



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Roman Catholic Parish of Acton

This parish is served by The Spiritans - In the Archdiocese of Westminster



## Parish Newsletter 10th March 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Year B

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: John 3:14-21

### WELCOME

Welcome to everyone joining us this weekend. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to one of the priests after Mass.

**Our Lady of Peace Prayer Group** meets every Friday at 7pm in the church. All our welcome.

**The Church will be open** Tues to Fri, 9.00am to 5.30pm. Sat 10.00am to 8.00pm, Sun for Masses.

### MASS TIMES

**Monday:** No Mass

Fr Patrick works at Immigration Removal Centre

Fr Jude's day off

**Tuesday – Friday:** 10.00am

**Saturday:** 7.00pm

**Sunday :** 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.00pm

**Parish Office:** Mondays 9.00am – 1.00pm

Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am—2.00pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 30 minutes before week days, Sat eve and Sunday 9am Masses.

**During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** please join us in silent prayer and reflection showing complete reverence at all times.

**Confessions:** Saturdays 6.20pm to 6.50pm. Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday from 9.15am to 9.55am.

You can also book an appointment with the priest for confession for a time that is convenient to you.

**Rosary:** The Rosary will be said every Friday after the 10am mass.

**Parish Donations:** WRCDT Our Lady of Lourdes

Sort code: 40-05-20 Account No. 71095692

Please use the Gift Aid Scheme (forms at back of church)

**Contactless Payment:** Please use payment terminals at the back of the church ready for your donations.

**Parish Registration:** We would like all parishioners, old and new, to fill out our new registration forms and return them to the parish office. Even if you have been a part of the parish for 30 years!

**Happy Mother's Day:** Dear Lord, please bless our mothers. Ease their worry for the families you entrust to them, guide them in times of doubt, and hold them close when they are overwhelmed by both joy and sorrow. May they know our deep gratitude for giving us life and love. In union with Mary, we ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

**First Holy Communion First Reconciliation** will be on Saturday 16th March at 11am. Please arrive by 10.50am so that the service can start on time. A parent must stay in the church with each child. Please make sure your child has learned by heart the Act of Contrition prayer (p.20 in the second workbook).

**Celebrations Mass** for the candidates will be on Sunday 17th March at the 10.30am Mass.

**Parent's Evening:** The next parent's evening takes place on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm in the hall.

**Stations of the Cross:** During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross every Wednesday after the 10am Mass and every Friday at 3pm.

**Our Lenten Reconciliation Service** will take place on Thursday 21st March @ 7pm. We will be joined by other priests to help with individual confessions.

**Mother's Day Event:** Sunday 17th March 2024 at 11.30am in the parish hall. This event will include food, drink, dessert, music, singing, dancing, raffle and more. £30pp. "A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take."

**Know Your Faith:** We hope you enjoy the new weekly Know Your Faith feature in the green box on page 3.

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**Walk for the Homeless:** Thank you to all the Confirmation Candidates who took part in the Walk for the Homeless on 2nd March. Despite the wet weather, the sense of achievement was palpable. We were privileged to celebrate Mass in the Crypt with Fr. Jude. We have raised over £1300 for Acton Homeless Concern. Could parents ensure that any donations collected via the sponsorship



form are handed in to one of the priests or to the office for banking, so that we can make a transfer to Acton Homeless Concern? Thank you to the parishioners who supported us through their prayers and kind words, and to those who were also able to contribute financially. You can still donate!

**Young Adults Lent Retreat Day:** with the Assumption Sisters & Fathers. This retreat for young adults (18-30 years) is on Saturday 16th March 11am – 7pm., at the Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB (closest tube station: Bethnal Green). The programme includes talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, Stations of the Cross, faith sharing, mass and social time. Donations only. Register by emailing: [tramy@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)



**Seeking Accommodation:** A parishioner (single woman, working full time) is looking for a room to rent in the local area, close to Our Lady of Lourdes. Please contact her on 07846 539552 if you can help.

