

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

For Christopher & Louie Allsop, Mary McNally, Peter & Annie Byrne, Michael Qualter, Anne Mikulovic, Catherine Masterson, Wariboko Granville and all the faithful departed.

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

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2025**

**Saturday 15th February**

	<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Christopher &amp; Louie Allsop (RIP - Anniv)</b>
<b>SUNDAY 16th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Mary McNally (RIP)</b>
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Annie Byrne &amp; deceased of Byrne family</b>
	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>Michael Qualter (RIP)</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>

**Monday 17th**            **9.30 am**    -

<b>Tuesday 18th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Kathleen McDonagh (RIP-Anniv)</b>
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Tuesday Morning Prayer Group</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>St Anthony Prayer Group</b>

**Wednesday 19th**    **9.30 am**    -

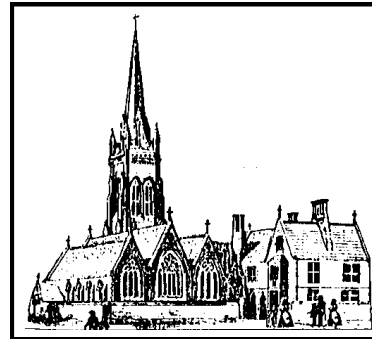
**Thursday 20th**      **9.30am**    -

**Friday 21st**           **9.30 am**    **The intentions of Pope Francis**

<b>Saturday 22nd</b> THE CHAIR OF St PETER THE APOSTLE	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>The Sick and Housebound</b>
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Exposition and Benediction</b>

**CONFESSIONS: AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY  
OR BY ARRANGEMENT WITH Fr JAMES OR Fr LINFERD**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11AM - 3PM**



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF  
St THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, FULHAM  
60 Rylston Rd, London SW6 7HW  
Tel: 020 7385 4040    Email: fulham@rcdow.org.uk  
Web: stthomasfulham.com  
Priests: Fr James Neal & Fr Linferd Fernandes  
Parish Deacon/ Catechetics: Rev Wayne O'Reilly  
Email: fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk  
Parish Administrator: Mr Gerald Daly  
Safeguarding Representative: Ms Shirley Mills  
Email: fulhamsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**

Pausing again this week in my series of 25 things to do in the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, here is a brief reflection on the hopeful aspect of doing penance. This is because the Pope asked the faithful to do this just last week. Despite his breathing difficulties, Pope Francis took the microphone at the end of the general audience on wednesday to make a new appeal for peace. With difficulty speaking he said: "*We were not born to kill, but to make peoples grow,*" Before the several thousand faithful gathered for the audience, the 88-year-old pontiff repeated that war is "*always a defeat.*" "*May paths of peace be found. Please, in your daily prayer, ask for peace,*" before mentioning "martyred Ukraine," Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and then South Sudan. "*Please, let us pray for peace, let us do penance for peace,*" he again exhorted.

*What is "doing penance"?* The Catholic idea of "doing penance" is based in Scripture and tradition. Jesus in Mark 9:29 tells his disciples who were unable to cast out a demon, "This kind can come out only through prayer." Other ancient translations include "and fasting" in Jesus' words. The idea is that uniting our sufferings to the redemptive sufferings of Jesus brings an efficacy to our prayer.

The Catechism notes in particular how "penance" is also a path to restoring spiritual health. Here is paragraph 1459: "*Many sins wrong our neighbour. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensation for injuries). Simple justice requires as much. But sin also injures and weakens the sinner him or herself, as well as his or her relationship with God and neighbour. Sacramental absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his or her full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he or she must "make satisfaction for" or "expiate" his sins. This satisfaction is also called "penance."*

When we are honest with ourselves we can find many simple and practical ways to do penance in the context of our own lives. It is not a punishment, or self-punishment, but a constructive sacrifice. Perhaps in 2025 a hopeful renewal of the life of penance would be a very graced thing for all of us, as well as adding a new dimension to our prayers, and today the Holy Father asks us find a way to do penance for the cause of true peace.

Fr James

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING**

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

**PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC**

**Sort code: 40-05-20      Acct. No.: 11263137**

**Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR RECENT APPEALS:**

The **Crib Appeal** during Christmas raised £398.63 for the *Catholic Children's Society* in our diocese.

The **World Leprosy Day** appeal for *Lepra* raised £491.60.

**WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE FEB 2025: THIS WEEK!**

Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Come to the Excel Centre in East London to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and its relevance to the Church's mission today. 21-22 Feb 2025.

For more info. and to register, please visit: [wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event).

**TIME TO RETURN PALM CROSSES:** This coming week *ONLY* there will be a basket at the doors of church for the return of palm crosses which are burnt to make the ash for Ash Wednesday. PLEASE DON'T return palm crosses after 23rd Feb - there will be nowhere for them to go.

**SUNDAY MISSALS ON SALE:** Following the introduction of the new translation of the scriptures used in Mass, we now have some stock of the new edition of the Catholic Truth Society Sunday Missal. £19.95 from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass. *Back in stock!*

**PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2024:** A summary of the Parish Accounts for 2024 has been posted on the notice board in Church. As always, Thank You for your generosity in support of the parish. If you have any questions about the accounts, ask Fr James or direct them as detailed on the notice.

**"MY DAY BY DAY" (£2.00) + "BIBLE ALIVE" (£3.00) FEBRUARY 2025:** These excellent publications giving daily prayers and mediations and reflections on the Mass readings are available for you to purchase TODAY. Prices as detailed above.

**200 CLUB NEWS UPDATE:** Now is the time to join the 200 Club, or to renew your subscription. This is the Parish lottery - membership is £5 per month if paid by standing order or £60 for the year. Half the money raised is paid out in prizes, half goes to support parish activities. Last year, with 124 members, we raised

£7,365. £3,717 was paid in prizes, £3,648 went to support the parish. For details see the renewal forms in the racks by the doors.

The more members we have the bigger the prizes and the greater the support for the parish. If you already pay by standing order, thank you for all your support, no further action is needed. We have 124 members...but it's the 200 club!! So let's get some new members.

**ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY AT THE CATHEDRAL: Saturday 17 May.**

The Cardinal invites couples celebrating in 2025 their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. If you wish to attend please supply the following information to Gerald in the Parish Office by 24 March:

- 1) husband and wife's names;
- 2) date and church of Catholic marriage;
- 3) number of years married;
- 4) postal address & email address /telephone No.

**CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:**

For Catholic boys with musical potential now in years 2, 3 or 4 - why not look at the possibility of becoming a Cathedral Chorister and attend the excellent Cathedral Choir School. See the poster in church. The school is offering introductory Zoom session, lasting 30 mins, at 6.30pm on 12 March. Contact Lucy Freeman on [lfreeman@choirschool.com](mailto:lfreeman@choirschool.com) for a link.

**CARITAS WESTMINSTER JUBILEE VOLUNTEERING FAIR:**

Sat 8 March at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave, SW1, 3pm-5pm. Come along and discover a wide range of opportunities across the diocese. More info at [caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer](http://caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer).

**RETRouvaille UK SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGES:**

Retrouvaille write to us: "Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse? Retrouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom :27 Feb - 2 March Email:[info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) Call or text 0788 7296983 or : [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

To aid our Jubilee and ordinary prayer life, here are the monthly Prayer Intentions for February: **For vocations to the priesthood and religious life:** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.