

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

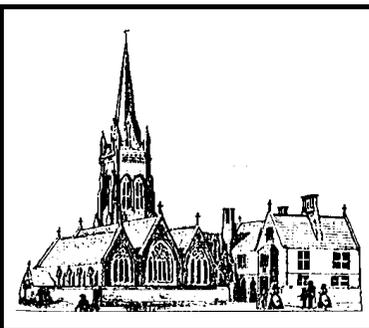
We pray for Katrina Sherry, Margaret Anne Stuart, Jennifer Preston, Ronan McPartland, Andrée Noel, Faye Ashman and Theresa Cyrus who have died recently and remember also Tony Corbett, Ricardo Gomes, Marie Coveney, Maria Ribeiro, the deceased members of the Rebolledo family and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

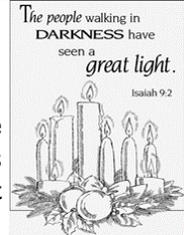
<b>Sat 21st</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Sick and Housebound</b>
<b>St. Agnes, V &amp; M</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Exposition and Benediction</b>
	<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Tony Furlong (RIP - anniv)</b>
<b>Sun 22nd</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Maria Ribeiro (RIP - anniv)</b>
<b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>
<b>OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>12.00 pm</b>	<b>Rebolledo Family (deceased members)</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Ricardo Gomes (RIP)</b>
<b>Mon 23rd</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Fr Simao Diniz (Birthday int.)</b>
<b>Tue 24th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Faye Ashman (RIP - LD)</b>
<b>St. Francis de Sales</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Tuesday Prayer Group</b>
<b>Bp.Dr.</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Funeral - London Oratory</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>St Anthony Prayer Group</b>
<b>Wed 25th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Theresa Cyrus (RIP - LD)</b>
<b>Conversion of St Paul</b>		
<b>Thu 26th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Marie Coveney (RIP)</b>
<b>Ss Timothy and Titus Bps.</b>		
<b>Fri 27th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Jeff Hurren (intentions)</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Sat 28th</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Sick and Housebound</b>
<b>St. Thomas Aquinas</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Exposition and Benediction</b>
<b>Pr.Dr</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Baptism</b>
	<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Patrick Stroud (RIP - LD)</b>
<b>Sun 29th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Goretti Connelly (Get Well)</b>
<b>OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>12.00 pm</b>	<b>Gerald Simpson (RIP - anniv)</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Daphne Dempsey (RIP - LD)</b>

**ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE AT: [www.stthomasfulham.com](http://www.stthomasfulham.com)  
TIMES OF CONFESSION: AFTER BOTH MASSES ON SATURDAY  
THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN WEEKDAYS 11 AM UNTIL 3 PM**



**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
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Assistant Priest: Fr Linferd Fernandes  
Parish Deacon: Rev Wayne O'Reilly  
Parish Administrator: Gerald Daly Esq.  
Catechetical Co-ordinator: Rev Wayne O'Reilly  
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Safeguarding Representative: Mr David Belcher  
Website: <https://stthomasfulham.com>

*'The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwelt in darkness and the shadow of death, a light has dawned.'*



My dear friends, those beautiful words from today's gospel, come from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and St Matthew sees them as being fulfilled in Jesus, for Jesus' coming was like the dawning of a great light. Indeed, Jesus himself was to say: 'I am the light of the world.'

Now normally light is something we welcome, though in certain circumstances we fear it for it shows up everything; things we want to see and things we would prefer to keep hidden from others and perhaps even from ourselves. For example, a parishioner invited a priest to bless her house. As he performed the blessing, he noticed that everything was immaculate, banisters polished, beds neatly made, not a thing out of place, not a cobweb or speck of dust in sight. He blessed the living room, the kitchen, the bathroom, the bedrooms. As it happened, they finished up at the top of some stairs that led down into the basement. Seeing the priest hesitate there the woman said, 'Oh, you wouldn't want to go down there Father.' So, he left it at that. But afterwards he wondered why she'd refused to take him to that part of the house. Was it because she didn't want to embarrass him by taking him down there? Or was it because she didn't want to embarrass herself by letting him see all the junk that was piled up down there?

