

St. Raphael's Catholic Church

YEADING

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe · Solemnity · Cycle A

22nd November 2026



SUNDAY MASS

Sat: 7:00pm (Vigil)

Sun: 9:00am · 10:30am (Sung) · 12:00noon

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat at 9:30am

Rosary 9:00am before mass

Church closed on Thursdays

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 6:30pm – 6:45pm & on request

EXPOSITION

First Friday only: 7 - 8pm

CONTACT INFORMATION St Raphael's House, Morrison Road, Yeading, UB4 9JP · **Tel: 020 8845 1919**

Office hours: Tue – Thu, 10am – 3pm · **Phone options: 1** Mass Times · **2** Catechetical Coordinator · **4** Parish office

Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/yeading **All services live streamed:** churchservices.tv/yeading **Front rows may appear on the livestream.**

PARISH PRIEST
Rev Fr. John Welsh
yeading@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Meliza De Oliveira
melizadeoliveira@rcdow.org.uk

CATECHETICAL COORDINATOR
Ben Cassidy
yeadingcat@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING REP
Melvin Coelho
yeadingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Today's Readings

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
God himself will shepherd his flock: he will seek the lost and judge between sheep and sheep.
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-3, 5-6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Christ has been raised from the dead; he will hand over the kingdom to the Father, so that God may be all in all.
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46
The King separates the sheep from the goats: whatever you did for the least, you did for me.

PRAYER

"Christ our King, you came not to be served but to serve. Open our eyes to see you in the hungry, the stranger, the sick and the prisoner, and our hands to serve you in them, so that your kingdom of love may come among us. Amen."

Gospel Reflection: Christ the King - a shepherd who reigns through love

Today, on the last Sunday of the Church's year, we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Pope Pius XI instituted the feast in 1925, at a time of growing secularism, to remind the world that Christ reigns over every part of life. In 1969 it was moved to this final Sunday, so that the whole year ends by looking to Christ, who will come again in glory. Today is also a day of prayer for young people.

But what kind of king is he? The readings give two pictures. In the first reading God promises to shepherd his people himself: he will look for the lost, bring back the strays, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. Jesus fulfils this as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. In the second reading St Paul shows Christ as the victorious king, raised from the dead, whose reign will last until even death is destroyed and God is all in all. Worldly rulers often hold on to power through force and fear; Christ reigns through life-giving love. His only crown on earth would be a crown of thorns.

In the Gospel Jesus describes the Last Judgement. When the Son of Man comes in glory, all the nations are gathered before him, and he separates them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The surprise is the basis of the judgement: not power, wealth or even religious knowledge, but simple acts of mercy. 'I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome.' Both groups ask the same question: 'Lord, when did we see you?' And the King replies that whatever they did, or failed to do, for the least of his brothers and sisters, they did for him.

This King has no palace, army or throne in this world. He chooses to be found among the hungry, the thirsty, strangers, the sick and those in prison. Read with last week's parable of the talents, the message is clear: the gifts God gives us are meant for serving others, especially the least, and it is by our love in action that we will be judged. Practical love matters more than religious display. St Teresa of Calcutta used to count the words 'you did it to me' on the five fingers of her hand, to remind her sisters that every act of care is done for Christ.

As we end the Church's year and prepare for Advent next Sunday, we might ask ourselves where we have met Christ this year, and where we have passed him by. Whenever we feed the hungry, visit the sick or the lonely, welcome the stranger or stand with prisoners and their families, we serve our King. 'Thy kingdom come' is a prayer, but it is also a way of life.

Saint of the Week - St Andrew Dũng-Lạc & Companions · Memorial 24 November

Andrew Dũng-Lạc was born around 1795 into a poor family in northern Vietnam. As a boy of about twelve he went to Hanoi, where a catechist gave him a home, taught him the faith and had him baptised Andrew. He was ordained a priest in 1823 and served his people as a zealous parish priest.

In 1832 Emperor Minh Mạng banned foreign missionaries and ordered Christians to deny their faith by trampling on the crucifix. Andrew was arrested in 1835 and ransomed by his parishioners; he changed his name to Lạc and moved to another region to carry on his ministry. Arrested again in 1839 with Fr Peter Thi, he was tortured and beheaded in Hanoi on 21 December 1839.

Today he is honoured with his companions: 117 martyrs in all – 96 Vietnamese and 21 Spanish and French missionaries, including bishops, priests, catechists and lay people, among them a mother of six and a nine-year-old child. They stand for many thousands of unnamed Vietnamese Christians who gave their lives for Christ. Pope St John Paul II canonised them together in 1988.

