**1st Sunday Of Lent**

**5th March 2017**

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| **Sat 4th**  |  6.30pm | Linda Austin holy Souls intentions |
| **Sun 5th**  |  8.30am | Mrs O Shaughnessy Holy Souls intentions.  |
|  | 10.30am  | **1st Sunday of Lent**Ann Walker Holy Souls intentions  |
| **Mon 6th** | 10.00am | Martin O’ Bren  |
| **Tue 7th**  | 10.00am | Kathleen Bradshaw Holy Souls intentions  |
| **Wed 8th**  | 10.00am | Thomas Keenan RIP |
| **Thu 9th**  | 10.00am | Vincent Lewiki RIP  |
| **Fri 10th**  | **No Mass** | Friday abstinence |

*Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered*

**Holy Hour:** Saturday 5.15 – 6.15 pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 5.45 – 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis

**Family Mass:** 1stSunday 10.30 am

**Latin Mass:** 1st Sunday 3.00 pm (extraordinary form)

**Baptism preparation course:**  Please contact Richard & Marie Miller 01462-490630

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Parish Day of Prayer:** 1st Wednesday 10.30 to 6.30pm

**Children’s liturgy:** -There will now be a regular ‘family mass’ on the first Sunday of every month. Children's liturgy will be held weekly at the 10.30 Sunday Mass.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

The sick of the parish, Thomas Glover and Jeannette Peppiatt and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially: Erna Wells, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Peter Gwozdz, Joanne Keeton, Iwan Ilkiw,

Patricia Picking, John Clayton, Sr Christine Bertrand, Albert Hynes, Anna Hacker, Ruth McNally, Stephen Wycochi, Eileen Muscovita,

Thomas Keenan, Vincent Lerwicki, Audrey King, Grainne Kirke and Joyce Fitzgerald.

**Parish Mass Book: Page 151**

**Tale of Two Adams:**

In today's Liturgy, the destiny of the human race is told as the tale of two "types" of men—the first man, Adam, and the new Adam, Jesus.

Paul's argument in the Epistle is built on a series of contrasts between "one" or "one person" and "the many" or "all." By one person's disobedience, sin and condemnation entered the world, and death came to reign over all. By the obedience of another one, grace abounded, all were justified, and life came to reign for all.

This is the drama that unfolds in today's First Reading and Gospel.

Formed from the clay of the ground and filled with the breath of God's own Spirit, Adam was a son of God (see [Luke 3:38](http://stpaulcenter.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2105b9ae357c6e5425a6abcf9&id=2fa9b4d988&e=0b77f01746)), created in his image (see [Genesis 5:1-3](http://stpaulcenter.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=2105b9ae357c6e5425a6abcf9&id=cfffd35b97&e=0b77f01746)). Crowned with glory, he was given dominion over the world and the protection of His angels. He was made to worship God—to live not by bread alone but in obedience to every word that comes from the mouth of the Father.

Adam, however, put the Lord his God to the test. He gave in to the serpent's temptation, trying to seize for himself all that God had already promised him. But in his hour of temptation, Jesus prevailed where Adam failed—and drove the devil away.

Still we sin after the pattern of Adam's transgression. Like Adam, we let sin in the door (see [Genesis 4:7](http://stpaulcenter.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=2105b9ae357c6e5425a6abcf9&id=cc27bc9aa1&e=0b77f01746)) when we entertain doubts about God's promises, when we forget to call on Him in our hours of temptation.

But the grace won for us by Christ's obedience means that sin is no longer our master.

As we begin this season of repentance, we can be confident in His compassion, that He will create in us a new heart (see [Romans 5:5](http://stpaulcenter.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=2105b9ae357c6e5425a6abcf9&id=929bfb1afc&e=0b77f01746); [Hebrews 8:10](http://stpaulcenter.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=2105b9ae357c6e5425a6abcf9&id=817275459c&e=0b77f01746)). As we do in today's Psalm, we can sing joyfully of our salvation, renewed in His presence.

