

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(15th November 2026)



Dear Parishioners

There have been a number of important developments across our two parishes in recent weeks, and I wanted to take this opportunity to bring everyone up to date.

This week, the Council of Priests voted in favour of a minor adjustment to the deanery boundaries. As a result, St Joseph's Parish will move into Hillingdon Deanery. This means that both St Matthew's and St Joseph's will now belong to the same deanery and, importantly, the same Episcopal Area.

I very much welcome this change. Since taking responsibility for both parishes, I have found myself having to spread my time and responsibilities across two different deaneries. Bringing us together in this way will make things a little simpler and will help strengthen the sense that we are working together as one parish community across our two church sites.

There have also been some significant changes to our parish office arrangements. Thursday marked Siobhan's official retirement date, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her every happiness as she begins this new chapter. We are grateful for all she has contributed, and we look forward to celebrating with her properly at a farewell party in a few weeks' time.

Following Linda's sad death (before she too was due to retire), we have had to review the way our two parish offices are organised and how best to provide administrative support for both communities. The decision has been made to move towards a joint office structure, with one Parish Administrator and one Bookkeeper serving both parishes.

As part of this restructuring, the new arrangements mean that Cheryl's role in the parish office will come to an end, and she has therefore decided to take redundancy. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Cheryl for her twenty years of service in our parish office. Twenty years represents a tremendous commitment, and we owe her a great deal for all she has done.

Thankfully, this is not a goodbye to Cheryl as a member of our parish community! She will continue to be very much involved in parish life and in the various activities in which she already plays a part. We will still see her around, and I am delighted that she will continue to be part of our parish family. The only difference is that she will no longer be working in the office.

The Diocesan Human Resources Department will shortly be advertising for a new Parish Administrator. The successful candidate will work across both parish offices, being based in each office for two days a week. Although they will be physically present in each office on those days, they will be available by telephone and email on all four working days.

I am also pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Bookkeeper, Teresa Doyle. Teresa brings with her a wealth of experience, having recently retired from her position as School Business Manager at Douay Martyrs School. I am delighted that she will be joining us and look forward to welcoming her into the parish team.

All these changes are another indication of how our two parishes will continue to work together in the mission of the Church. Whilst practical arrangements and structures are important, what ultimately brings us together is something much deeper: our shared faith and our life of prayer.

I hope that, as we move forward, we will find more opportunities for the communities of St Matthew's and St Joseph's to come together in prayer and worship. We may have two church buildings and different traditions of parish life, but we are one in Christ, called to share in his mission and to support one another as members of his Church.

This coming week gives us a particularly wonderful opportunity to put this into practice through our Annual Quarantore (Forty Hours) devotion at St Matthew's, beginning on Friday morning and continuing until Sunday evening. I warmly encourage parishioners from both communities to come and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. It would be wonderful to see members of both parishes coming together for this special time of prayer. Please see inside this newsletter for further details.

Change is not always easy, particularly when it comes following a period of sadness and loss. I am conscious that both parishes have experienced considerable change over recent years, but these developments are intended to help us work more effectively together and ensure that we have the right support in place for the future.

I want to thank everyone who has served, and continues to serve, our two parish communities so generously. Please keep Siobhan, Cheryl and Teresa in your prayers as they enter these new chapters, and pray too that we may continue to grow together in faith, friendship and service.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church
32 Hallowell Road,
Northwood
HA6 1DW
Parish Office Hours

You can make a donation to either parish by using the appropriate QR code.

St Joseph's Church
111 Oxhey Drive,
Watford
WD19 7SW
Parish Office Hours
Temporarily Closed

Parish Offices

Due to staff changes, both parish offices will be closed. Please email or call with any requests - and someone will get back to you.

Lost Property at St Matthew's

There seems to be a growing pile of lost property items in the parish office at St Matthew's. If you think you have lost something, please contact the office. The deadline to reclaim any items will be Friday 27th November. Anything left will be disposed of after that date,

Month of the Holy Souls

Forms and envelopes are now available for parishioners to give names of those you wish to be remembered at the altar during November.

November Blessing of Graves

The annual blessing of graves will take place at the following times

Sunday 15th November

2.00pm Woodcock Hill Cemetery

Saturday 28th November

2.00pm Pinner New Cemetery. Please note the change of date

Good Books

The Housekeeper and The Professor by the best-selling Japanese writer **Yoko Ogawa** will be the subject of our discussion at our next (festive) meeting on **Wednesday December 9th** at **2 pm** in the Fr Bebb Room at St Matthew's. All are welcome, and do remember you can join the WhatsApp group if you'd like to keep up with our chat but cannot come to meetings.

