



St Lawrence Catholic Church

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Diocese of Westminster Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest: Fr. John Byrne - **Mobile:** 0787 905 8732 **Email:** johnbyrne@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Nora Gorman, Sr. Mary O'Malley

Pastoral Assistant: Bridget Brinkley - **Email:** bridgetbrinkley@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes

20th Sunday of the Year

19th/20th August 2017

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year A, Volume 2: (Missal Page 117): Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28

Next Week: 21st Sunday of the Year: Page 120: Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

It can be very hard to get away and take a break from our normal duties in today's world. If you have been on holidays you may well have had an unwanted phone call or text from someone you would rather not have heard from on holiday. I'm a great fan of the mobile phone as you may also be. We all know where the off button is but sometime we just don't feel that we should use it.

Do you think if Jesus had a mobile phone in today's gospel he would have turned it off? He has left the pressures of confrontation in Galilee, and seeks peace in the border region of a pagan territory where he does not expect to be disturbed. However, this is not the case for he encounters an anxious mother concerned about her daughter. She asks Jesus for help and healing for her daughter. What follows is a battle of wits between a tired out preacher and the desperate mother.

Jesus first tries silence in the hope she will go away, "but he answered her not a word", then he used defence "I was sent for the lost sheep of the House of Israel". He then resorts to a put down "it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs". However, this is one determined woman, she will not be put down or put off. "Ah yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table". Jesus admits defeat, yes he is tired and exhausted but he sees this woman has faith in God and is desperate for help. "Woman, you have great faith" and at that moment her daughter is healed.

God's mercy has no boundaries, his love and mercy is for everyone. It is not just for those who attend Church regularly or not just for those who pray regularly. Mathew's gospel shows that Jesus came to minister to the whole world, that God becomes man in the person of Jesus in order to bring salvation to the whole world. There are no borders or boundaries in the love Jesus has for each of us. Faith in Jesus calls us to remove all barriers in our minds and to show love and mercy to one and all.

If you are seeking to understand better the love and mercy of God as lived in the Catholic tradition, then please contact me regarding the Faith Formation course that will begin on Wednesday the 27th September. This course is designed to help you explore the Catholic faith and decide if you would like to become a member of the Catholic Church.

Wishing you all a peaceful summertime,

Bridget

bridgetbrinkley@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish Annual General Meeting will take place on
Sunday 1st October at 12 noon in the Parish Centre

SACRAMENTS

CONFIRMATION

The Guidelines for those wishing to enrol for the Confirmation Programme for 2017/18 are available from the table in the church porch.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you have forgotten to register your child for First Holy Communion please contact Bridget immediately via email bridgetbrinkley@cdow.org.uk to make an appointment to see her.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If your child is in year 2 or above in September 2017 and not attending a Catholic School, we invite you to register for our Sunday School programme. The Sunday School programme takes place every Sunday during school term time from 10am - 10.45am.

Official registration will take place on **10th September at 10am in St. Lawrence's School**. We require your child to attend Sunday School for one year prior to being prepared to receive First Holy Communion. Please see Bridget if you require more details

PARISH NOTICES

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

The coach is now full. There are a few people who have booked and not yet paid. To secure your seat please post your money (£20 per person) in an envelope, clearly marked with your name and "WALSINGHAM", to the Parish Office. If monies are not received by **29th August**, the list will be open again.

DIARY DATES

9th & 10th Sept	Confirmation Registration begins
10th Sept	Sunday School Registration 10am
16th Sept	Baptism Preparation Course 2pm - 4pm
16th Sept	First Holy Communion preparation begins 5.45pm followed by 6pm Mass
26th Sept	Confirmation Registration closes
27th Sept	RCIA Course begins
1st Oct	Parish AGM 12 noon

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

There will be a training morning for new Altar Servers on **Saturday 23rd & 30th September, starting at 10am** in Church. All children who have made their First Holy Communion this year are very welcome to join St Lawrence's serving team.

NATIONAL MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS

We will be taking a group of altar Servers from the Parish to a special Mass for Altar Servers to be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 21st October at 2.30pm**. We plan to leave the Church at 11.00am and return by 5.00pm. A letter for parents will be available in the next couple of weeks.

CELEBRATION BRICKS

The second phase of Bricks are now up in the Parish Centre. Thank you all for your support. We have since, received a few more applications. If anyone would like a Celebration Brick please see Florie in the Parish Office.

OTHER

POWER TO BE CAMPAIGN: EMAIL THE WORLD BANK

Join CAFOD's Power to be campaign and email the World Bank to call for local, renewable energy that reaches the poorest communities worldwide <https://goo.gl/1RbtOf>

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Open Day and Evening for Admission to Year 7 in 2018 will be held on **Thursday, 28th September 2017**, 8.45 am – 10.15 am, 11.00 am – 12.20 pm and 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm (1 hour tours). Address by the Headteacher, James Mc Nulty at 6.45 pm and 7.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

NEW FOUNDATION DEGREE FOR CATHOLICS WORKING IN HEALTHCARE AND THOSE SEEKING TO BE CHAPLAINS.

Starting in October, St Mary's University Twickenham is pleased to offer a new foundation degree in Healthcare Ethics, Theology and Care. This is a part time two year programme for those seeking to be hospital chaplains and for people working in healthcare settings, from care homes, to hospices and hospitals. Lectures and seminars take place at St Mary's one evening a week and additional lectures and resources are available online. If you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact matthew.james@stmarys.ac.uk

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Brian Naughton RIP**. Please also keep in your prayers his family and all those who mourn him. His funeral will take place here on **Wednesday 6th September** at 11.00am.

Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection:

12-13 August: Envelopes £769.25; Loose: £792.75
Standing Orders: £661.83 **Total: £2,223.83**

Parish Centre Building Fund: £123.29

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 19 th	11.00 11.00 12.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Gerry Ward RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation Sr Nora Gorman (Intentions)
Sun 20 th	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	Olga Pereira RIP In Thanksgiving – Rodrigues Family Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Bridget Walsh RIP (1 st Anniversary)
Mon 21 st	09.30	Sr Mary Fitzsimmons RIP
Tues 22 nd	09.30	Oscar & Cartona Coutinho in Thanksgiving – 25 th Wedding Anniversary
Wed 23 rd	09.30	Esther Kusi-Appiah RIP (Anniversary)
Thurs 24 th	09.30	Luis-Rey & Cristina Logarta (Special Intentions)
Fri 25 th	09.30	Anita Calmiano RIP
Sat 26 th	11.00 11.00 12.00 15.00 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Eric Brumwell & Frank Stackpoole RIP (Anniversary) Mass in Tagalog for the Filipino Community Sacrament of Reconciliation Maureen Murray RIP (1 st Anniversary)
Sun 27 th	09.00 11.00 13.00 14.30 18.00	People of the Parish Mary Roga RIP (2 nd Anniversary) Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Mass led by the African Community Deewan, James & Vidia Joseph RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: Baby Aloysius Caldeira RIP

Sunday Mass: 6pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9am, 11am, 1pm (Polish) & 6pm.

Weekday Mass: Monday-Friday 9.30am; Saturday 12noon

Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday 9.15am, Novena to Our Lady: Tuesdays 10am, Exposition and Benediction: Saturdays 11am, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) – Saturday 11am and 5pm