

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey  
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW  
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### 4th Sunday of Lent (Year B) 10th 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 9th March	Vigil: 4th Sunday	6.00pm	Tricia Moore RIP
Sunday 10th March	4th Sunday of Lent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.30am	Bridget Bernadette O'Toole RIP
Tuesday 12th March	Lent Feria	7.00pm	Michael Coughlan RIP
Wednesday 13th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	Eileen Baker
Thursday 14th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	Helen Birch RIP
Friday 15th March	Lent Feria	9.15am	Rita & Patsy Kinsella
			followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 16th March	Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Elizabeth & David Griffin

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

#### Liturgy of the Word: 10th March 2024

**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:** O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**Next week's Readings:** Jeremiah 31: 31-34, Psalm 50, Hebrews 5: 7-9 John 12:20-30

#### 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 (or introit) 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 Rome, for centuries people have made a pilgrimage to a different Church each day to attend Mass (The Rome Lenten station Masses). On Laetare Day Mass was always celebrated at the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (The Holy Cross of Jerusalem) so named because Emperor Constantine's Mother St Helen built a chapel there to house relics of the Cross which she had found on Mt Calvary. It may be in part due to this that Jerusalem features prominently in our lectionary today.

May our hearts be filled with joy as we recognise that our promised destiny is the heavenly Jerusalem: let us prize that Holy City above all our joys.

**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.

**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.



### 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: [rogetaylor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rogetaylor@rcdow.org.uk) or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director Permanent Diaconate at: [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk) or call 07961 594725.

### 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](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)

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

### Divine Mercy Apostolate retreat

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on **Saturday 6th April** from 10am to 4:30pm. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria. All welcome. Call Millie on [07957 594646](tel:07957594646) for more information.

### 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](mailto: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 3rd March

Loose £416.27   Envelopes £187.31   Total   £603.58

**Standing Orders for February: £1,716.0**

**Many thanks**