

The Catholic Parish of Carpenters Park & South Oxhey
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4th Sunday of Lent (Year A) 19th March 2023

Fr John Warnaby Parish Priest Tel: 0208 428 0088
Linda Grimes Parish Administrator Tel: 0208 428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 18th March	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	William Byrne RIP
Sunday 19th March	4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)	8.30am	Lar Whelan RIP
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday 20th March	St Joseph	9.15am	Staff & pupils of St Joseph's School
Tuesday 21st March	Lent feria	7.00pm	Sheila Trainor RIP
Wednesday 22nd March	Lent feria	9.15am	Michael Flannagan RIP
Thursday 23rd March	Lent feria	9.15am	Helen Birch RIP
Friday 24th March	Lent feria	9.15am	Doreen Pym
			followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 25th March	Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Mass Intentions: Please leave plenty of time if you want a special date

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Next week's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 129 Romans 8: 8-11 John 11:1-45

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (Entrance Antiphon)

Rejoicing, exulting, being joyful : aren't we in Lent ?! The 4th Sunday of the season is known as *Laetare* Sunday, from the Latin for *rejoice* which is the opening word of the antiphon with which Mass begins.

In the days when Lenten fasting was universal and rigorous, this day in mid-Lent provided a welcome approved break from the discipline and was sometimes known as *refreshment* Sunday. It was the Church's way of commending believers for their efforts and giving them a bit of a break before continuing on.

The 4th Sunday of Lent and the 4th Sunday of Advent are the only times in the Church's year when the priest wears pink or rose coloured vestments. Just as at this time of the year we sense the first signs of Spring, so too the Church invites us to take a reflective pause in our Lenten journey and imagine a glimpse of the Easter Sun which lies beyond Calvary.

Before the Reformation it was customary on this day to visit the "mother church" or Cathedral and this is thought to have established the connection with "Mothering Sunday" now more usually known as Mother's Day.

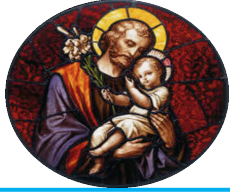
In our Gospel today, Jesus heals a man born blind and restores his sight. The Pharisees, in their spiritual blindness, cannot see beyond what they regard as Jesus doing wrong by healing on the Sabbath. They are angry that this man, whom they knew well as a blind beggar, should presume to tell them that Jesus is a prophet.

After he has been driven away by the Pharisees, Jesus seeks him out again. For the first time since he followed Jesus' instructions to wash in the pool, the man sees the Lord face to face. More than that, he sees who Jesus truly is. He worships the Lord.

Jesus will always give us light when we struggle to see. Lead, kindly light, lead Thou me on!

PARISH SOCIAL-SATURDAY 18TH MARCH 7-9pm in Hall

We will be welcoming Bishop Paul at all Masses this weekend 18/19 March. Thank you to all those who have kindly offered to share food and drink. Thanks also to Helen Lines and all who have helped to organise this special event.



Solemnity of St Joseph

The Solemnity of St Joseph is transferred to Monday 20th March this year (due to 19th March falling on a Sunday in Lent).

Mass will be offered at **9.15am on Monday 20th**

The **Big Give** campaign for **The Passage** is now live. **All donations made will be doubled.**

Please support the homeless charity, of which Cardinal Vincent Nichols is the Patron. "We have seen a 46% increase in the number of people coming to our doors for help. If you would like to support more people on their journey from street to home, now is the time to do so" www.passage.org.uk



Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 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 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please provide your details to Linda in the parish office by Fri 24th March : husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



The Big Lent Walk - Greg Birch

This Lent Greg Birch will be taking on the Big Lent Walk! He'll be walking 200km in 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's work around the world. If you would like to support Greg, please see <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/gregorybirch>.

There is a poster with a qr code on the noticeboard.

The new planned giving envelopes have arrived and will be distributed at the Masses next weekend 25/26 March. It's still not too late to swap the way you give to the parish! **The most helpful way of supporting the parish is donating by standing order**, which also reduces our volunteers' work in counting .

If you would like to switch from envelopes or cash, to standing order, please let us know asap. Alternatively, pick up a standing order form at the back of the church.



Vacancy-Westminster Youth Centre

Westminster Youth have launched a new volunteer programme at the Retreat Centre in Pinner offering young adults the opportunity to work with like-minded Catholics, sharing their faith and help young people encounter Jesus in a new way. *Running from September 2023 to June 2024*, the programme offers: free accommodation at our Retreat Centre in Pinner, necessity goods and some pocket-money, 1-to-1 mentorship and spiritual and vocational direction. For further details go to <https://dowym.com/retreat-centre/volunteer-with-us/>

Invitation for all our young adults (age 16-28)

Joel's Bar is a young adults ministry which runs Catholic Charismatic events. They are passionate about seeing young people inspired and equipped to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit. They are holding a retreat in Worth Abbey, Crawley from **9-14 April**. For further details check out <https://www.joelsbar.co.uk/>



Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially Bebe Ryan and Alice Sheppard. Prayers are also asked for Estella Bartolazo RIP whose anniversary falls about this time.

Offertory for Sunday 12th March 2023

Envelopes	£223.01
Loose	£367.78
Total	£590.79

Many thanks