

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

For Catherine Masterson, Maria Ribeiro; Antonio Rosso, Wolfgang Stange, Tony Furlong, Fr David Barnes, Fr Sean Carroll, Marion Frenche, Peter Walker, Alex Vas, Michael Qualter and all the faithful departed.

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

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2025

Saturday 1st February

	5.30 pm	Michael Qualter (RIP - LD)
SUNDAY 2nd	9.00 am	Catherine Wilson (RIP)
THE PRESENTATION	10.30 am	The intentions of Pope Francis
OF THE LORD	12 Noon	The conversion of England
	6.00 pm	The people of the Parish

Monday 3rd	9.30 am	Lech Marchlewski (RIP - anniv)
Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, bishops		

Tuesday 4th	9.30 am	Monique Chaboud (RIP)
	10.30 am	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	2.30 pm	St Anthony Prayer Group

Wednesday 5th	9.30 am	Alex Vas (RIP)
St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr		

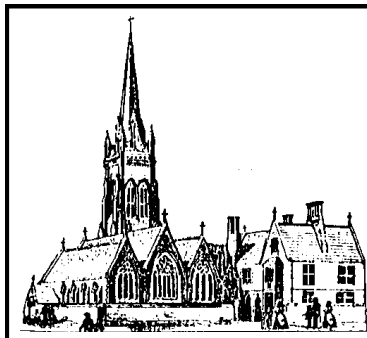
Thursday 6th	9.30am	Kathleen Connelly (RIP)
St Paul Miki & comps Martyrs		

Friday 7th	9.30 am	Marion Frenche (RIP)
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Saturday 8th	10.00 am	The Sick and Housebound
St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin	10.30 am	Exposition and Benediction

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

Dear Friends

Returning this week to my series of thoughts about 25 things we might do to enter into this Jubilee Year of hope 2025, **suggestion No.5** is to find out more about Pope Francis' vision of hope. Hope in our faith is not easy to sum up in a few words, but underpins all we are. You might pick up the Holy Father's new autobiography, called "Hope," or study the letter he wrote to announce the Jubilee: an internet search for "Spes non confundit" takes you to it.

For a taste, it can be easier to grasp an abstract subject like "hope" by looking at an example, and the Holy Father points us to Mary in these words: "Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (*Lk 2:34-35*). At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her Son had foretold in announcing that he would have to "undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (*Mk 8:31*). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope. It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust."

So, maybe suggestion No.5 is the one that will help you on a Jubilee journey of renewal of faith.

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. Furthermore, a number of parishioners have asked for details re the Parish Bank account; please find them below.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20

Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

TODAY: "CANDLEMASS": This year the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*, (known for short in English as *Candlemass* because in the Temple Christ is recognised as the light for all nations, symbolised by the light of candles,) falls on Sunday and is kept as a Feast of the Lord. Mass begins with the blessing of candles. If you have candles at home that you use for prayer and devotion, bring them to Mass for that blessing.

MONDAY 3 FEB "BLESSING OF ST BLAISE": Monday in our diocese is the Memorial of the bishops Laurence, Theodore and Dunstan (as saintly Archbishops of Canterbury they are remembered now in Westminster.) Monday is also the Memorial of St Blaise, and the traditional *Blessing of Throats* will be available at Mass. St Blaise is patron of all illness related to the throat.

CHRISTMAS CRIB: The crib in church (and I hope in our homes too!) remains in place throughout the great season of Christmas, until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 Feb. Please continue to visit and pray at the crib. Offerings made at the crib go to support the work of the Catholic Children's Society in our diocese. You can find details at the crib and on posters in church.

CATHEDRAL MASS FOR THE SICK: Saturday 8 February at 2pm sees the annual Cathedral Mass close to the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Celebrated by the H.E. Cardinal Vincent and during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. This is a ticket only event. We are asked that this year tickets be obtained via each Parish Office. *Therefore, if you wish to attend, please contact Gerald in the office a.s.a.p.* There are three categories as follows:

- 1) Wheelchair users who require anointing
- 2) Walking sick who require anointing
- 3) Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE FEB 2025: 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. SEE POSTER IN CHURCH.

For more info. and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

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. *Currently sold out, but if you would like a copy please order at the office or with Fr James or Fr Linferd.*

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 meditations and reflections on the Mass readings are available for you to purchase TODAY. Prices as detailed above.

"MAGNIFICAT": We are now also stocking copies of Magnificat, which is a well known and loved monthly guide to Mass for every day together with a host of supporting articles, meditations and information. Excellent to use for Sunday Mass. Price £6.50. **FEBRUARY ISSUE AVAILABLE TODAY.**

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.

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 Call or text 0788 7296983 or : 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.