

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

THIRD
SUNDAY
OF LENT



3rd Sunday of Lent (Year B) 3rd March 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 2nd March	Vigil: 3rd Sunday	6.00pm	Anna, Wladyslav & Zigmunt Ziegert
Sunday 3rd March	3rd Sunday of Lent	8.30am	Christine Kempster
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 5th March	Lent Feria	7.00pm	Maura O'Mahoney
Wednesday 6th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	Kathleen Andrews
Thursday 7th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	Ann Matthews RIP
Friday 8th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	For Peace in the Holy Land followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 9th March	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Tricia Moore RIP

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Liturgy of the Word: 3rd March 2024

Entrance Antiphon:	My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.		
Responsorial Psalm:	You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.		
Gospel Acclamation:	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!		
Next week's Readings:	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23,	Psalm 136,	Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

This week's gospel records Jesus' cleansing the Temple by fashioning a whip out of some cord and driving out cattle, sheep, pigeons and people. We imagine the chaos as he scatters coins all over the place and overturns tables. Given the commotion, it's a bit surprising that the authorities didn't appear immediately to arrest Jesus and bundle him out of the Temple.

Instead the Jews rather calmly ask "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" They understand that Jesus has performed a prophetic action. They want proof that God has approved Jesus' dramatic deeds. Jesus replies "destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up."

His reply is infinitely more shattering than the noise of coins and tables falling. Jesus reveals that the day of humanity meeting God in the Temple in Jerusalem is coming to an end: the whole paraphernalia of animal sacrifice there will be redundant. Believers will meet God in Jesus. Through his life, death and resurrection he will create a new, everlasting covenant with God. He is the new Temple where God dwells.

St Paul writes "Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). As members of Christ's body we are living temples. With Christ as our Head, we are the places where God dwells and reaches out to the world.

Lent is a good time to give ourselves a bit of a tidy up; to overturn the tables which have become laden with things that get in the way of Jesus living in us. We ask the Lord to cleanse our hearts so that we can be more effective witnesses and channels of his love.

Dear Lord, I humbly recognize my faults and lack of faithfulness to you. I entrust myself to your merciful love, make me more and more a temple fit for you; dwell within me and let me show your love to others. Amen.

****100 Club****

Our 1st draw was held last Sunday after 8.30am Mass. Congratulations to our winners.
1st prize £100: **Peter McCaffrey** 2nd prize £50 **Denis Dunne** 3rd prize £25 **Geraldine Woods**



Prayer Day for Peace

On **Friday 8th March** Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked that we make a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land. Our 9.15 Mass will be offered for *Peace in the Holy Land* and Exposition after Mass will be an opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Visit our Repository and check out the new stock which includes new statues, **Mothers' Day (10th March) and St Patrick's Day (17th March) cards.**

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024 If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in the Diocese. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code on the poster to make your donation online or place it in the box at the back of Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Lent Retreat Day for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters & Fathers
Saturday 16th March 11am – 7pm. Venue: the Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB (closest tube station: Bethnal Green). Programme: including talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • Stations of the Cross • faith sharing • mass and social time. Donations only. See poster on the side noticeboard.
Register by emailing to: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

Right to Life

Support an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to *reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks*. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the Church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment. URGENT ACTION needed.

Bach's St John's Passion at Westminster Cathedral

As part of its Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform of J.S. Bach's St John's Passion on **Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm**. Tickets (£45/35/20) are available via Ticketmaster. Parishioners of the Diocese get a 30% discount by using the link <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?did=sjp30> and Offer Code: *SJP30*

Vocations Days: 'Come and See' Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along to the Vocations Team's 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings on one of the following days: • **Sat 16th March** 10am-2pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN; • **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. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter, at: rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director Permanent Diaconate at: adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

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.

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> There is also a poster at the back of Church with a QR code.



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 25th February

Loose £308.19 Envelopes £181.70 Total £489.89

Many thanks