

SHRINE & PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

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Website https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden
Rector and Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Willis.
Assistant Priest: Fr William Johnstone.
Parish Secretary: Vanessa Brandão, Safeguarding: Sylvia Vernon.
Office opening: THIS WEEK: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 10.30am-1pm

NEWSLETTER

CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING

22ND NOVEMBER 2026

MASS INTENTIONS FROM SATURDAY 21ST NOV

Saturday – 21st: 6:30pm: Eddie Murphy RIP - Anniversary
Sunday – 22nd: 8.45am: Marsia Darkes
10.30am (Solemn): Michael & Seamus Ruddy RIP – Anniversary
5.30pm (Latin): Pro Populo
Mon–23rd: NO 10am Mass: *12.30pm Mass at Five Precious W.*
7pm: For Holy Soul in Purgatory
Tues – 24th:10am: Julia Ferrao RIP – Lately Dead
7pm: Jimmy Braganca RIP - Anniversary
Wed – 25th: 10am: Wiktor Bielisski RIP
7pm Mass at Five Precious Wounds Stonebridge
Thurs – 26th: (9.45 Eulogy)
10am: FUNERAL MASS – Kathleen O'Reilly RIP
7.00pm: NO MASS
Fri –27th: *10am Mass at Five Precious Wounds Stonebridge*
7pm: NO MASS
Saturday – 28th: 10am: Mary Caffrey RIP - Anniversary
6:30pm: Eilish Watts - Birthday
Sunday – 29th: 8.45am: Fr Sean Thornton – Birthday
10.30am (Solemn): Jasmina Braganca & Liofia De Sa - Int.
5.30pm (Latin): Pro Populo

LAMP INTENTIONS - NEXT WEEK (22ND - 28TH Nov)

Sacred Heart Lamp – Iris Gardner - RIP
Blessed Sacrament Lamp 1 – Theresa Walls – RIP
Blessed Sacrament Lamp 2 – Gabriel & Family– Conversion & Healing
Altar Shrine – Catarina Moraes–God's Guidance/Health
Shrine Lamp 1 – Linda - Birthday
Shrine Lamp 2 – Elania - Birthday
Mass intentions are available from the 31ST December, and Lamp intentions from next weekend.

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6.30pm (Anticipated said Mass for Sunday)
SUNDAY 8.45am (simple said: Livestreamed)
10.30am (Solemn Mass with Choir)
5.30pm – Latin Mass - 1962 Missal
DAILY: see Intentions list for this week's times.
Confessions: Tue 6.15-6.45pm & Sat.10.30-11.30am & 5.30-6pm.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend the Church Year comes to it's conclusion, as we keep the Feast of Christ the Universal King. As we look back over the past 12 months, it can be hard to comprehend how things have changed. This time last year 3 parishes and 4 priests served this part of London, Then on December 31st 2025 Fr Patrick retired, and on 1st January the merger of Neasden and Stonebridge took place. Subsequently in June it was announced that Fr Tony would be taking up a new appointment in Pinner, and that Fr William and myself would also become the priests for Neasden and Stonebridge as well as Willesden Parish, from September to work in partnership as paired parishes.

Next Sunday the new Liturgical Year begins with Advent. At Stonebridge we begin this new year first of all in a moment of recollection, as we take the opportunity to give thanks. 100 years ago the Mission to Stonebridge was established and served from the Shrine Parish. From the humble beginnings of a church on Knatchbull Road, it's destruction in the war, the use of the old parish hall and the Stonebridge Park Hotel, the provision of a smaller church on Woodhayes Road in 1957, and finally the construction of the present Church, Halls and Presbytery on Brentfield Road in 1967/8, the Mass has been offered, the Sacraments celebrated, and the Gospel has been preached, "in all the changing scenes of life" as the hymn says.

Now, in partnership with the Shrine Parish, we step into a New Year, and a new season of ministry and witness to that part of NW10 entrusted to our care. We pray for God's continued Blessing on both our parishes in our common work and witness. For this we need your help: I take this opportunity to thank so many of you in both parishes who have graciously accepted the changes that have had to be made, and indeed, have been keen to ask Fr William and myself about the workload placed upon us. The changes are a work in progress, as we seek to establish a fruitful and balanced, and indeed **manageable** provision. I realise that some people are unhappy with the choices reached after the consultation, but I ask you to work with us for the mission of the Church. So firstly, in this New Year I ask your continued prayers as we discern the way forward. Secondly, I ask your help. There is much to be done, but in both parishes we need more assistance…. and we need it soon! **Catechists are needed for First Communion and Confirmation Programmes** : we have about 40 young adults on the joint programme, but not enough Catechists to go above that number. Our First Communion preparation in both parishes would welcome more support too.

We currently have no **Baptism Catechist** at Five Precious Wounds, but Baptisms are increasing in both parishes, so the Shrine is covering this need… but we need more help.
Adult Preparation. We have more Adults seeking Instruction in the Faith. This weekend I am Baptising 2 adults and Confirming 4 at the Shrine (Praise God.) In a couple of weeks we will begin arrangements for a new session of Adult Preparation… but I need some help!
The **Stonebridge Youth Group** could also do with some volunteers to assist their monthly meetings.
Extraordinary Ministers: we need more faithful Catholics in both parishes to take up this ministry, not just to help in the seemly administration of the Blessed Sacrament at Mass, but also to assist in taking Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound. I could go on… but there would be no room! Please think about what you can offer to help your priests sustain and grow our communities as we step into this New Year of Grace.

