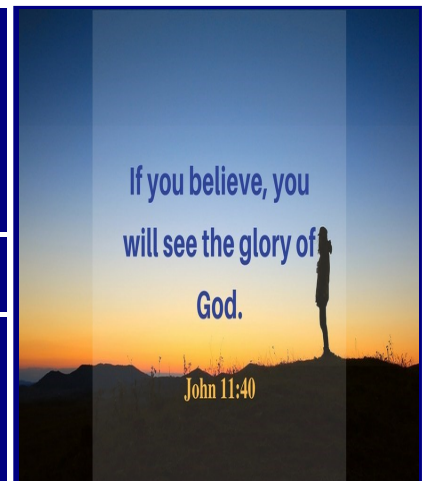


The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey  
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW  
carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk  
www.carpenderspark.org.uk

**5th Sunday of Lent (Year A) 26th 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 25th March	Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th March	5th Sunday of Lent	8.30am	Lar Whelan RIP
		10.30am	Helen Birch RIP
Tuesday 28th March	Lent feria	7.00pm	John O'Mahoney RIP
Wednesday 29th March	Lent feria	9.15am	Maria Evans
Thursday 30th March	Lent feria	9.15am	Helen Birch RIP
Friday 31st March	Lent feria	9.15am	Private Intention followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 1st April	Vigil: Palm Sunday	6.00pm	Eleanor Rowe RIP

**CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John**

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

**Liturgy of the Word: 26th March 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**Responsorial Psalm:** With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**Next week's Readings:** Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21, Philipians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

Jesus' raising of his friend Lazarus, who has been dead for four days, is the last and the greatest of the seven miracles or 'signs' in John's Gospel. After this event no further miracles are recorded by John until the Lord's own Resurrection. The 'sign' of Lazarus serves to prepare people for the coming death of Jesus and to point to his conquest over death in the Resurrection.

Lazarus' sister Mary, who had on another occasion anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her own hair, now prostrates herself once again at his feet and declares: 'Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.' Jesus had delayed for two days after hearing that Lazarus was ill before setting out to visit the family. Similarly, some of the onlookers wonder: 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Lazarus' other sister Martha, similarly challenges Jesus that if he had come earlier, her brother would not have died, but adds that she knows that "even now" God will grant Jesus anything he asks. She expresses her faith that her brother will rise again at the last day, but at the command of the Lord, Lazarus is restored to life there and then.

By raising Lazarus, Jesus displays the power over death which he will manifest in his own resurrection: in less than eight days Jesus will be crucified and rise from the dead. Many of the people who had witnessed the death and resurrection of Lazarus would experience the death and resurrection of Christ. For those who might doubt that Jesus' Resurrection was real, or was some kind of stunt, they had, within their recent memory, seen it happen to Lazarus, so they would know it was possible.

Jesus promises us that death is not the end for us and for our loved ones: 'Anyone who believes in me, even though they die, yet shall they live'.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER Services

Palm Sunday 2nd April -10:30 Mass. Please gather in the hall before Mass for a procession into Church.  
Holy Thursday 6th April- Mass of The Lord's Supper at 8pm  
Good Friday 7th April –Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3pm and Stations of the Cross at 6pm  
Easter Saturday 8th April –Easter Vigil at 8pm  
Easter Sunday 9th April –Mass at 8:30am & 1030am

### Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Setting off from South Oxhey Baptist Church at **9.45am**. Picking up from other Churches along the way and concluding with a simple Service at the Nisa Precinct. Refreshments at the Methodist Church afterwards.

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](http://www.passage.org.uk)



### Our Easter Raffle

You may have noticed a magnificent hamper at the back of church recently. That is the first, in a series of fantastic prizes we have had donated by our generous parishioners and local businesses for our Easter Raffle. *Many thanks-* you know who you are! Tickets are only £1 per strip and will be on sale after all weekend Masses. *The draw will take place on Tuesday 11th April* and the winners will be contacted.



### 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 are ready for collection at the back of church. The first envelope in the pack is for Easter Sunday. 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, Dawn, and Alice Sheppard. Prayers are also asked for Estella Bartolazo RIP whose anniversary falls about this time.

### Offertory for Sunday 19th March 2023

Envelopes	£346.45
Loose	£256.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>£602.83</b>

*Many thanks*