



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 17th March 2024

At Lazarus' Tomb:

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view. That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial. His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back. When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering—all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb. Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for "dead man"—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death. John even recalls the blind man in his account today. Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God". And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe. If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the resurrection and the life—even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will do it," the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

ST JOSEPH - A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS.

Centered on Mary and Jesus

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father." "Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child."

Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self:

"In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father".

LENTEN PROGRAMME

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, Stations of the Cross at 10.30 Wednesdays and Fridays at 7.30pm (except Good Friday).

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Holy Thursday 28th March -

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday 29th March -

Children's Stations of the Cross: 10.30am

Celebration of The Lord's Passion: 3pm

A day of Fast & Abstinence

Easter Vigil Saturday 30th March - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 31st March 8.30 & 10.30am

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RC HOSPITAL

CHAPLAIN: John O'Neil. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the Lister Hospital
Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

FOR ALL GENERAL PARISH ENQUIRIES

CONTACT: Parish Office: Tel: 01462 893127

CHURCH HALL HIRE:

Please contact parish office 01462 893127

BAPTISM

PREPARATION: For further information please contact the parish office on 01462-893127 .

RCIA COURSE: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme consists of regular weekly meetings; 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. Contact the School Office or the Head teacher, Mr Tom Timson 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 parish email address (baldock@rcdow.org.uk) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you.

Baldock Catholic Scout Group

For boys and girls aged 6 to 14. Contact: enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk

Your SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk. Please Contact: Patricia Cusack & Colette Murphy
Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Peter Robinson, Mary Callaghan and Barry Evans, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Michael Kennelly; and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Cornelius McDine, Marie Brennan, James Ginnelly, Hannah Blows; Sidney Wells, Michael Burgess, Sean O'Flattery, Frederick Hawkins; Mary Wrighton; Dorothy Kaciniel, Cecilia Parisi, Dominic Manson; Mary Anne Doughty, Thomas Mason, Mary

Kate Drew, James Creamer, Fr Michael Lee and Joseph Partridge.

THE BIG CLEAN

The big clean will be held on Thursday 28th March. It would be great to try and get as many as possible to help in preparing our church for the Easter weekend. If you are not a regular cleaner but would still like to help do come along. Church will be open from 8.30am onwards, all are welcome.

Sat 16 th	6.30pm	
Sun 17 th	8.30am 10.30am	Thanksgiving Myrian Anderson Irma Skeeles rfip
Mon 18 th	10.00	St Cyril of Jerusalem
Tue 19 th	10.00	St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the diocese Margaret & Bernard Looney
Wed 20 th	10.00	Michael Kennelly RIP
Thu 21 st	10.00	Stewart Anthony
Fri 22 nd	No Mass	Friday Abstinence

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered. Fr. Denis is still celebrating the Vigil Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night & Sunday Mass at 10.30am. All are accessible through the Parish Facebook page: *Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury*. For more information, please go to the Parish website. The Wednesday word is available via:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 19th- 26th July 2024 -

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nicholas is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. **All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.**

Vocations: 'Come and See' - 2024

Whether you are interested in exploring the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, you are invited to come along to one of our 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings

Sat 20th April, 10am-2pm at Our Lady and St Vincent church hall, 243 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT

Sat 1st June, 10am-2pm at Our Lady's Hall (the undercroft) at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2DB

To find out more and register your attendance at one of the days, please contact:

Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter

rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or

Deacon Adrian Cullen - Director Permanent Diaconate

adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk 07961 594725 We look forward to hearing from you.