.

St Joan of Arc and Loreto College open evenings Please see noticeboard for details.

Tuesday evening Gospel Refection Group re-opens this Tuesday 15th in the Parish Centre. 8pm. All are welcome.

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries There are some very useful free leaflets, at the back of the church, near the repository.

A handbag was left in church 2 weeks ago. If it is yours, please contact the parish office.

Catechism Corner: The Sunday Obligation Catholics are required by church law to attend Mass every Sunday or anticipate the obligation by attending a Saturday evening vigil.

The Rule: Attending Mass on Sundays (or a Saturday vigil) is a grave obligation, one of the primary precepts of the Catholic Church.

Saturday Vigil: A Mass held on Saturday evening, usually starting from 4:00pm or later, counts fully as your Sunday Mass obligation.

Exceptions: Catholics are excused from this requirement for serious reasons, such as personal illness, caring for the sick, severe weather, or a lack of access to a nearby Catholic church.

The Three Conditions for a Mortal Sin For missing Mass (or any act) to be a true mortal sin, Catholic theology requires three specific conditions to be met simultaneously:

Grave Matter: The church considers the Sunday obligation a serious matter because the Eucharist is central to the faith and fulfils the Third Commandment.

Full Knowledge: The person must know that attending Mass is a binding, serious obligation.

Deliberate Consent: The person must freely choose to skip Mass out of laziness, trivial preference, or other activities, rather than feeling forced or constrained.

Repository (Shop) Thank you to all who help with this. If you cannot be available, please arrange for someone to cover for you. New volunteers needed, particularly for the 6pm Vigil Mass.

Weddings If you are planning to get married, the diocese requires 6 months' notice, wherever you are getting married, locally or abroad. Please do not make any formal arrangements with venues or families, until permission has been granted by the Chancery Office, at Westminster. Often people request a letter from us, with the wedding day already planned. There is no such thing as a single letter. Full paperwork has to be completed, involving, along with a marriage course, civil paperwork and a visit to a solicitor. Please share this information with family and friends. The parish and the diocese will not be liable for any expenses incurred before permission is granted.

GIFT Growing in Faith Together The parish is not accepting applications at this time for preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion. The current catechesis is still on-going. Information will be published in time.

Legacies These present a huge opportunity for our parish. To find out more, please see the leaflets at the back of the church. Further information can be found on the website, or by contacting the Legacy Coordinator at the diocese. | legacies@rcdow.org.uk | 020 7798 9025.

Far better it is for you to say: "I am a sinner," than to say: "I have no need of religion." The empty can be filled, but the self-intoxicated have no room for God."
Fulton J. Sheen,

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. Please pray daily for vocations to the priesthood.