**The Interfaith Group** will meet on Wed 20th March 1.30 pm to 3pm in the Hinsley room next to Westminster Cathedral, Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1EP to discuss the last two chapters of Pope Francis' Laudate Deum. Refreshments available. There is also a day in Cambridge on Wed April 24th. Please contact [woodhousesopten@btinternet.com](mailto:woodhousesopten@btinternet.com) for more information.

### Synod Meeting 2 — 22nd February:

We'd like to share the summary of the discussions from the second Synod meeting which took place on 22nd February.

#### Question 3: Concrete Steps for Effective Faith Proclamation

**Task Force Creation:** It was proposed to revisit the individuals identified through the first Synodal process and establish a task force comprising members with diverse skills, including non-liturgical skill sets like accountancy, to facilitate effective utilisation of their talents.

**Formation and Training:** There was a consensus on the need for greater formation and training opportunities within the parish. Some individuals expressed a desire to be more involved but lacked clarity on how their skills could contribute. Hence, targeted formation programmes tailored to specific tasks such as catechesis, as well as overall faith and prayer life development, were suggested.

**Engagement Strategies:** To ensure inclusivity, strategies such as inviting parishioners to attend events and coffee mornings, along with providing Zoom meetings for those with mobility or childcare constraints, were recommended to enhance participation.

**Utilising Diocesan Resources:** The parish intends to tap into existing diocesan formation programmes more effectively to supplement local initiatives and capitalise on available resources.

**Holistic Formation:** Emphasis was placed on holistic formation that nurtures both relationships with God and

personal development, empowering individuals to recognise and utilise their God-given gifts in reaching out to others within and beyond the parish community.

**Expanding Formation Beyond Homilies:** While acknowledging the role of homilies in formation, there was a call for additional avenues for deeper exploration of faith, catering to diverse demographics including single individuals and families.

**Interfaith Collaboration:** Recognising the importance of interfaith dialogue, the parish seeks to collaborate with other churches, both Catholic and non-Catholic, to foster a broader sense of community and understanding.

**Small Christian Communities:** The establishment of house groups, or Small Christian Communities, was proposed as a means to facilitate deeper connections, spiritual growth, and mutual support among parishioners.

#### Question 4: Structural Changes for Enhanced Organisation

**Inclusive Leadership:** It was acknowledged that while the parish has strong leadership in place, there is a need to include key lay people in leadership roles to further strengthen and diversify leadership within the parish community.

**Conclusion:** The meeting concluded that there needs to be a commitment to action, as outlined in the proposed concrete steps and structural changes. By implementing these recommendations, the parish aims to enhance its effectiveness in witnessing and proclaiming the Catholic faith, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community rooted in the Gospel values of love, service, and outreach.

## KNOW YOUR FAITH

**How is your soul like to God?** My soul is like to God because it is a spirit, and is immortal.

**What do you mean when you say that your soul is immortal?** When I say my soul is immortal, I mean that my soul can never die.

**Of which must you take most care, of your body or of your soul?** I must take most care of my soul; for Christ has said, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?" (Matt 16:26)

**What must you do to save your soul?** To save my soul I must worship God by Faith, Hope and Charity; that is, I must believe in Him, I must hope in Him, and I must love Him with my whole heart.

### Prayer for the sick and housebound

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in the Eucharist. We now place before you all our sick parishioners, at home or in hospital, and for bereaved families. As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and the joy, peace, and healing, of your presence. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Visitation:** If you or someone in your family is housebound and would like a visit from a priest, please contact the parish office.

### ACTON HOMELESS CONCERN

0208 992 5768 [admin@actonhomelessconcern.org](mailto:admin@actonhomelessconcern.org)

Acton Homeless Concern is our parish's local charity that provides basic needs, services, support and advice for homeless and disadvantaged people and anyone in need. **All are welcome.** We provide hot meals, groceries, housing and medical support, counselling, legal advice and referral services for drug and alcohol misuse.