© 2026 Loyola Press. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. © 2026 Society of African Missions. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Parish & Sacramental Programme News

Sacraments 2026-27

Considering becoming a Catholic or post-18 Confirmation? We will be running a programme this autumn/spring leading to the sacraments at Easter. Now is the very last chance to enquire for 2026/27: yeadingcat@rcdow.org.uk or ask to see Ben in the church.

Baptism: Next preparation course: Wednesday 2nd December, 10.30am - 11.30am. Please enquire at the parish office.

First Holy Communion 2027: For children in Year 3. Application forms available after the morning Masses on Sunday 15th and 22nd November; please bring your child's Catholic baptism certificate.

Confirmation 2027: Celebrated on Saturday 10th July 2027 at 12 noon. Young people in Years 10–12 who live in the parish may collect an application pack from the parish office after the morning Masses on 29th November and 6th December. The pack must be collected by the applicant (not a parent), who should bring their Catholic baptism certificate.

Marriage: Please see Fr John.

Children & Family News

Certificates of Catholic Practice – Nursery & Reception: will be signed today, Sunday 22nd November, after the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses.

Parents must bring their child's Catholic baptism certificate.

Safeguarding in Our Parish

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is a priority for ALL members of the parish, including the leadership team and every member of the congregation (i.e. you!). Our Parish Safeguarding Rep is Melvin Coelho, and his contact details are at the top of every newsletter.

100 Club – Please Collect

Please collect – 25th October: Nylis Lewis, No. 48

WEEKLY OFFERING

£1,005.50 Thank you!

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated to last weekend's collection – your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. **If you haven't yet given, there is still time:** envelopes are at the back of the church, or donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** (look for the QR code on the envelopes and poster). Please consider giving regularly, assuring the care of our priests in old age or illness. May God bless you for your kindness.

Christmas Fayre · Sunday 29th November

In the Parish Centre, following all Masses. We need your help! Volunteers for a 1.5 hr slot on the day or with preparations; donations of wine, chocolates, homemade cakes and tombola gifts; and attractive prizes for the Raffle and Auction.

Private stalls £20/£25: booking forms at the back of church, return to the parish office by Sun 24th Nov. **Early Bird food tokens** this weekend only: £4.50 adult, £3.50 child (£5.00/£4.00 on the day). **Santa's Grotto** £2 per child. Wear a Christmas jumper and bring your family and friends!



The Advent Giving Calendar – One Item a Day, One Family at a Time

Help support local families this Advent through the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar. **From 1st December**, set aside the suggested item each day and bring your donations to church each weekend – weekly donations help families receive support before Christmas.

Pick up a calendar after Mass today; volunteers will be at the back of the church to help. If you can, please scan the QR code or take a photo of the calendar, leaving printed copies for others. **Tip:** smaller packs are easier to share. Every item helps – thank you for your generosity.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Saturday 12th December 2026 at 1.00pm in the Parish Hall, organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society. Parishioners are invited to add their name and contact details to the list on the table after Mass, where an SVP member can give further details. We look forward to welcoming fifty senior citizens and celebrating Christmas in thanks for their continued support of our Society and Parish. **Cost: £10.00 per person.** Thank you, God bless.

Hillingdon Foodbank

Urgently needed: tinned fruit, tinned potatoes, UHT milk and sugar. The Foodbank also welcomes Christmas-branded long-life donations alongside your normal generous offerings. Thank you for your continued support – each week our parish donates 5–6 large trays of food, but more is always welcome.



Funerals in the Parish

Please pray for **the late Marlene Maggie Neale. May she rest in peace.**

Funeral Mass: Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 10.15am in St Raphael's Church, thereafter to Breakspear Crematorium at 11.45am.

Funerals in the church are live-streamed on churchservices.tv/yeading.

The Repository: Now restocked with Christmas 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 it for you.

Hall Hire: For hall hire enquiries, please contact Ben Cassidy or email bencassidy5353@gmail.com.

Chaplaincies & Prayer Groups

Nigerian Chaplaincy Mass: every 4th Sunday, 2.30pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hayes. Next: **Sun 22nd November**. Info: Emmanuel 07946 827155

AYWL: every Thurs in the Presbytery, 7-9.30pm

Church Roof Repair Fund · November collection total: £2,225.00

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to care for our parish. Every contribution, large or small, helps us keep our church safe, welcoming and here for future generations. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation.

HSBC Bank: WRCDT Yeading **Sort Code:** 40-05-20 **Account No:** 01094963 **Reference:** Roof Donation