Caritas Westminster

Caritas are organising an online event called **Beyond the Surface: Understanding Trauma** on **Wednesday 18th November** from **7.00–9.30pm** This is an accessible and practical session (led by Nikki Dhillon Keane, Head of Caritas Hope and BACP-accredited therapist) exploring how trauma can affect people's experiences and behaviour, and how we can respond in ways that promote safety, dignity and trust. Particularly useful for those volunteering in foodbanks, homelessness projects and other community settings, **this session is open to all**. To register, sign up here **https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/beyond-the-surface-understanding-trauma/**

First Holy Communion Parents Evening

The next First Holy Communion Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 19th November at 7.45pm** in St Joseph's Hall.

Baptism Preparation Evening

The next Baptism Preparation Evening will be **Thursday 26th November at 7.45pm** in the Fr Bebb Room. Please email Fr Tom to register your intention to attend - **tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk**

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

The second collection this week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can make a one-off donation or you can set up a regular gift and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** – or scan the QR code with a phone camera to give online. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. Thank you.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Saturday 28th November 2026

12:30 pm-5.00 pm

St Joseph's Hall

The Catholic Women's League is organising the annual Christmas Party for senior citizens of our parishes.

If you would like to come or know of a senior citizen who would like to come, please take a form from the back of church and complete the 'cut off reply slip (one slip per person please) and return it to the Church no later than Sunday 22nd November.

Don't forget that this has always been a very popular event and places are limited to 60, so remember to return your slip by **Sunday 22nd November** to St. Joseph's Church

For further information please contact Pauline James on 07511 668 812 or Ann Farrell on 01923 242 314

Due to rising costs regrettably t
here will be a £5 charge

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's)

Blessed Sacrament

Michael Wilson RIP

Our Lady

Alverea Alphanso (Thanksgiving Intentions)



(St Joseph's)

Blessed Sacrament

Mike Carey RIP (Anniv)

Our Lady

David Astley (Healing)

Thank You

A huge thank you to Julie Shelton for organising a successful evening on Thursday with the visit of the author Lissa Evans. Julie put a lot of work in getting things done. As ever there was a great team who also worked on the evening in different ways. Thank you to them too. Lissa may make a return visit when her new book comes out (which will probably be sometime in 2028).

Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 16th December Sparks Funeral Directors (Northwood) will hold a Coffee morning from 10am—12 noon. They would love to welcome you to their Branch for a friendly and relaxed coffee morning. Come along, enjoy Tea, Coffee and cake, and get to know the people behind E Spark Funeral Directors. There's no appointment needed, no pressure and no obligation, just a chance to say hello, have a chat and ask any questions you may have. Whether you are simply curious, have questions about forward planning, or would just like to meet your local team, our door is open.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner

Douay Martyrs School is once again hosting a Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens on Friday 4th December, beginning at 2.00pm. If you would like to attend please send Fr Tom an email or text with your details and he will pass them on to the school. Transport can be arranged if needed.

St Matthew's Winter Garden Clear Up

If you would like to help with the clearing of the grounds around St Matthew's, please come along on Saturday 28th November at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Thank you to those who work hard throughout the year in keeping our grounds neat and tidy

Repository News

Both our repositories are now stocked up with Christmas goods. Why not buy some cards or gifts that show the real meaning of Christmas?



Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo is continuing his Apostolic Journey to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. Here are a homily from Uruguay and Argentina (next week's newsletter will have one from Peru)

Homily at the Cathedral Basilica of Florida, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Thirty-Three (Florida)
Sunday, 8 November 2026 .



Dear brothers and sisters of this land of Uruguay,

With great enthusiasm, I am here with you today next to Our Lady of the Thirty-Three. I come as a pilgrim to share in the faith and the tenderness with which the Uruguayan people have looked at the Mother of God for generations. I say to those who have come from different places, to those who have been making the pilgrimage here for years, and to those who are visiting for the first time today: I embrace all of you with affection and entrust you to Mary's protection.

Today, the word of God presents us with two women who lived in very different times and upon whom almost the same blessing is bestowed. To Judith, after the liberation of her people, it was said: "O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all other women on earth" (Jud 13:18). Many centuries later, Elizabeth welcomes Mary into her home and exclaims: "Blessed are you among women" (Lk 1:42).

