

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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17th March 2024 - 5th Sunday in Lent, Cycle B

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah tells the people that the Lord will make a new covenant with them, planting the law within their hearts.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,14-15

A prayer for God's mercy and forgiveness

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Through his sufferings, Jesus gained salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, give us the courage to be life-givers even at the cost of dying to our own self seeking ways. Help me to let go of being needful of the approval of others and not to be afraid of death."

As we continue our Lenten journey with Christ, the human face of God, today's readings remind us of the painful struggle Jesus had to endure to be faithful to his vocation as suffering Messiah. As we saw on the first Sunday in Lent in the story of the temptations, Jesus had to decide how he would fulfil his messianic vocation. From the beginning of his ministry he chose the path of suffering love, the way of the Cross. Both the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews and the Gospel give us an insight into what this would cost him.

The gospel reveals Jesus' inner struggle as the time of his passion and death draws near. We have here an echo of Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane where he seemed appalled at the prospect of his forthcoming death and prays to his Father: *'Take this cup away from me'*. Jesus' fear reveals his humanity. Fear is natural. Jesus' trepidation is followed immediately by his humble submission to the Father's will. Jesus knows that his death is necessary and he embraces it freely, the climax of his life giving mission: *'Unless the grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a*

single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.' It is indeed a paradox and a deeply counter-cultural one. But it expresses a profound truth at the heart of life and a key principle of all Christian discipleship. To try to avoid death, including the 'little deaths' that are part of everyday living, is to stunt our growth in love and suffocate the Spirit. From the moment we are born until the moment of our physical death, we experience many 'deaths', beginning with our departure from the comfort and warmth of our mother's womb. Our lives are inscribed with a series of 'deaths', losses and renunciations – in our relationships, in our career goals, in our hopes and expectations. An it is from these 'little deaths' that we learn to change, to adapt and make new gains.

Jesus' challenge to us is clear. It is to die to self and imitate his own life-giving service: *'The one who serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, my servant will be there too.'* To follow Christ is to choose to walk with him through 'thick and thin', in good times and bad. It is to travel with him all the way to the Cross. And this way, as Pope Francis reminds us, is the way of

de-entering and transcending. *'We have to leave behind the "selfie" culture and look at the eyes, faces, hands and needs of those around us; and in this way find, too, our own faces, our own hands, full of possibilities.'*

'A Grain of Wheat must Die': Flor McCarthy
Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by God.

Just as the grain of wheat must die to produce a harvest, so we must die to self in order to bear the fruits of love.

This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in little ways. Every act of humility involves dying to pride. Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice. Every act of kindness involves dying to cruelty.

Every act of love involves dying to selfishness.

Thus the false self dies, and the true self, made in God's image, is born and nurtured. It is by giving that we receive; It is by forgiving that we are forgiven; It is by dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Joseph, Spouse Of The Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast day 19th March

A few verses in Matthew and Luke tell us all we know about St. Joseph. They provide just enough information to demonstrate why he was the divine choice to become the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Joseph was genealogically perfect for these roles. A distant descendant of King David, he gave Christ the King his royal lineage. Joseph also came from the right hometown. He was from Bethlehem, the city that Scripture predicted would produce the messiah. And as a carpenter, Joseph was poor - Christ's condition of preference. Scripture portrays Joseph as open to God, obedient, upright, and, above all, kind. The saint displayed all of these qualities in his handling of Mary's surprise pregnancy. Imagine the confusion of emotions that must have flooded him when Mary confided that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit! As a devout observer of the law, Joseph knew that he might have to repudiate his betrothal. But his kindness and confidence in Mary prevented his taking such a harsh step, which would have shamed her. Joseph's wise dealing with Mary is a model for us when we face complex moral and personal issues. He subordinated his feelings to do what God required. He was open to whatever God wanted, and when he sensed the divine will, he obeyed.

Parish and Sacramental Programme News

Parish News

Planned Giving Drive

Our five yearly appeal finishes this weekend. You will be invited to consider your contribution and maybe change it according to your personal circumstances and the effect of inflation over the last five years. You will also be encouraged to make your donation by bank standing order, so please bring your bank account number and bank sort code to mass. Finally gift aid is the **big plea** if you pay any UK tax at all.

Boiler Update

we now have two very competitive quotes, both for just over twenty thousand pounds. An order will be placed early next week. **Thank you** to those parishioners who have made generous donations towards this specific project.

First Holy Communion

Classes continue on a Thursday from 5.00pm to 6.15pm.

Planned Giving Campaign

Planned Giving Envelopes / Gift Aid Envelopes

Your envelope will be ready for collection from the Presbytery immediately after all masses on the weekends of **23rd/24th March** and **30th/31st March**.

Do you still need to donate your offertory via an envelope?

Why not consider setting up a standing order? Once it's set up, it is self-managed, you won't have to worry about finding money each week to put in the envelope. Please pick up a form at the back of the church, fill and return to the parish office or contact the parish for further details. We are in the process of updating our records. Please let us know if you do not wish to continue or you would like to switch to standing order.



Funerals in the Parish

Wilman Bruno RIP: Friday 5th April at 12noon followed by committal in Breakspear Crematorium.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen

The funeral Mass can be followed online <https://www.churchservices.tv/yeading>

HACS Fundraising Pamper Day - Saturday 4th May 2024

We are running a fundraising Pamper Day in aid of Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support on **Saturday 4th May** in the Parish Centre. We have a variety of treatments on offer - Reflexology for Menopause and Women's Health, Facial Reflexology, Indian Head Massage, Hand/foot/head massage, Sports Massage, as well as Back, neck and shoulder massage. To book any of these sessions, please call **Geraldine on 07511 360611**.

We will also have a qualified Nutritionist who is offering one-to-one consultations.

If you are a qualified and insured therapist and would like to take part, we have space for one or possibly two more therapists (facials/manicures/pedicures are always requested). Please call Geraldine on the above number.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. 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**



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024

Lourdes Pilgrimage **19th- 26th July 2024** – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 7989173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by **Tuesday 30th April**.

The Knights of St Columba - St Raphael Catholic Church - Yeading Council 963

The Easter Egg - Fund Raising for this year will continue after all masses this weekend. Tickets will be sold after every mass £1.00 per ticket strip - Please support the cause. Thank you for your support and generosity.



Holy Week Schedule 2024

Please take an Easter Mass card on the table of the back of the church. Full details of the Holy Week and Easter schedule can be found on it. Divine Mercy Novena daily during Easter week. Please see Easter Mass card for details.

On **Saturday 23rd March**, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Wishing all our parishioners a very happy St. Patrick's Day

Lucky 100+

**Draw
Winners**



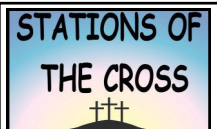
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£1198.60

**May the Lord
reward your
generosity.**



**Every Friday
during Lent in
church at 7pm**

CAFOD Fast Day

A total of **£985** was collected. Thank you for your support and generosity.

The Repository is stocked with Easter/St. Patrick cards and effects, please take time to browse. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the parish office, we may be able to order for you.