

# St. Mary's, Waterloo Park

[www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk)

**2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**All Saints / All Souls**

**Sunday and Weekday Service**

*Welcome!*

## **The Collect**

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Hymns**

52 At the name of Jesus (v 1,2,5)

156 Do not be afraid

398 Jesus remember me

349 Immortal, invisible

467 Lord of all hopefulness

## **First Reading, *Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18***

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: 'As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever - for ever and ever.'

**Second Reading, *Ephesians 1.11-end***

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Gospel, *Luke 6.20-31***

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full

now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

### **Post Communion**

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Intercessions**

**The World:** For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources.

**The Church:** The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Ruth, Archdeacon Pete and Area Dean Rev. Alex Peach. Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

**The Diocese:** Christ Church, Southport, St Philip and St Paul with Wesley, Southport, St Philip's School, St Simon and St Jude with All Souls, Southport, Bishop David Sheppard School, The Transfiguration, Birchwood and The Ascension Woolston, Birchwood School, Woolston School, St Paul, Penketh, St Philip, Westbrook, St Philip's School.

**For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:** Ailsa McAlees, Hewie, Eileen Maguire, Graham Forrest, Olga Gregor, Jess Farrell, Carl Lee, Richard Shacklady, Edith Keeton.

**Recently departed:** George Johnson, Jackie Blackwood.

**For the departed remembered at this time:** Stanley Orme, Hilda Gardner, Graham Mott, Pauline Clarke, George Acton, Jean & William Weir, Alexander Holme, Bruce Maytham.

### Notices

- **Children's Mission:** St. Mary's are hoping to deliver Messy Church at St. John's School on 1<sup>st</sup> December and Experience Christmas on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November. We are short of volunteers and may have to cancel these events. If anyone can help even with some of these dates or for a few hours, it would mean we can deliver these important events. Volunteers would have to get a DBS certificate and undergo some safeguarding training. If you can help, please speak to Fr. Louis or Jill McElroy.
- **Baby News:** We are delighted to announce the birth of Milan, born on 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Reza and Afsaneh, weighing 3,220 kg. Mother and baby are doing well, after a difficult birth.

### Events

- **Beetle Drive:** Back by popular demand! Beetle Drive on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November** at **1:30pm** at St Faith's Parish Hall – with revised rules! Tickets are £3 each including scone and tea/coffee, in aid of church funds. Please give this your support. Speak to Corinne Hedgecock to reserve tickets (07510 219 705).

- **Our Lady of Walsingham Group:** Please note a slight change to our programme: our next meeting at **2pm** on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**, will be at **Paula's house, 30 Curzon Road**. Prayer, fellowship and light refreshments. Please come with ideas and suggestions for next year! BIG THANK YOU to Paula for accommodating us.

<b>Services at St Mary's</b>	
This Sunday 10:00am, Eucharist <b>All Saints / All Souls</b>	Peter Walker
Monday, 4:00pm <b>Evening Prayer</b>	Louis Johnson
Wednesday, 10:30am <b>Eucharist</b>	Louis Johnson
Next Sunday 10:00am, Eucharist <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	Peter Cowley

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## Voices from the pews

During this season of All Saints'/All Souls', when we think about the family of the church, past, present, and future, we would like to present an interview between Judith, our ordinand in training, and Reza, who with his wife Afsaneh, was baptized at St Faith's earlier this year.

*JA: Reza, could you tell me a few things about life in Iran?*

R: Iran is a theocracy, which means that the government is made up of spiritual leaders. Nearly everyone (about 80%) is born a Muslim, and those who hold different religious beliefs are watched very closely. People work from Saturday to Wednesday, and the weekend starts on a Thursday at lunchtime. Some community shops, restaurants, cinemas stay open over the weekend, but generally life is quiet on a Thursday and Friday. Foreign restaurants are expensive. There is a lot of racism towards Afghans, Pakistanis and Turks because they're a bit different. Life is hard for women especially, as they have no choice over how they should dress. Their whole bodies should be covered at all times, even in really hot weather, whereas men can wear shorts and t-shirts. The hijab (head-covering) is compulsory, and you can be arrested for not wearing it, even if it has slipped off the back of your head by mistake, which is what happened once to Afsaneh. Upon marriage women are often treated like a possession by their husbands and need their permission to travel, go out, and work.

*JA: Reza, you paint a mixed picture of Iran, and yet I'm sure you miss it?*

R: Of course I miss it, as it is my home, and even though I would like there to be freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of information, freedom of movement for the people, there is so much to yearn for. Afsaneh and I have left many friends and of course family behind.

*JA: What would you like us English people to know about Iran?*

R: Iran has so much to offer to the rest of the world, and to people who want to visit. We have lots of natural resources, such as gold, oil, gas and aluminium. We have a rich and ancient history, with beautiful places to visit such as Ispahan, Persepolis, and Teheran our capital. In the South we have lovely clean beaches and in the North you can go skiing, so if Iran made travel easier for tourists it could become a top holiday destination. I would also like them to know that not everything they hear and read about Iran in the media is true.

*JA: What has becoming a Christian meant for you?*

R: An enormous amount! This is why we left Iran! And we have received such a warm welcome from the churches we have been to. I have been to about 15 different churches since coming to England in December, and every time people have shown me warmth and made me feel at home. The congregations of St Faith's and St Mary's in particular, have become second families for me.

Belief in God has also taught me to keep hoping that change will happen for the better in Iran, and that one day a new leader will come forward from the people, but not someone from the military or from among the religious leaders. Even though I am religious I don't agree with a theocratic regime. This person will introduce gradual changes and will promote more religious tolerance and equal rights for women, will build a strong defence system so that we are not constantly vulnerable to attack, will discourage racism, and open the doors of Iran to foreign investors and to individual tourists so that people can enjoy our beautiful country.

***We hold Reza and Afsaneh, and their newborn baby Milan in our prayers as they continue to build a life for themselves in Britain.***