This connection was recognized very early on by Christian tradition. In Judith, it saw a woman who did not allow herself to be overcome by fear at a difficult time for her people. Through prayer and fasting, she made a decision that led her to risk her own life (cf. Jud 8-10). When victory came, Judith did not take credit for it, for she knew full well who had saved Israel, and said: "Begin a song to my God with tambourines, sing to my Lord with cymbals" (Jud 16:1). That is why the words with which her people welcomed her are so majestic: "You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the great boast of Israel, you are the great pride of our nation!" (Jud 15:9). The people celebrated what God had done for them through Judith.

Hearing these words today before the Patroness of this country has a special resonance. This small image is linked to a decisive moment in Uruguay's history. In 1825, those who were fighting for the freedom of this land also turned to Mary, to place the beginning of their efforts under her protection. That gesture reminds us that the history of peoples, too, cannot be fully understood without reference to God. Thus, from the earliest days of the nation's founding, Uruguay has been intimately linked to a Mother. Since that time, generations have come and gone, circumstances have changed, including the relationship of many Uruguayans to the faith. Yet she has remained here. While Mary accompanied the history of this people, at the same time in so many homes other women preserved the faith and passed it on to their children.

I think of the mothers who placed the first words of prayer on their children's lips, who took them to be baptized, who prepared them to receive the sacraments, and who taught them to live out Christian charity. I think of the grandmothers who kept an altar at home, who prayed for the living and the deceased and who made God present in the ordinary events of life. Even in the early days of the Church we find something similar. Timothy's faith was rooted in two women, with the Apostle fondly recalling Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. In them, "sincere faith" had first taken root, which Paul also recognized in Timothy (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). Scripture tells us little about those two women. We know, however, that Timothy, who would become a close collaborator of Saint Paul, was formed by that faith learned at home (cf. Acts 16:1-3).

This land also has women's names inscribed in its history of faith. Among them is Saint María Francisca Rubatto, who chose to remain among you and serve those most in need here. There are also the Blessed Martyrs Dolores and Consuelo Aguiar-Mella, two sisters born in Montevideo. Their lives were very different, but in all three we find supreme examples of