With many Blessings, ***Fr Stephen.*** ***Our Lady of Willesden Pray for us!*** ***Five Precious Wounds, Save us!***

Refreshments after 10.30am Mass in the Marian Hall

Join the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom for its Advent Lecture on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm at St Patrick's, Soho Square. Mgr John Armitage, Master of the Guild, will explore what a parish truly is, and how each of us can help bring it joyfully back to life. Doors open at 7.00pm for talk, cheese, wine and a social. Book at https://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events - All are welcome!
The Meath Association of London are holding a social evening on Friday 27 November at The Kensal Rise Constitutional Club, 194 Chamberlayne Road, NW10 from 8pm till 11pm
For further details please contact Michael Kearney on 07785 760 936
Parish Office: Tuesday 24th November will be closed and Wednesday 25th will be open.
Foodbank: We kindly ask your help to restock the simple foodbank that we have at the Presbytery. Dry and tinned goods and toiletries are best. We will keep the Box available at the back of church. **Many Thanks!**
Second Collection: Sick & Retired Priests' Fund – For those who attended the Saturday Mass at 6.30pm and Sunday Mass at 8.45am and were unable to make their contribution to the second collection, you are welcome to do so today. We thank everyone for their generosity and support.
Spiritan Mission Appeal: Each year the Bishops Conference assigns Missionary Communities to each Diocese to make an annual Mission Appeal. This year the Spiritans have been assigned to Westminster, and next weekend they will be making an Appeal for their work, and offering some of the masses as Fr William will be away.

Catechetical Programmes:

First Holy Communion Preparation Next Session – This Sunday 22ND November from 9.30-10.25am in the Marian Hall, usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.
Confirmation (Under 18, for those who have registered): Next Session – This Sunday 22ND November – Enrolment Mass - 10.30am.
Primary Entrance Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Fr Stephen will be making Appointments available during December for the signing of the CCP. Please remember that the Certificate envisions regular Sunday Mass attendance over 5 years.

USUAL ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH:

WEEKDAYS:

Rosary in the Shrine at 10.30am.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesdays & Saturdays between the morning and evening masses.
ADORATION WHATSAPP GROUP: This group was created to help fill the Adoration of Blessed Sacrament rota for Tuesdays and Saturdays. To join, please contact Fr. William or Margaret Cox. Thank you!
Church Cleaning: Wed 8am-10am. **(We are kindly looking for dedicated and loyal volunteers to join our cleaning team!)**
Our Lady of Willesden Wednesday Social Club in the Marian Hall 1.15 - 3pm
Gardening Club: Wednesdays 5 – 7pm. Saturdays 1-4pm so long as the weather permits!
Coffee and Bible Study: Thursday after the 10am Mass.
Legion of Mary: Sundays, 12.30pm – 2pm in the Presbytery.

DURING THE MONTH:

Choral Vespers & Benediction on the First Sunday at 4.30pm *(Not May & October when Processions are on the 2nd Sunday).*
Ghanaian Catholic Association: First Sunday of the Month, 1.15pm in the Marian Hall.
Nigerian Catholic Association: Third Sundays of the month, 1.15pm in the Marian Hall.
First Friday Devotions: 7.30-9.30pm on the First Friday of the month in the Shrine Chapel.
1,000 Hail Mary's: First Saturdays, after 10am Mass, in the Shrine Chapel.
Young Adults Group (18 – 30…ish!) Wednesdays after the 7pm Mass. (Contact Fr William)
Children's Liturgy: *Each week a short Liturgy for both Children, and Little ones.* https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/
SVP: Next Meeting **will on 7th December at 6pm**, In person at Marian Hall and Online. This SVP conference is focused on inducting new volunteers, and processing new membership forms. Come and meet The Westminster President of SVP who will be joining us. Online Meeting https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86391683470?pwd=awZSChTuLwnxARWTEb9CfDoCdDap0m.1 chat link https://us05web.zoom.us/launch/jc/86391683470 Meeting ID: 863 9168 3470 **Passcode: 6RCH1B**
Livestream Mass: ***The Sunday 9am Mass is usually Livestreamed:*** *on* ***Willesden Shrine*** *Facebook.*
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 14TH & 15TH November £1,353.47; Shrine Restoration £119.66, Sick & Retired Priests' Fund: £493.53 ***Many Thanks!***

Fr William will be going on Holiday from Sunday evening, and so there will be some adjustments to the Mass Schedule. Please note that there not be a 7pm Mass this Thursday (26th) or Friday (27th) evening, or on Tuesday 1st December. The evening Mass on Monday 30th will be at 7.15pm as Fr Stephen has a Finance Committee meeting at Stonebridge immediately before.

Funeral: Kathleen O'Reilly RIP – Thursday 26th November: Reception of the body & Eulogy 9.45am, Requiem Mass 10am, Committal at Hendon Crematorium at 12 Noon. ***May she rest in Peace!***