**DIARY DATES**

**RC Hospital Chaplain: Deacon Anthony Curran**

**Contact** Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

**For all general parish enquiries contact:**

**Parish Office:** Tel: 01462 893127

**Parish Priest:** Father Denis Sarsfield

**Church Hall Hire:** Please contact parish office 01462 893127

**Baptism Preparation**: For further information please contact Richard and Marie Miller Tel: 01462 490630.

**RCIA Course:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme consists of regular weekly meetings, begins again 28th February on Tuesday at 7.30 in the church; if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr Denis.

**St. John’s School** is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Parish families are welcome to visit and have a tour of the school. Please come to the School Office or contact the Head teacher, Ms Alex Hanou on 01462 892478 The school website is http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html

**Newsletter:** Please submit items for inclusion, preferably by Tuesday evening, by either emailing the **dedicated newsletter email address** (baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

**VATICAN NEWS**

Remember that you can keep up with all the latest news from The Vatican at the Official Vatican Network [www.news.va/en](http://www.news.va/en).

Your Safeguarding Representative is Tom Keating 0790977989356

The Safeguarding Representative has special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
During Lent Stations of the Cross will be held in the church on Wednesday mornings after the 10.00am Mass 8th March and on Friday evenings at 7.30pm starting on 10th March.

**PARISH LENT RETREAT SATURDAY `18TH MARCH 10AM-2PM**

More details will follow shortly.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Will take place on Saturday 27th May 2017 from 9am to 3pm. A donation of £20 per couple is asked to cover costs. A substantial lunch will be included.

**CARDINAL’S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

To be held at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.** The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017.  If you are celebrating an anniversary, please send your Names, full address, date of wedding, and email address (or telephone no.) to family@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6064.

**YOUNG AT 💙**

Our next Young at 💚 coffee morning is Thursday 9th March after the 10am mass.

This coffee morning is proving very popular so please feel free to bring your friends.

If you know of anyone who would like to come but is unable to get there, please let Fr Denis know and we can arrange transport for them.

We provide the tea/ coffee & cakes; all you have to provide is the chat!! All cake donations very welcome. See you there. Young at 💙 committee.

**LOST PROPERTY BOX**

There will be a lost property box left in the porch. Items will be disposed of after 3 months. Many thanks.

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) COLLECTION**

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone who responded so generously to the appeal last month for contributions toward the cost of "Vinnie Packs.” The packs are distributed to people who are homeless or sleeping on the streets. They are pleased to report that a total of £635 was raised.

**200 CLUB**

The winners of the February 200 Club draw were: Beverley Rogers. Hugh Kirke, Helen Fitzgibbons & Ken Woodruff. The last draw of the '200 Club year' will be on Sunday 19th March. Application forms for the 'new year' starting in April will be available soon.

**SCHOOL LUNCH TIME POSITION**

Our Parish Primary School, St John’s, is looking for an energetic and motivated person to join the team of Midday Supervisory Assistants. The role involves supporting our children whilst they eat and play during their lunch break between 12.00 noon and 1.15pm. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 21st March. Please contact the school on 01462 892478.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF LENT**

“Lent” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words lencten, meaning "Spring," and lenctentid, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

Since the earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. For instance, St. Irenaeus wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West. This tended to revolve around how long fasting would last in preparation – from a day or two to a 40 hour ‘day’. Lent becomes more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The Council of Nicea noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, "one before the 40 days of Lent." St. Cyril of Alexandria also noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting. Finally, Pope St. Leo (AD 440 – 461) preached that the faithful must "fulfil with their fasts the Apostolic institution of the 40 days," leading to us being able to conclude that by the end of that century, the 40-day period of Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

**COLLECTION UPDATE**

**Last Sunday’s Collection**: Envelopes **£**

and loose plate **£ will be given next week.**