faithfulness.
Yet most of this history of faith in the country was never written down in books. It was quietly passed down from generation to generation within families. When we wonder and ask where our faith comes from, the name of a specific woman often comes to mind: a mother, a grandmother, a godmother, a religious sister or a catechist. We may not remember every word they said to us, but we do remember how they prayed, how they spoke of the Lord and with what conviction they lived out what they taught us.
Today I would like to thank all of those women. Thank you for having believed and for having kept open a path to God in so many families. Some were able to do so supported by a long-standing family tradition; others had to sustain that faith with greater effort, perhaps without always finding understanding or support within their own homes. I know that many of you carry a very specific sorrow. You taught your children to pray, and today they no longer do so. You used to attend Mass together, and it has been years since they entered a church. You spoke to your grandchildren about God, and now you do not know if those words left a mark. Sometimes you wonder if you did something wrong or if it was all futile. Allow me to recall Saint Monica here, who knew that pain well. She prayed for years for a son who seemed to be drifting further and further from God, but she never stopped trusting in his grace. Therefore, do not consider what you have sown to be lost. The Lord himself taught us that the seed can grow without the sower knowing how (cf. Mk 4:27).
Mothers and grandmothers: never tire of passing on the faith! Preach with your lives as well as with your words. Insist on prayer, love, and hope; insist on them in season and out of season (cf. 2 Tim 4:2). Do so with patience, without harshness or discouragement. Even if your loved ones seem far from God, continue to place them before him. Do not stop blessing them, accompanying them, and simply reminding them of what they once received. There are doors that you cannot open, but God can.
I would also like to address the men — fathers and grandfathers. Your children and grandchildren need to see that the faith occupies a genuine place in the lives of the men in your family. Imitate Saint Joseph, who took on the task of raising Jesus, bringing him to the temple, teaching him to work honestly and showing him that God must come first in a person's life. Dear fathers and grandfathers, young people need to see that you pray, receive the sacraments, treat your wives with respect, ask for forgiveness and live with integrity, even when doing so requires sacrifice. Children learn a great deal by seeing that their father can kneel before God without feeling that he is any less of a man for doing it.
Scripture called on God's people to keep the words they have received from him in their hearts and to teach them to their children, to speak of them "when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise" (Deut 6:7). God was central to conversation, decision making and daily family life. In this way, children learned that the faith they received from their parents was also what their parents lived by. Likewise today, bishops, priests and consecrated persons are also called to support families in this task, generously exercising their spiritual fatherhood and motherhood, accompanying those who falter and helping many to rediscover the path to God.
Passing on the faith means bringing others to Christ, whom we ourselves have encountered. Mary shows us precisely how to do this. In the Gospel, Elizabeth welcomes her exclaiming: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:42). Mary does not keep that praise to herself. When Elizabeth proclaims her blessed, Mary responds by singing of the Lord's greatness (cf. Lk 1:46-55). At Cana, when others turn to her, she directs them to her Son: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5).
In the second reading, Saint Paul explicitly states a truth that Mary's entire life proclaims: "There is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human" (1 Tim 2:5). All of Mary's greatness is based on her relationship with Christ: she welcomes him, lives by him, and leads others to him. An encounter with the Master is the goal of all evangelization and of all authentic Marian devotion. The Son of God has given himself up for all; thus, no one can be excluded from the Church's prayer. That is why Saint Paul asks us to pray "for kings and all who are in high positions" (1 Tim 2:2), and for all people, because God "desires everyone to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4).
On this feast of the Patroness of Uruguay, let us bring this entire people before the Lord. Let us pray for those who bear the responsibility of governing it, that they may seek with integrity the good of all; for families, for young people, for those who suffer, for those who feel far from God and for those who need to return to him and change their lives.
Saint Luke shows us how that mission begins. After conceiving the Son of God, Mary "set out and went with haste" (1:39). She does not wait for Elizabeth to come looking for her, but rather goes out to meet her and enters her home, carrying the Lord with her. There, the child leaps for joy, and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 1:41-44). Mary's action also points out the way for us. We cannot always wait for those who have strayed to return on their own. People of Uruguay: you must set out on the journey! You must enter people's homes once more, draw near to them, listen to their questions and bring them to Christ! Each of you knows a person toward whom you need to take that step: perhaps a child, a friend, a neighbor, someone who stopped believing long ago or who has never had anyone close to them to speak to them about God.
May the Queen of Heaven sustain those who continue to sow the faith. May she teach us to recognize Christ in the poor, the sick and those who are alone, and teach us to bring him to places where he is not yet known.
Soon I will place the Golden Rose before this image. With this gesture, I wish to honor the one who is indeed "the great pride of our nation" (Jud 15:9) and to make visible the fulfillment of the words she herself spoke: "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48).
To Mary, commander and guide of this people, I wish to consecrate this nation anew, to entrust this land and all who live in it to her protection and to implore God that, through her powerful intercession, he may thwart the works of the evil one and preserve beloved Uruguay from whatever might lead it away from Christ. May this Golden Rose, offered as a sign of veneration and filial love, also remind her children that they are called to imitate her by loving Christ as she loved him, and bringing him to others as she brought him. Amen.

Homily in the square in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján (Luján)
Wednesday, 11 November 2026 .
Dear brothers and sisters ,
The reading from the prophet Isaiah that we have just heard invites us to imagine different types of terrain: the desert, the steppe and the mountain. All of them are called to bloom and sing for joy as they reflect the glory of God. Let us also

consider today this beautiful country and the varied geography with which the Creator of the universe has adorned it: vast plains and mighty rivers, numerous mountain ranges, green plateaus and broad plains, deep seas, majestic glaciers and vast deserts. In all of its splendor and beauty, the entire land at the "end of the world" sings of the Lord's glory.



Isaiah goes on to say that just as God causes water to spring forth in the parched land, making it more fertile, so too does he quench the deep thirst of human beings and heal them of their illnesses, opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. Dear brothers and sisters, these images speak to us of a new era and a promise of liberation. Do not be afraid, God is with us. Rejoice and be strong with the strength that comes from the Lord.

During these days, I have been able to see the richness of Argentina — not only in its geography but also in its people, in each one of our encounters, in the squares and streets and in the creativity, the spontaneity and the life that overflows at every turn. In the Magnificat that we have proclaimed as the Responsorial Psalm, the Virgin Mary likewise overflows with joy in the Lord and praises him for the wonders that he works in her. I thank God for the opportunity to meet this beloved people who open their doors to everyone and who share their bread as well as their music. In this country there is always a place at the table for the newcomer, time is set aside to chat "between sips of mate," and a helping hand is extended to those in need.