It's a slightly silly story, but how typical this is of all of us. The parts of ourselves and of our society which most need to be redeemed are the parts we tend to hide. And for this reason, we don't allow the light to shine into the dark areas of our lives and of our society, and we don't find it easy to talk about those dark areas either. Instead, we try to cover them up and hide them away. Yet the dark areas are exactly the ones which have most need of the light. Every house, indeed, every person, has such a place, a 'basement' area where old hurts, hates, painful memories and fears are locked away. Preserving this 'basement' enables us to show the world a tidy, even a beautiful face. But what should we be doing about these grubbier parts of ourselves? Well, we could, and we should open them to the light of Jesus.

Jesus shed light through his teaching, but more especially through the way he treated people. Many rulers and leaders have brought darkness into the lives of others by the harsh, cruel, and oppressive way they've treated others and indeed, we ourselves can cause darkness to others in this way. Not so Jesus. Whenever people came to him in darkness they went away bathed in light.

We need to acknowledge our darkness and our need of the light. This is why Jesus began his preaching with a call to repentance: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' for to repent is to admit to the dark areas of our lives, and to open ourselves to the light - the light of Christ. For let us never forget, the light of Christ comes as a friend. His light brings healing not hurt, freedom not oppression, life not death. Those who follow Jesus will always have the light of life, and by living in it, we too become a source of light to others, a lamp for their paths.

Every blessing



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

**Mass with Anointing - Westminster Cathedral 2.30 pm**

On the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Sick (the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes) Saturday February 11th a special Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing will be offered at our cathedral at 2.30 pm. All are welcome, but those wishing to be anointed will need to register and obtain tickets for this at the Presbytery; this may be done during office hours - don't delay!

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES**

**Dear Parent/Guardians, we are delighted to announce the dates for our sacramental programmes to commence this year:**

**Baptism:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in No.62.  
**Holy Communion:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am in school hall.  
**Confirmation:** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm in no.62.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Wayne

### **CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL**

Every September the choir school welcomes up to six choristers into years 4 or 5. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing both here in London and on tour internationally. Boys also receive an outstanding education at one of London's leading schools. Open morning for prospective chorister families - Sunday 5th February 10 am - 1 pm. Or contact Lucy Auger on 020 7798 9081 [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirschool.com)  
Significant bursaries up to 100% are available.  
Please also see the small poster on the church noticeboard.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **PARISH REGISTRATION:**

If you have not completed a **Registration Form** recently, please take one and complete it now! Thank You!

**The Bible Study Group:** Friday at 4 pm - we meet in number 62.

**PRAYER GROUPS:** Tuesday morning at about 10.30 am

**St Anthony Prayer Group:** Meets in church on Monday at 2.30 pm

### **SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN**

**SPUC - the annual collection will be taken up this weekend**

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is the oldest pro-life campaigning organisation in the world. It was founded in 1967 to oppose the abortion bill being debated in Parliament at the time. That bill would become the 1967 Abortion Act. SPUC campaigns to end abortion. We advocate the need for a consistent life ethic – one that values the lives of all human beings - we also campaign against other direct threats to the lives of vulnerable individuals, such as euthanasia and embryo abuse.

### **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

Join the Friends for an unforgettable evening of uplifting music on 16<sup>th</sup> February in Westminster Cathedral at a concert featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests. The concert starts at 7:30 pm and tickets starting at £20 are available now through Eventbrite at - <http://bit.ly/3i0ath2> or call the office – 01926 512980.

**Looking to enhance your knowledge as a catechist?  
Seeking to nurture your parish ministry?**

### **CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

A new group will start in February running on Saturday mornings, online, 9-12.30pm. Please contact Margaret Hanley, CCRS Co-ordinator, [ccrs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ccrs@rcdow.org.uk) for general information, and an application form.  
Contact Anna, for information about bursary funding.

**COLLECTION LAST SUNDAY: £1,200 MANY THANKS**

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap'. A number of parishioners have asked for details re the Parish Bank account

**PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC**

**Sort code 40-05-20**

**Acct. No.: 11263137**