



Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C Week 4

THIS WEEK

Sun 27th February 2022

6pm*: Don Gallagher +
8.30am: Richard Horgan +
10.30am: Martha Brutus +
(Rite of Signing and Sending)
6pm: Phyllis O'Grady +

Mon 28th

6pm: Helen Quinn +

Tue 1st St David

9.30am: Morning Prayer
10am: Mona & Cass Dias (int)

Wed 2nd Ash Wednesday Day of Fasting and Abstinence

10am: Marie Soraf+
(with distribution of Ashes)
7.30pm: Noel O'Connell (+)
(with distribution of Ashes)

Thu 3rd

10am: Sean Kelly
10.30am Coffee morning - JP room

Fri 4th

9.30am: Morning Prayer
10am: John & Peter Gibbons +
10.30am: Stations of the Cross
1.30pm: Christian Meditation
7.30pm: Mass of Transformation

Sat 5th

6pm*: Mary McGrath+

Sun 6th 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am: Elizabeth Van Dijk (ann+)
10.30am: Julie Lown +
3pm: Rite of Election @ Westminster Cathedral
6pm: Paddy Bagge +

For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

The Gospel of Luke was written by a disciple who was trained as a doctor. Luke, with keen insight, portrays Jesus as the good physician and shepherd of souls who seeks out those who desire healing, pardon, and restoration of body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came to free us from the worst oppression possible - slavery to sin, fear, and condemnation. Like a gentle and skilful doctor, the Lord Jesus Christ reveals the sickness of sin, evil, and oppression in our lives so we can be set free and restored to wholeness. A key step to healing and restoration requires that we first submit to the physician who can heal us. The Lord Jesus is our great Physician because he heals the whole person - soul and body, mind and heart - and restores us to abundant life both now and for the age to come.

There is a common saying that you know a tree by its fruit. Likewise a person will produce good or bad fruit depending on what is sown in the heart. There is another famous saying that goes: "Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny." Character, like fruit, does not grow overnight. It takes a lifetime.

How do we avoid producing bad fruit in our lives? By being true - true to God, his Word, his Sacraments, and teaching of the Church, and the grace and help he gives us through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Lord strengthens us with the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit - with faith, hope and love, justice, prudence, fortitude and temperance. This coming week may we all desire to bear good fruit in our daily life.

Quote from the Early Church Fathers: Seeing the speck in another's eye, by St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D. "The word hypocrite is aptly employed here since the denouncing of evils is best viewed as a matter only for upright persons of goodwill. When the wicked engage in it, they are like impersonators, masqueraders, hiding their real selves behind a mask, while they portray another's character through the mask. The word hypocrite in fact signifies a pretender. Whenever necessity compels one to reprove or rebuke another, we ought to proceed with godly discernment and caution." **Fr. John**

LENT 2022

DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS for Lent 2022 are available in the porch priced £1.00 each. Please place money in the box "Marked repository"

ASH WEDNESDAY 2nd March: *Day of Fasting and Abstinence* - Mass at 10am and 7.30pm (distribution of Ashes at both Masses)

STATION OF THE CROSS: (Led by Fr. John) every Friday, starting Friday 4th March after the 10am Mass Please join us.

MASS OF TRANSFORMATION: Friday 4th March at 7.30pm. Please note there is no Adoration. All welcome

SPECIAL LENTEN PARISH MISSION: Monday 14th to 18th March 2022 - Led by the Franciscan Friars of The Renewal. Daytime Sessions plus daily evening Mass at 7.30pm. Timetable to follow.

PARISH SHOWCASE WEEKEND Come, See and Meet your Parish Groups for an opportunity to engage and volunteer.

Dates: after each Mass on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th March 2022

MUSIC 10.30am Mass

Communion

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, Nor trials in the present, nor trials to come: Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation Can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

NOTICES

WELCOME!

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR PARISH?

Please visit the parish website on parish.rcdow.org.uk/barnet where you will find information on the parish, parish groups and much more. Information is also available in the church porch. This, is produced weekly with current news on what is happening in and around the parish - available at the back of the church or on the website under 'news'.