Today, at the house of Our Mother of Luján, my thoughts turn in a special way to our beloved Pope Francis, who always carried the Patroncita morena in his heart. He taught us through his life always to love and venerate her. He continues to teach us this lesson from the place he chose for his burial, which is located so close to an icon of the Blessed Mother. In fact, his parting words were often: "May Jesus bless you and may the holy Virgin watch over you."

With a heart full of gratitude for the many gifts that God has poured out upon this country, on this occasion I would like to propose to you a journey that is the same as the one we experience in the celebration of every Eucharist. It consists of four steps: reconciliation, enlightenment through the word of God, communion, and being sent forth on mission. Mary, standing at the foot of the Cross, unites herself to the Eucharistic Sacrifice and accompanies us on this journey (cf. Saint John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 56-58).

Many of our brothers and sisters — or even we ourselves and our families — may currently be living through moments of Calvary, suffering from illness, poverty, unemployment, discrimination or family breakdown, among other problems. In those dark moments, we understand Mary's experience at the foot of the Cross, with her mother's heart torn with grief. In that most terrible moment of her life, Mary received a new mission from her Son, embracing all humanity in her mother's heart. We are likewise called to receive God's grace and to undergo processes of forgiveness and reconciliation that renew peace, hope and charity within us. Let us be sincere, acknowledge our faults and ask the Lord for forgiveness; forgiveness for that beggar, for that tear I caused to fall; forgiveness for those eyes that, when they met mine, I refused to look at (cf. Zamba del perdón). We also need to reconcile ourselves with our past and present, in order to build a new future where love has the final word.

Let us also recall the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were walking along with sad faces, and were discouraged and weighed down by the harsh reality of the Lord's death. At that moment, the risen Jesus appeared and explained the Scriptures to them. When they shared a meal together, they recognized his presence, which had set their hearts on fire (cf. Lk 24:13-35). Dear brothers and sisters, that is often our experience too, for we also can feel tired, disappointed or disoriented. We need a compass, a guide, and indeed we already have it in Sacred Scripture! Let us allow ourselves to be enlightened by it, for the word of God is a lamp for our steps and a light to our path (cf. Ps 119:105).

As a third step, after reconciliation and enlightenment through the word, we are called to communion. Christ himself invites us to his table, and at that table we are all welcome (cf. Mt 22:9-10). There is a place for everyone, especially for those who are most in need: the poor and the hungry, migrants, the sick and prisoners, with whom the Lord identifies (cf. Mt 25:35-40). Indeed, "the Eucharist, which is the sacrament of unity, nurtures our belonging to the Body of Christ and teaches us how to share. The diverse sensibilities present in the Church and the strong convictions that animate each person are a source of richness if they remain anchored in the certainty that unity is a gift received and a responsibility to be fulfilled" (Magnifica Humanitas, 88). Communion with Christ does not cause us to withdraw into our personal affairs, nor does it lead us to take advantage of others' needs or allow us to shirk our responsibilities. Rather it impels us to be an active part of a community, to share the gifts we have received freely, and to offer what little we have for the good of many.

We are invited to demonstrate charity in the manner of Christ. Mary also teaches us that way at the foot of the Cross, for there on Calvary, both she and her Son loved to the end (cf. Jn 13:1). Loving like Christ is not a matter of doing great things, but of remaining faithful at the Lord's side, just as his mother did, both in times of suffering and in times of joy, glory and light. It is a matter of looking at life through heavenly eyes and painting each of our days with the color of hope. We know that there are many difficulties, but the Lord also inspires heroic acts of charity in our people. These include the father who rises early every day to bring bread home, the mother who stays by her sick child's side during long nights in the hospital and the good friend who shares his time with those in need.

Dear brothers and sisters, the final step is the sending forth on mission, just as we are encouraged at the end of Holy Mass. Go and proclaim (cf. Mk 16:15), because "we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Go and evangelize; proclaim the joy of the Gospel through words and good deeds. Argentina, rise up and walk! As Saint Augustine tells us: "Love and do whatever you please: if you are silent, be silent out of love; if you cry out, do so out of love; if you correct, correct out of love; if you forgive, forgive out of love. May the root of charity dwell within you; from that root, nothing but good can spring forth" (cf. Saint Augustine, Homily on the First Letter of Saint John to the Parthians, 7:8).

