



SHRINE & PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN,

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Rector and Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Willis.

Assistant Priest: Fr William Johnstone.

Parish Secretary: Karen Toole: Safeguarding: Sylvia Vernon.

**PARISH
NEWSLETTER
10th March
2024.
IV OF LENT
LEATARE /
MOTHERING
SUNDAY**

Lamp intentions this week:

Sacred Heart Lamp- Pat Willis (Birthday intentions)

Blessed Sacrament Lamp 1 - Theresa Walls – RIP

Shrine Lamp- Andrew

Mass intentions from Saturday 9th March 2024

6pm: Pro Populo

Sunday 9am: Fr Kevin McDevitt- Anniversary

11am: Holy Souls OLM

5.30pm: Alex & Oscar Werminski – Int.

Mon: 10am: Hilda Finnerty -RIP

7pm: November Dead List 2024

Tues 10am: Holy Souls OLM

7pm: Annette Curran RIP – Lately Dead

Wed: 10am: Holy Souls OLM

7pm: Mary Ward - RIP

Thurs :10am: Elizabeth Mangan RIP – Lately Dead

7pm: Mary Ward - RIP

Fri: 10am: Mrs Strinati RIP – Lately Dead

7pm: Holy Souls OLM

Saturday 10am: Mary & Christopher Rafferty - Anniversary

6pm: Peggy & Johnny McEntaggart- Anniversary

Sunday 9am: Esperanca Fernandes - RIP

11am: Pro Populo

5.30pm: Dora Breen -RIP

Masses & Sanctuary Lamp intentions can be booked online:

willesden@rcdow.org.uk or by phone 02089654935

MASS INTENTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 29th April 2024

and SANCTUARY LAMPS *from next weekend!*

USUAL MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6pm (Anticipated said Mass for Sunday)

SUNDAY 9am (simple said: Livestreamed)

11am (Solemn Mass with Choir)

5.30pm - (Traditional Latin)

Monday to Saturday 10am, & Monday-Friday 7pm

(No evening Mass on Bank Holidays)

Confessions: Tue 6.15-6.45pm & Sat.10.30-11.30am & 5-5.45pm.



The bronze serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe in Jesus Christ. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising from the dead, and his exaltation and ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only frees us from our sins and pardons us, he also fills us with his own divine life through the gift and working of his Spirit who dwells within us.

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual power and gifts, especially the seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (see Isaiah 11), to enable us to live in his strength as sons and daughters of God. Do you thirst for the *new life* which God offers you through the transforming power of his Holy Spirit?

How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world.

This passage tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, *God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love.* God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love.

Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?

Lord Jesus Christ, your death brought life for us. May your love consume and transform my life that I may desire you above all else. Help me to love what you love, to desire what you desire, and to reject what you reject. Amen.

THIS WEEK: IN CHURCH:

Weekdays, **Rosary** in the Shrine at 10.30am.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesdays & Saturdays between the masses.

Coffee and Bible Study: Thursday after 10am and 7pm Mass (evening sessions only during Lent).

Stations of the Cross: after 10am Mass on Wednesday, and 10 and 7pm Masses on Fridays (Lent).

Legion of Mary: Sundays, 12.30pm – 2pm in the Presbytery.

Church Cleaning: Wed 8.30am-10am.

DURING THE MONTH:

Choral Vespers & Benediction on the First Sunday at 4.30pm (Not May & October when Processions are on the 2nd Sunday)

Coffee in the Marian Hall after 9am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and after the 11am Mass 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Ghanaian Catholic Association: First Sunday of the Month after the 11am Mass, in the Marian Hall.

Nigerian Catholic Association: Third Sunday of the Month after the 11am Mass, in the Marian Hall.

1,000 Hail Mary's: First Saturdays, after 10am Mass, in the Shrine Chapel.

SVP4NW10. Wednesdays 6-7pm in the Marian Hall Dates TBA.

ONLINE:

Children's Liturgy: Each week a short Liturgy for both Children, and Little ones. <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

Livestream Mass: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden> or the **Willesden Shrine Facebook Page**. 9am Sunday.

Sign up to e-alerts from the Parish to receive news, updates and the weekly Newsletter directly to your email!

Go to the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden>

Parish Offerings:

Weekend of 2nd/3rd March £1,435.17 Shrine Restoration £128.07 Organ Fund: £27.50

Many thanks to all who support the ministry and mission of our Parish.

Sacramental Preparation dates:

First Communion: Sunday 10th March 9.55am in the Marian Hall. Saturday 23rd March Practice for Good Friday Family Stations, Sunday 24th March 9.55am.

Confirmation: Tuesday 19th March in the Marian Hall

Adult Preparation for the Sacraments, Sunday 10th, 17th, 24th March at 3.45pm in the Presbytery

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Almsgiving. As usual, we have the opportunity of supporting **Cafod, and Caritas;** envelopes are available at the rear of Church. Envelopes can be placed in the Collection Basket at and weekend Mass during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated communally on Wednesday and Friday mornings and Friday evenings after Mass.

Lent Study Course "We are bold to say", which centres on the prayer Our Saviour taught us; the Our Father, will be offered on Thursday morning after the 10am Mass, or Thursday evening after the 7pm Mass.

PARISH LENTEN MOTTO: MERCIFUL, NOT MISERABLE!

Envelopes for Easter Lilies, in remembrance of loved ones, to decorate the Shrine & High Altar with lilies during Easter will be available next weekend.

Additionally, there will be a **second collection for Easter Flowers** on Sunday 16th March.

Annual Mass for Matrimony The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries such as 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

New Boxes of PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES available after Masses this weekend.

Parish Finance Committee Meeting, Tuesday 12th March at 5.30pm in the Presbytery.

Warm Welcome Space. Thursdays 11.30am -2.30pm in the Marian Hall.

S. Patrick's Day. As the 17th March falls this year on a Sunday, it's Liturgical Celebration is transferred to Monday 18th when both masses will be celebrated in honour of S. Patrick. Irish Coffee will be served in the Marian Hall after the 10am Mass!

S. Joseph's Day. There will be an extra Mass at 12.45pm celebrated in the Traditional Latin Form. This year S. Joseph's School will celebrate their Patronal Feast with an afternoon Mass in School.

CONGRATULATIONS! To our Parish Primary School. S. Joseph's Goodson Road. We can now announce that, as a result of the recent Ofsted Inspection, the School once more has been judged to be **OUTSTANDING** in all areas of it's provision.

2 & 3 Year Old Nursery Places - St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

Applications for admission to **Nursery Class** at **St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Goodson Road, London NW10 9LS** are invited for children aged 2 and 3 years old. If you are a working parent you may be eligible to 15 free hours per week from the term after your child turns 2 years old. Some will be eligible for 30 free hours (working parents) from the term after their child turns 3 years old. Please call to the school for an application pack and details on how to apply.