If you would like to register yourself and/or your family, please email the parish office with your details to barnet@rcdow.org.uk

THE PARISH PASTORAL FORUM: consists of the parish team and a group of parishioners who are often at Mass at the weekend. Please do stop to say hello or if you have any questions - if they can't help you, they will know someone who can! Their details are in the porch and website

NEED TO TALK? If you would like to speak to Anita pastorally and in confidence, Anita is available on Tuesdays after 10am mass. Please knock on the presbytery door or email anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk

SATURDAY RE CLASS:

We welcome children in non-Catholic Primary schools who would like to learn more about their faith. Our sessions are open to new-comers. We meet in the JP Room from 9.30 - 10.45 on the following dates: **March 12th and 26th.**

LIFE ASCENDING GROUP: meet on Tuesday 1st March after the 10am Mass. Please join us.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

2022: This annual ecumenical prayer service prepared by the Christian Women is opened to all on Saturday 5th March at 2pm in James Church, East Barnet Road, New Barnet, Theme: "I Know the plans I have for you" For Further information, see poster or go to www.wwdp.org.uk

JOHN AND PAMELA AINSLIE:

After forty years as parishioners, John & Pamela will be sadly leaving us and moving to pastures new. In recognition of John's years of service & dedication to our parish and community, and Pamela too, we will be celebrating them and this great achievement on **Saturday 5th March with Mass at 12 noon** followed by a reception in the hall afterwards. Please do join us.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

****Please remember in your prayers the sick, their families and all who care for them, including:**

Particular prayers: The people of Ukraine

Emanuele & Carlotta Brunelli, Linda & Stuart Atkinson, Pat Cosgrove, Bernadette Hunt, Roberto Lusignani, Elaine Brennan, Mark O'Brien, Rita Rawlings, Margaret Trehy, Joe Connolly, Mary Harris, Eric Power, Michael Keyes, Eileen Robbins, John Chuter, Marlene Hollocks, Margaret Greaney, Veronica Soosay, Leonor Driscoll, John Thompson, Lucretia Olivier-Hall, David John Hall, Suzanne Greig, Paul Stephens, George Buhagia, Paul Dempsey, Raphael Miranda

Parish Staff Contact Information

Anita Hammond - Catechetical Co-ordinator: anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk

Jonathan Stephens - Evangelisation Co-ordinator: jonathanstephens@rcdow.org.uk

Janet Nestor - Secretary: **Parish Office** - barnet@rcdow.org.uk (office is closed every Wednesday)

**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ**



**Pastoral Letter for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
26/27 February 2022**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today I want to take a moment, first of all, to thank you for your faithfulness and for your presence here at Mass. These last two years have been very difficult and I thank God for the gift of faith which you have received, which you have nurtured and from which, I know, you receive great grace and strength. I know this to be true because it is true for me too.

Now I would like to ask your assistance.

During these last two years there were times when our way of life was severely curtailed. We were in 'lockdown'. At one time, for three months, even the doors of our churches were firmly closed. Being unable to enter the House of God and to take part fully in the celebration of the Mass was, for many, an experience of real dismay and pain.

But that is no longer the case. We are again able to fashion the way of life that we choose. The doors of our churches can stay wide open. Yet, as you know, many have not resumed the pattern of coming to church, week by week. Other activities have filled that space. For some, the thirst for being at Mass, for celebrating life-giving sacraments, has diminished.

This is where I ask for your help. I would like you to be ready to approach those whom you know, and who are not present here today, with a word of invitation for them to join us. I know this is not easy. You may well feel it is an intrusive thing to do. Also, taking the step across the threshold of the church can be daunting for someone who has been away for a long time. So I ask you to exercise great deference and kindness when approaching them, perhaps offering to accompany them on this return journey.

I make this request now not simply because fear and restrictions are eased, but because we are approaching Lent, the traditional and powerful season of our renewal in faith. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this coming week, we respond to the Lord's invitation to come forward and meet him afresh. He invites us to come through the doors of the church to stand before him and receive his blessing, his mark of mercy.

Lent is the time to reset our patterns so that there is time for God in our hearts and in our weekly routines. You know well that the highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here, above all other places, that the Lord wishes to fill us with his gifts, so that we, in turn, can offer those gifts to others. And then, when we give that which we have received, we bring this precious light of Christ into our world. He is the best antidote to the darkness of the pandemic, to the loneliness it has brought, to the lack of clear hope for the future, to the deep weariness and unexpressed resentment that has entered into the souls of so many.

So, please, do what you can to invite those who are missing to come with you to be part of this great family of faith at prayer. If each of you can give a word of encouragement to one other person, to one other family, then the reward will be great. Then we can journey together to Easter. There we proclaim again that Jesus alone has mastered death, that he alone is the Lord of life, that he is now among us and calling us to come to meet him here, in this House of God, in this Gate of Heaven.

I thank you again for your presence here today. I thank you for all that you will do in response to this request and I ask God's blessing on the words that you will speak. Remember the words of St Paul that we have just heard: 'Keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain' (1Cor. 15:58).

Pease continue in your prayer for peace in Ukraine. We cry out: No more war, no more violence!

And remember me in your prayers as I will remember you, the faithful people of God!

Yours devotedly,

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster