

# 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>

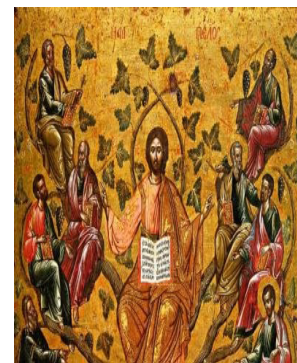
**Confessions:** before the Saturday 7pm mass .

**Rosary:** At 9am before the weekday masses.

**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr. John Welsh

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

**Tel:** 020 8845 1919 **Email:** yeading@rcdow.org.uk



## 28th April 2024 - 5th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**

Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32**

The whole world shall praise the Lord.

**Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24**

God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

**Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8**

Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

### PRAYER

*"Lord Jesus, thank you for inviting us into a close relationship, a deep friendship with you. Help us to realize that only you can fulfill our deepest needs. May we express our gratitude to you by the way we reach out to all others, especially those in greatest need of our help and compassion. Amen".*

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfilment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began. Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor.

These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name. Today's gospel is also about relationships, communion and friendship. Jesus is telling us that we will not have the deep joy and peace we seek unless we are in a deep personal relationship with him and his Father. We will not be true disciples of Jesus if we remain far from him and don't have his value system. Sadly, many Christians think that their religion is about keeping the commandments and if they do more good than bad in life they will go to heaven. For sure we have commandments and laws to guide us but ultimately Christianity is a Person - Jesus Christ and our relationship with him.

*Then the commandments will take their proper place. I can go to Mass on Sunday, say some prayers and do some good works which are very good actions. But I can miss out on the essential fact of Christianity, my relationship to Jesus, the Father, the Spirit and to my fellow human beings. Laws in themselves don't give life.*

### Feast of the English Martyrs - Feast day 4th May

The feast of the English Martyrs is celebrated on May 4th. The 40 martyrs canonised under Paul VI in 1973, previously celebrated on October 25, are celebrated with the 85 beatified Martyrs of the Reformation and the other martyrs of the 16th and 17th century. The feast coincides with the Church of England celebration of English saints and martyrs of the Reformation era. These are a significant group of saints in British Catholicism and include St Margaret Clitherow, the butcher's wife from York who became a Catholic at the age of 18 and was arrested for harbouring a priest. She was crushed to death under a large door loaded with weights. St John Haughton, St Robert Lawrence, St Augustine Webster, and St Richard Reynolds were Carthusian monks executed at Tyburn on May 4 1535. St Cuthbert Mayne, another martyr, was a young man from Devon who went to St John's College, Oxford, in the late 1500s, where he met St Edmund Campion and eventually became a Catholic. Fearing arrest after a letter from Gregory Martin addressed to him ended up in the hands of the Bishop of London, Cuthbert fled to Cornwall. From here he fled to the English College at Douai and was ordained a priest. He returned to the English mission and was discovered, tried at Launceston and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. Because of the coincidence of dates with the C of E commemoration of the English saints and martyrs of the Reformation era this feast has all the makings of an ecumenical celebration, and is thus an eminently important occasion for the Ordinariate.

# Parish and Sacramental Programme News

## Parish News

### A special thank you

The parish team wish to acknowledge with thanks the work Gerry Glenard has done around the grounds of the parish. Gerry, and his amazing list of contacts, has addressed many issues such as trees, potholes, protection of grass verges, and re-furbishing the statue of Our Lady in the parish garden, to name but a few. Thank you Gerry.

### Church Roof and boiler updates

Engineers were on site this week and have fitted the new boiler for the church. This boiler is more energy efficient (helping our parish to be greener) and cheaper to operate. The cost is **£22,000** and we are so grateful for the donations which now amount to **£10,000!** The remainder of the cost will be met by the parish budget.

Work on totally recovering the church roof with a waterproof product (with a 30 year warranty) should take place in July / August. These works will cost **£125,000**. Our plan is to part fund this work from the parish budget and to seek a loan through the diocese for **£75,000**, to be repaid over three years. The quicker we re-pay the loan, the less interest and fees we pay. In next week's newsletter we will explain how the parish finance team plan to repay the loan - with your help of course!

### Sacramental News

**First Holy Communion** children made their first confession on Saturday. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers.

**Confirmation candidates** should bring their permission slips for our trip to Westminster Cathedral back on Wednesday when we next meet. The group is fantastic and the parish should be very proud of them.

## Standing Order & Donations to the Parish

If you would like to set up a monthly Standing Order, our parish bank details are as follows:

**HSBC Bank: WRC DT Yeading**

**Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 01094963**

If you would like to make a contactless donation, please use the contactless machine at the back of the Church.

## Planned giving /Gift Aid & 100 Club envelopes

There are still number of envelopes waiting for collection. They are available in the presbytery after mass.

## Repository

Now restocked with First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards & 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.

## Celebrate UK

Celebrate' takes places 22-23 Sep in Birmingham. Some parishioners attend these events and have always enjoyed them. If you've never been – it's an event which is open to everyone in the family. It's a chance to be refreshed in the love and joy of the Lord. If you would like to join us as a group to attend this event – text Audrey on 07809 886962. Find out more at: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/joy>



## HACS FUNDRAISING PAMPER DAY - SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2024

The Pamper Day in aid of Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support on **Saturday 4th May** in the Parish Centre is almost fully booked but we have a few spaces left. Please call **Geraldine on 07511 360611**.

We will also have a qualified Nutritionist who is offering one-to-one consultations and also a group talk on 'Weight Loss'. Please use the Calendly links provided to book directly with the nutritionist, Laminn (see the online version of the newsletter for this or call Geraldine if you are unable to access online).

Weight Loss Group Workshop: <https://calendly.com/intrasymphony/hacs-pamper-nutrition-group?month=2024-5>

One-to-one consultations: <https://calendly.com/intrasymphony/hacs-pamper-nutrition-one2one>

If you are a qualified and insured therapist who can offer facials, or manicures/pedicures, please get in touch. Please call Geraldine on the above number.

## Car Parking

There are some parishioners who are still double parking in the car park. Please do not do so as it is very inconvenient to parishioners who wish to vacate the car park swiftly. It is also a hazard for the emergency services. Please be considerate.

## Pilgrimages

The Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on **Saturday 1st June 2024**. Please see the posters at the back of the church.

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**.

Lucky 100+

Draw

Winners



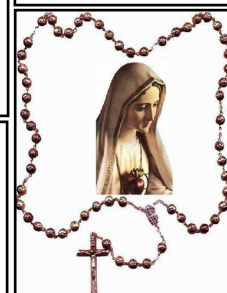
**Mrs L Henry(100)**

**(To be collected)**



**£966.40**

**May the Lord  
reward your  
generosity.**



*The Rosary is  
recited every day  
30mins  
before daily Mass.  
**All are  
welcome!***

**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.**