

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

We pray for Michael Cresswell and Patricia Frost who have died recently and remember also Estela Vas, Jeremy Bull, Tadeusz Laskowski, Victor Lobo, Clementina Lobo, Joaquim & Severina Meneles and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS ALWAYS OFFERED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOUSEBOUND**

**24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 12th	12.00 pm	First Holy Communion
	5.30 pm	Tadeusz Laskowski (RIP)
Sun 13th	9.00 am	Victor Lobo (RIP)
24th SUNDAY	10.30 am	Pro Populo
OF THE YEAR	12.00 noon	Clementina Lobo (RIP)
	6.00 pm	Joaquim & Severina Meneles (RIP)
Mon 14th	9.30 am	Christine Cannon (Get Well)
THE EXALTATION		and Olatunji Okusaga (RIP anniv)
OF THE HOLY CROSS		
Tue 15th	9.30 am	Patricia Frost (RIP - LD)
Our Lady of Sorrows		
Wed 16th	9.30 am	Our Parish School
Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bp, Martyrs		
Thu 17h	9.30 am	Estela Vas (RIP)
Fri 18h	9.30 am	Our 1st Holy Communion Children
Sat 19th	10.00 am	The sick and the housebound
	12.00 pm	First Holy Communion
	5.30 pm	Parochial Clergy
Sun 20th	9.00 am	Jeremy Bull (RIP - LD)
25th SUNDAY	10.30 am	Mary Queenan (RIP - anniv)
OF THE YEAR	12.00 noon	Patrick Boylan (RIP - anniv)
	6.00 pm	Pro Populo

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE AT: [www.stthomasfulham.com](http://www.stthomasfulham.com)**

**PRIVACY STATEMENT AND GDPR**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES ARE NOW RECORDED AND BROADCAST LIVE ON THE INTERNET. RECORDINGS ARE COMPLIANT WITH ALL DIOCESAN POLICIES.**



**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

**60 Rylston Rd, Fulham, SW6 7HW:  
020 7385 4040**

**Email: [fulham@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulham@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Dennis Touw-Tempelmans Plat**

**Asst. Priest: Fr Linferd Fernandes**

**Parish Deacon: The Rev Wayne O'Reilly**

**Parish Administrator: Gerald Daly Esq.**

**Catechetical Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment**

**Email address: [fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding Representative: Mr David Belcher**

**Website: <https://stthomasfulham.com>**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING FROM AFTER MASS UNTIL 10.30 AM AND FROM 4 - 5 PM EVERY AFTERNOON STRICT GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE WITH REGARD TO ANY VISIT OUR VOLUNTEERS WILL EXPLAIN THE REQUIREMENTS AS YOU ENTER.**

**THE NEW ISSUE OF 'BIBLE ALIVE' IS AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN DOOR OF THE CHURCH**

**FACE MASKS**

Please note that Her Majesty's Government has now made the wearing of Face Masks compulsory at all acts of worship. The only exceptions to this rule are children under the age of 11 and those with a diagnosed respiratory problem. Please be sure to wear them correctly over nose and mouth otherwise the exercise is pointless. Remember our wearing of them witnesses to our care and concern for others.

**A prayer for our times.**

*Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.*

Many of you have expressed your concern with regard to the financial situation of our parish at this time. Any donations can simply be dropped through the Presbytery door and are gratefully received; the details of our parish bank account can be found below should you wish to donate directly.

**YOUR NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES MAY BE COLLECTED  
FROM THE PRESBYTERY**

**Finally, if you are a tax-payer and would wish your offering to be  
Gift Aided, please let us know and once again we will help to sort this out.**

**WRCDT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM  
HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY  
Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No.: 11263137**

**Forgiveness**

At the heart of the readings that we will listen to this weekend is the word - forgiveness. But forgiveness can so easily be misunderstood or perhaps more profoundly mis-interpreted, and so I want to tell you a true story with a very powerful message.



Peter was a successful engineer, but as a result of all sorts of problems his business had failed and he'd moved out to the country where he barely eked out a living as a farmer. Now Peter's neighbour owned a ferocious dog. A dog he'd asked him politely to control, but in reply the neighbour became abusive and angry.

One day the thing that Peter feared the most occurred. The dog attacked his daughter and she died from the wounds she sustained. Of course, the dog was destroyed and the village people took against the owner, and when sowing time came around, they refused to sell him grain, and without that grain he and his family would suffer hunger and poverty, and even possibly destitution. And this is where true forgiveness comes into the story, for Peter, in spite of what he'd suffered, couldn't bear to let this happen, so he took his last bushel of barley and, very early one morning, before anyone was around, he sowed his neighbours field, and when the crops began to grow, it was obvious what had happened, for part of Peter's field was bare, whilst his neighbours was green and full.

Now that kind of forgiveness is quite extraordinary, and yet it's a modern-day illustration of what Our Lord expects of us. In this weekend's gospel Jesus tells a story of forgiveness, the parable of the unjust steward. A story that is occasioned by Peter's question about the limits we should set on forgiveness. The law of Moses said seven times, but Jesus would have none of that! For Him -

forgiveness must be unlimited, and so he sets the impossible target of seventy times seven. The parable is clear enough, or at least it should be to any of us who say we're trying to be like Christ in our lives! For how can we decide how often we should forgive others, when all of this is trivial compared to the way Jesus has forgiven us?

We often forget how extravagant God has been with his forgiveness of us; probably because all we can remember when we've been hurt by someone - is the pain they've caused us! And yet how wrong that is, and how clearly it goes against everything Jesus taught. For Jesus, in this extraordinary parable, insists that we must forgive from the heart. Forgive even those who have sinned against us. And we might well ask: How is this possible? How can we forgive from the heart someone like a criminal who has committed a terrible crime, whose sin has terrorised us?

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis says that loving our enemies does not mean feeling fond of them or pretending that they're not bad guys. No, loving and forgiving our enemies does mean, to wish that they were not bad, and to hope that they might turn away from sin and seek forgiveness. But above all, loving and forgiving our enemies means wanting what God wants for them, and what God knows is for their good.

It was in this spirit that saints like Stephen, Joan of Arc and Thomas More were able to forgive their executioners, and it was in this same spirit that Jesus himself prayed from the cross: "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*". And it was in that spirit that the Peter in my story was able to forgive his neighbour. As we pause and think, and pray about this complex Gospel, let us pray that we may have the grace to follow their example, so that we too may experience the joy of being forgiven and may hear again the words of the Lord's prayer.

*"Forgive us, our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us!"*

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

As it is not possible for this important fund raising event to take place in the church hall this year. Alexandra will be hosting this outside of her front door. Please note the date, time and place:

**44 Mendora Road - 9 am - 12 noon**

**Friday, September 25th**