Mother of Luján, my Pontificate began on 8 May, your feast day. Like millions of Argentines who come to your home to implore your maternal protection, I too wish to take refuge under your mantle. Guide me, Mother, in the apostolic mission the Lord has entrusted to me, and guide and accompany the Argentine people on their journey. Help them to build bridges of charity and networks of solidarity; inspire in them the desire to continue along paths of reconciliation, communion and mission, illuminated by the word of your son Jesus Christ and firmly grounded in him, "the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11). Amen.

Saint of The Week
Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul



But not to dwell upon ancient examples, let us come to the most recent spiritual heroes. Let us take the noble examples furnished in our own generation. Through envy and jealousy the greatest and most righteous pillars [of the church] have been persecuted and put to death. Let us set before our eyes the illustrious apostles. Peter, through unrighteous envy, endured not one or two, but numerous labours; and when he had at length suffered martyrdom, departed to the place of glory due to him. Owing to envy, Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects. Thus was he removed from the world, and went into the holy place, having proved himself a striking example of patience. ***~Epistle of Saint Clement of Rome to the Corinthians***

After Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire in 313, he constructed churches, including four Roman basilicas: Saint John Lateran, Saint Peter's on Vatican Hill, Holy Cross of Jerusalem, and Saint Paul Outside the Walls. Today, the Church celebrates the dedication of Saint Peter's on Vatican Hill and Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

In 64, a great fire destroyed much of Rome. Many historians believe Emperor Nero set the fires himself to have an excuse to rebuild portions of the city. Blaming the fire on the Christians, Nero implemented the first organized persecution of Christians in the empire. Among the many arrested and martyred were Saints Peter and Paul. The two basilicas mark their places of execution.

Peter, Prince of the Apostles and Bishop of Rome, is believed to have been crucified upside-down in the Circus of Nero near the ancient Egyptian obelisk that now stands in the center of Saint Peter's Square. Buried on Vatican Hill, his grave became a place of pilgrimage. After Constantine legalized Christianity, he constructed Old Saint Peter's Basilica to foster devotion and encourage pilgrimages. Dedicated by Pope Sylvester around 324 or 326, it remained for more than a millennia.

Until 1305, popes lived at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran. After the Avignon Papacy ended and Pope Gregory XI returned to Rome in 1377, the Lateran Palace was in disrepair from two fires. The pope built a new papal palace next to Old Saint Peter's on Vatican Hill, where every subsequent pope has resided. By the early sixteenth century, Old Saint Peter's was in serious disrepair, so Pope Julius II ordered its demolition and began a reconstruction that was completed 120 years later. In 1626, Pope Urban VII dedicated today's Basilica of Saint Peter at the Vatican.

Saint Paul, the Church's tireless evangelist and preeminent theologian, founded and nourished many Christian communities. Arrested in Jerusalem, Paul appealed to the Roman emperor as a Roman citizen and was transported to Rome for trial two years later. He was beheaded on or around the same day that Saint Peter was crucified. His beheading and burial occurred just outside the city walls.

Emperor Constantine built the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls over Saint Paul's grave. Over the next 1,500 years, successive popes added on to the basilica, renovated it, and decorated it. In 1823, a fire destroyed almost the entire basilica. Over the next thirty years, the church was redesigned and reconstructed. Pope Pius IX completed and dedicated it in 1854.

As their graves are foundations for these two churches, Peter's and Paul's lives and ministries are the Church's foundation. Saint Peter, the first pope, received the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Of him, Jesus said, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Saint Paul, the great evangelist to the Gentiles, symbolizes the Church's missionary life and theological articulation of the faith. His writings make up most of the New Testament. Though centred and unified by Saint Peter, we must go to the ends of the earth, sharing the Gospel like Saint Paul. Every bishop throughout the world is obliged to make an "ad limina apostolorum" visit to Rome once every five years to report to the pope about his diocese and visit the two apostles' tombs.

Saints Peter and Paul,
God used you in unique and powerful ways that continue
to have a profound impact upon the lives of God's people today.
Please pray for me, that I will also become a foundation
upon which God continues to build His Church
and from which the message of salvation goes forth.
Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Quarant'ore



We will hold our 40 Hours Devotion on from Friday 20th November until Sunday 22nd November in St Matthew's. The timings will be as follows.

