

St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Yeading

St Raphael's House, Morrison Road, Yeading, UB4 9JP

Church is open Friday-Wednesday. Closed on Thursdays.

Masses: Weekday masses at 9:30. No mass on Thursday.
Sunday masses: Sat 7pm, Sun 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon.
<https://churchservices.tv/yeading>

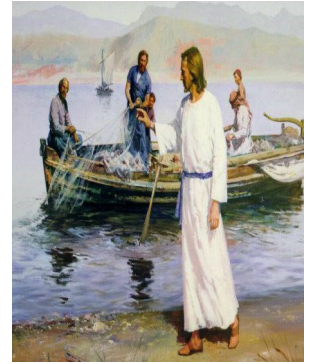
Confessions: before the Saturday 7pm mass .

Rosary: At 9am before the weekday masses.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. John Welsh

Parish Administrator: Maria Gonsalves - mariagonsalves@rcdow.org.uk

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21st January 2024 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10

God spared the people of Nineveh because they heeded the message God sent through Jonah.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

The Lord teaches us his ways.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul warns the Corinthians that they must act differently because the world in its present form is passing away.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, to be his disciples.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, help us to repent where necessary and respond to your call generously. Amen".

Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry. As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist,

Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfilment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen - Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee,

was left behind in the boat. Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfilment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

The call is still going out to each one of us. Am I ready to answer? To follow? Where do I need to adjust, to get my priorities right, to live the value system of Jesus? It is by being concerned and trying to make others happy that we will have more joy and peace. What are my entangling nets, limiting my freedom to follow? What personal relationships are blocking my way? What anxieties? What self-centred ambitions?

The gospel changes lives. It changed the lives of the first four called. Should it not change ours?

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church - Feast Day January 24th

Francis, the eldest of 13 children, was born into the noble family of Savoy in France in 1567. His father sent him to study at the University of Paris. After six years, Francis was intellectually competent in many areas. Francis was also a skilled swordsman who enjoyed fencing, an expert horseman, and a superb dancer. Then Francis studied at the University of Padua and received a doctorate in civil and canon law. His father wanted him to marry, but Francis desired to be a priest. His father consented, and Francis was ordained to the priesthood in 1593. Francis and his cousin Louis, who was also a priest, volunteered to work in Chablais, where religious wars were taking place. After four months, Louis became discouraged and left. Then Francis began to write and distribute a weekly essay, explaining some doctrines of faith. For two years, he and his friends had these essays printed. Francis preached with power and charm in simple, clear language. His gentleness and love drew many hearts to God. The majority of the Chablais inhabitants accepted the Catholic faith. When Francis was appointed bishop of Geneva, he not only wrote for and encouraged priests, but he also took an interest in the candidates for priesthood. Francis even conducted the examinations to see if the candidates were fit for this vocation. He also trained laypeople to teach catechism. Francis often gave spiritual guidance to people. In 1610, Francis helped Jane Frances de Chantal found the Visitation convent. He wrote a book called The Introduction to the Devout Life. It shows that everyone can grow in holiness. Among his other writings is the Treatise on the Love of God, a history of his own love for God. Francis was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1877 and the patron of journalists and writers.

Parish and Sacramental Programme News

Confirmation

We have received over 40 applications for confirmation - the most for many years. All on time applications have been accepted and we will see candidates and parents on **Wednesday 7th February at 7pm**. This meeting is mandatory for all participants.

First Communion

A reminder to parents that the first mandatory meeting is on **Thursday 8th February at 7pm**.
First Communion Catechists meeting next **Thursday 25th January at 7pm**.

Can you help?

With over 40 15-18 year olds registered for confirmation our small team of leaders needs one or two new volunteers. Two Saturday afternoons and seven Wednesday evenings across April/May is the commitment, and volunteers can take on a variety of roles from support through to leadership.
Please contact Ben at yeadingcat@rcdow.org.uk. For safeguarding reasons a DBS will be sought.

**Lucky 100+
Draw
Winners**



TBA



£970

**+
SO's
May the Lord
reward your
generosity.**

Funerals in the Parish

Michael Edward Pope RIP: Funeral service on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 11:30am
followed by burial at Cherry Lane Cemetery
The service can be followed online <https://www.churchservices.tv/yeading>
May his soul rest in peace. Amen



Message from Mary's Meals

This weekend Mary's Meals will be visiting St Raphael's. Since Covid, Mary's Meals have not been able to collect old clothes anymore and so we are only doing the appeal. This year the **Double the Love** campaign is active till **22nd January 2024**, where a generous consortium will double any donations Mary's Meals gets, before 22nd January 2024, to a maximum value of £1million. This means that for every £19.15 collected, two children will be fed a Meal every school day for a whole year. Please do continue to pray for our work and support.

*The Rosary is
recited every day
30mins
before daily Mass.*

**All are
welcome!**

Annual Mass of Our Lady Lourdes - Sat 10th Feb @ 2:30pm, Westminster Cathedral

On **Saturday 10th February 2024 at 2.30pm**, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes here at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered.

To help us plan for the Mass and the anointing, please book free tickets for your parishioners through the simple booking system on Eventbrite, using the internet link below. I ask that only the clergy and parish administrators book the tickets. This year, your tickets will be emailed by Eventbrite directly to the email address used at booking, from which you can distribute them to your parishioners. If you already have an Eventbrite account, your tickets will also be stored in your account when they are booked.

Tickets are in three categories:

- Wheelchair users who require anointing
- Walking sick who require anointing
- Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

Finally, we would be very grateful for as much help as possible from the priests to assist with the anointing; we are expecting the Cathedral to be full. If you are able to assist, please let me know, bring white diocesan vestments with you and be in the sacristy by 2.15pm. Thank you.

To book tickets, use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-of-the-sick-with-anointing-celebrated-by-cardinal-vincent-nichols-tickets-793054586617?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Prayer Ministry - Can we pray for you?

If you would like our **Prayer Ministry Team** to pray for or with you, please feel free to submit your special prayer request, with your **name and contact number** in the Prayer Ministry request box at the back of church. The Prayer Team will contact you to arrange a suitable time to pray with you.



Baldacchino in St Peter's Basilica to be restored

Ahead of the Jubilee year 2025, the Knights of Columbus are supporting a ten-month restoration of the Baldacchino over the high altar in Saint Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis has authorized the first *"systematic and complete"* restoration of the Baldacchino of St Peter's Basilica, almost 400 years after work began on Gian Lorenzo Bernini's baroque masterpiece.



The *"challenging and necessary"* restoration has *"significant symbolic value,"* the Archpriest of the Basilica, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti said at a press conference introducing the work, because the Baldacchino *"marks with its magnificence the place of the Tomb of the Apostle Peter"* under the high Altar.

The project, expected to cost some 700,000 euros (approximately 768,000 USD), is being funded entirely by Knights of Columbus, Cardinal Gambetti said, *"in a spirit of service to the Church and the Pope."* (source: vaticannews.va)

Welcome to our parish, whether you are a visitor, a new member, or an established member of our faith community, we hope that you will experience a warm welcome and a true feeling of community. Thank you for joining us in today's liturgy.