**Emmaus House** (1 Berrymead Gardens) Emmaus House serves lunch from 11.45am, Monday - Friday.

**The Damien Centre** (Church Road) The Damien Centre serves breakfast from 9am and a light meal available between 2-6pm, Monday - Friday.

**How you can help:** We are always in need of volunteers to help and serve food and clothes. Or if you have another skill or area of expertise to help our clients then please do get in touch. Clothing and financial donations are always gratefully received.

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and the issue of safeguarding our young people and vulnerable adults is one which the parish has always and will continue to take extremely seriously.

If you are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult has been harmed or is at risk of harm, in the first instance, please dial 999. Otherwise you can contact our Parish Safeguarding team.



**A Day with Mary:** A day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. For the next meeting visit: [adaywithmary.org](http://adaywithmary.org)



## SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISM for babies and infants:** Please attend one of the weekend Masses and speak with Fr. Patrick or Fr. Jude afterwards, then speak to the parish office to begin the process.

**MARRIAGE Preparation & Support:** If you are thinking about getting married please get in touch with a priest very early in the process. Couples are required to give 6 months notice of marriage – whether it is taking place here or abroad. Please do not leave it to last minute. Call the parish office to arrange a meeting with the priest if you are preparing for marriage or if you are a married couple would like or need support.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Journey in Faith: Are You Interested in Becoming a Catholic?** Would you like to become Catholic, you are very welcome to join the RCIA programme, the process by which adults become Catholic. Likewise, any Catholic interested in learning more about the Faith is welcome to join too. Meetings are on Thursdays at 7pm in the Parish Hall.



We are a Fairtrade Parish. Please consider buying Fairtrade products when you are making donations for the church hall. Making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

**The church is open for the following Services and for private prayer and confessions**

<b>Saturday 9th March</b>	6.30-6.55pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
Mass of Sunday	7.00pm	Dan McKenna Patricia Uzoka & Family	10th Death Anniversary Special Intentions
<b>Sunday 10th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	Alex Muggins Filipe Carvalho	R.I.P. 13th Death Anniversary
Laetare Sunday	10.30am	Mathew Fernandes, Agostinho & Alberto da Cunha Bridget Lawlor	Death Anniversary Death Anniversary
	12.00noon	Ann Hyland	R.I.P.
<b>Monday 11th March</b>	_____	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 12th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
	10.00am	Fr. Ingvar Fogelqvist	Special Intentions
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
	10.00am	Protasio Pinagli Nellie O'Sullivan Michelle Byrne	4th Death Anniversary 1st Death Anniversary Death Anniversary
	10.30am	Stations of the Cross	
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
	10.00am	Ofelia D'Souza Frances Foley	Special Intentions Special Intentions
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
	10.00am	William Gough Aleksander	19th Death Anniversary R.I.P.
	3.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
<b>Saturday 16th March</b>	6.30-6.55pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
	11am	First Holy Communion First Reconciliation Service	
Mass of Sunday	7.00pm	Ramiro Rodriguez Zofia, Yozef, Roman, Witold Podczaski & Family	3rd Death Anniversary R.I.P.
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	9.30-9.55am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer	
Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	Eileen Redican Lysandro Faleiro	R.I.P. Birthday Intentions
	10.30am	Concetta Nisco Piacente Giovanni Terence & Magdalene Gittens	1st Death Anniversary Special Intentions 63rd Wedding Anniv
	12.00noon	Hanorah O'Brien Maura Walsh	Death Anniversary 1st Death Anniversary

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like someone to be prayed for during Mass please write down the details in an envelope with a donation (Suggestion £10 per Mass) and drop it into the office. All Mass intentions are published in the newsletter.

**Celebrations:** Please let us know if you are celebrating a special anniversary or birthday so we can pray for you as a community.