Friday. 10.00 **Mass** *followed by silent exposition*.
12 noon **Midday Prayer.** 6.00pm **Evening Prayer**.
7.00pm **Mass**. 9.45pm **Night Prayer** (*Church Closes at 10.00pm*).

Saturday (*Church opens for exposition at 7.00am*)
8.30am **Morning Prayer**. 10.30am **Mass**. 12 noon **Midday Prayer**.
6.00pm **Evening Prayer**. 7.30pm **Mass**. 9.45pm **Night Prayer** (*Church Closes at 10.00pm*).

Sunday (*Church opens for exposition at 7.00am*)
8.30am **Morning Prayer**. 9.00am **Mass**. 12 noon **Midday Prayer**. 5.30pm **Evening Prayer**.
6.00pm **Mass and Benediction**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Friday and Saturday there will be extra opportunity to make your confession in the half hour after the morning and evening Mass.

Please do sign up to watch with The Lord.

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading *Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R1a*

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Second reading *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord.
Whoever abides in me bears much fruit.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 25:14-30*

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

The Gospel of The Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us in praying for those who are sick and those who have died:

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

For those who are sick: Ronni Hagger Dickson, Mary Sullivan, Pope Leo XIV, David Astley, Mary Emmanuel, Joe Mullen, Leo McLoughlin, Patrick Coyle, Lourdes D'Silva Torres, Eliana Ost, James Conradi, Anne Paget, Mary Vaughan, Helen Jones, Sinead Ceasar, Gilda Kumarathasan, Siobhan Frost, Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Georgette Gornall, Ann Archer, Kathleen Lynch, Kathleen Andrews, Harry Nandlal, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Brendan Davern, Shay Murray, Ruby King, John Wildsmith, Cecil Swampillai, Belinda Plummer, Marilyn Theodore, Veronica Savill, Levan Soloman, Patricia Procter, Philip Wilson, Mary Hyde, King Charles, Moira Montgomery, Patricia Lee, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

For those who have died recently: Amy De Souza, James Cochran. and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster and those who have no one to pray for them.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Margaret Gaskel, Margaret Conaghan, Elizabeth Cleary, Bridie Claire, Cecily Gibson, Vincent O'Connor, Margaret Kirby, Concetta Mattera, Marie Hicks, Charles Thacker, Patrick Harrington, Florinda Delima, Bridget Flynn, Patrick Cusack, Margaretta Levene, Evelyn Barby and Josephine Nahas.

Pope's Prayer Intention for November: For the proper use of wealth, we pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less..

Worship this week

Sunday Readings: *Year A* ***Weekday Readings:*** *Week 33 (Year 2)* ***Daily Office:*** *Week 1*

	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday** - *Holy Souls (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 15th *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*	**9.00am: Mass** - *Holy Souls (St Matthew's)* **11.15am: Mass** *People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Mass -** - *Holy Souls (St Matthew's)*
Monday 16th *S. Edmund of Abingdon*	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer** **10.00am Mass** - *Holy Souls* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Matthew's)*
Tuesday 17th *S. Hilda of Whitby*	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer** **10.00am Mass** - Holy Souls ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Wednesday 18th *Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul*	**NO PUBLIC MASS**
Thursday 19th *Feria*	**6.00pm** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **7.00pm Mass** - *Holy Souls* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Friday 20th *Feria*	***Please see inside for the Timings of the 40 Hours Devotions at St Matthew's***
Saturday 21st *The Presentation of the BVM*	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)* **6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday** - *Holy Souls (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 22nd *Christ the King*	**11.15am: Mass -** *Holy Souls (St Joseph's)*

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have a Mass intention or lamp intention for a particular date.

Parish Directory

Parish Priest: Fr Tom Montgomery ***Email:*** tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 01923 840736 ***Emergency:*** 07576 455450
Deacon: Rev Hervé Boisson ***Email:*** herveboisson@rcdow.org.uk

	St Matthew's	***St Joseph's***
Parish Office	Cheryl Myring Siobhan Hogg ***Tel:*** 01923 840736 ***Email:*** northwood@rcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment ***Tel:*** 020 8428 0088 ***Email:*** carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Team	Elvadia Tolputt northwoodcat@rcdow.org.uk	Donna Osborne carpenderscatechist@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representatives	Colette Quirk & Elizabeth Scudder ***Email:*** northwoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk northwoodsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment

Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk