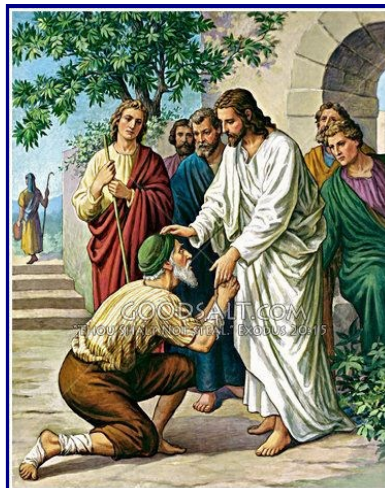


The Catholic Parish of Carpenters Park & South Oxhey
 St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
 carpenterspark@rcdow.org.uk
 www.carpenterspark.org.uk



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) | 11th February 2024

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 10th February	Vigil: 6th Sunday	6.00pm	Maurice Rodrigo RIP
Sunday 11th February	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.30am	Lucia Arano RIP
Tuesday 13th February	Feria	7.00pm	William Hanrahan
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday	9.15am	Terry Rose RIP
		7.00pm	Jonathan Burtt RIP
Thursday 15th February	Lent Feria	9.15am	Bernie Maguire
Friday 16th February	Lent Feria	9.15am	Irmhild Jaworski
			followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 17th February	Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Liturgy of the Word: 11th February 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
 For you are my rock, my stronghold!
 Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Responsorial Psalm: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
 so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
 Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Genesis 9: 8-15, Psalm 24 I Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1: 12-15

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me'. (Mark 1:40)

The attitude to lepers in Jesus' time owes much to the passage from Leviticus from our first reading this weekend. Lepers were completely isolated; forced to live apart from the rest of the community.

Scientific research has identified leprosy in skeletal remains from 2000BC and it was discussed by Hippocrates in the 5th century BC. Sometimes lying dormant for years, leprosy often presents itself as a disorder of nerves, the respiratory tract, skin and eyes. Those infected often lose the sense of pain, consequently losing extremities due to injuries or infection of unnoticed wounds. The disease was in the past thought to be extremely contagious and given its often unsightly physical manifestation, including skin lesions and shortened or disfigured fingers and toes, extreme measures were taken to isolate those infected.

The Jewish and early Christian attitude to disease and illness generally and to leprosy in particular was that it represented a punishment by God for previous bad behaviour. For centuries, undoubtedly influenced by Leviticus' injunction that lepers must shield their upper lip (to avoid transmission by cough or nasal fluid) and warn everyone that they were infected, lepers were complete outcasts.

Jesus takes pity on someone afflicted with the most dreaded of all diseases, on someone who as a consequence was isolated from family and community. Feeling sorry for him, he stretches out his hand and actually touches the leper. In so doing, Jesus, Lord of Compassion, discards all the rules of ritual purity of the Old Law to manifest the healing and forgiveness of the New Covenant.

No-one is outside the reach of the touch of Jesus, which brings healing and forgiveness: the story challenges us to consider how we react to outcasts in our own day; how we might show to them the love and compassion of the Lord.

Ash Wednesday -14 February

Masses will be at 9.15am (attended by St Joseph's School - so may start a few minutes late) and at 7pm in the evening. There will be Distribution of Ashes at both Masses. The Church asks us to abstain from meat and practise some form of fasting on this day.

Vocations weekend for women (20s & 30s)

Are you wondering if God is calling you to religious life and you would like to find out more? There is a vocations weekend in Liverpool on **16-18 February** organised by FCJ Sisters. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

The Big Lent Walk

A message from our parishioner Greg Birch.

*I'm taking part in The Big Lent Walk, and hope to raise at least £200 for CAFOD.
Please sponsor me!*



Your donations can change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

The link for my fundraising page is <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/gregs-big-lent-walk>

100 Club

Membership of the 100 Club is now closed for the time being. **Please do not send us any further donations.** Many thanks for your support of this initiative to raise funds for the Parish.

The first draw will take place later this month.



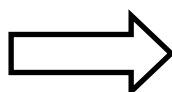
Planned Giving envelopes

*****Would you consider switching to Standing Order?*****

It is a more convenient way of giving for you as there is no weekly scramble for cash.

It is also safer for us to have less cash on the premises.

It reduces the time volunteers spend counting the collection each week.



**STANDING
ORDERS**

Votive candles

Please ensure that children do not light candles and are supervised by adults when around the candle stands. Please also note that an offering should be made for candles in the box provided on the candle stand.

Knock Pilgrimage

Escorted tour to Knock on **10th March 2024**. 5 nights £899 pp to include flights, hotel, food and excursions. See poster in the narthex for further details. Or contact Patricia on 07740 175557 / email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Job vacancies –Diocese of Westminster

See notice on the side wall for the latest vacancies. Updated weekly and also available at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

Parish Hall for Rent

The parish hall is available for groups who are interested in renting on a regular, weekly basis.

Please speak with Fr John or contact Linda in the parish office (carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk) should this be of interest.

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Kathleen Andrews, Dave Jessop, Michael O'Brien and Alton Headley.

Offertory for 4th February

Loose	£ 356.58
Envelopes	£ 216.11
Total	£ 572.69

Many thanks