



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest
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Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A) 26th March 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

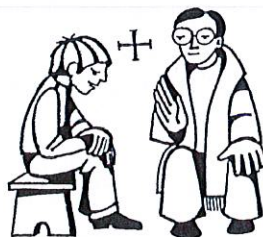
WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

FRIDAYS IN LENT

6:30pm

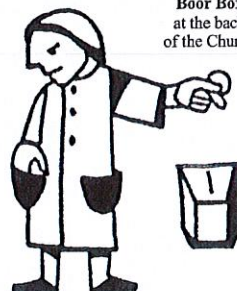
STATIONS of the CROSS



Sacrament of Confession is available
after the Stations of the Cross

LENTEN ALMS

Boor Box
at the back
of the Church



*Keep your deeds of
mercy secret*

Next Sunday is **Palm Sunday** (!)

We will gather before Mass in **Wilmington Square**, for Blessing of the palms and then we will walk singing in procession to the Church. On this day, the Church invites us Christians to make a visible sign of our presence in the parish, a public sign that Christ is alive.

We will gather at **9:30am sharp** (for the 9:45am Mass) and **11:45am** (for the 12 Mass).

Take home a copy of the **Programme for HOLY WEEK**

A word of THANK YOU from the youth who came to fundraise for the **World Youth Day**:
"We would like to thank the Parish of St Peter and St Paul and Fr Ivano for your incredible support and generosity last Sunday. Thanks to your kind contributions our group was able to raise over £1000 towards our WYD pilgrimage, so we're now halfway to our goal! We shall pray for you all on our pilgrimage."



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this QR
code for your weekly
Sunday donation.
Thank you.

"it stinks already"



Above a detail from Sebastiano del Piombo *The Raising of Lazarus*, at the National Gallery. Vivid colours and strong emotions, with some covering their noses at the smell coming out from tomb.

A state of death beyond the third day meant, from the popular Jewish point of view, an absolute dissolution of life. At this time the face cannot be recognised with certainty; the body bursts; and the soul, which until then has hovered over the body, parts from it. In today's Gospel, with reference to Lazarus we hear, "by now he will smell, this is the fourth day".

When was the last time you said, "it stinks already"?
In front of which "tomb-stone", which problem, which difficulty, did you say, "it's too late", "it is game-over", "it is finished".

Have you reached the "fourth day" in your marriage, in your mission, in your love and patience? Have you lost all hope?
Are you already smelling the end of it all?
Have you turned your face in disgust and disbelief?

Today, Fifth Sunday in Lent, the Church continues to perform Rites in view of the celebration of Baptism at the Paschal Night. The priest may touch with his thumb the right and left ear and closed lips of those to be baptised saying, 'Ephphetha, Be open!'. The same words Jesus said in front the sealed tomb of Lazarus.

Let the finger of Christ touch your life where it stinks already. Let his voice of resurrection be heard over situations already done and dusted. Let the Church enter the struggles and hopes of your life which are already labelled as "expired by date".

It is Lent. The Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the dead corrupted body of Lazarus are all of us walking towards Easter, to 'make pass-over': to pass from thirst to springs of water, from total darkness to light, from despair to hope.

In manus.

Father Ivano