

## St. Agnes Catholic Church, Cricklewood

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[www.rcdow.org.uk/cricklewood](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/cricklewood)

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Last week's collection. £1803. Many Thanks. Please collect your Planned Giving boxes of envelopes from the Family Room today. This is important as Planned Giving is the bread and butter of offertory income. During Covid the number of Planned Giving contributors took a major dive and we want to offset that effect by reviving the scheme. If you are not in the scheme or have lapsed in your participation please hand in your name and address and you will be given a box of envelopes. Thanking you in advance of your continued support.

Pope Francis has entrusted the nations presently at war especially Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This took place on Friday, the Feast of the Annunciation. The Act of Consecration prayer is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of the human family to the Queen of Peace. Our Bishops have agreed to insert an Intercession for Peace during the General Intercessions in the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday. They have also invited every parish to set aside a time of dedicated prayer during the Sacred Triduum and ask all Catholics to be in spiritual solidarity with all those who suffer as a result of war or violence.

Along with our prayer, of course, goes practical action. The recommendation is to donate money to CAFOD (who are a part of the Disasters Emergency Committee). CAFOD will be working through partners including sister organisations Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland on the ground. It is very likely that many people will want to dig very deeply in terms of giving and to that end there will be a collection on next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April as an expression of practical solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Laetare Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The entrance antiphon for today says Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her, gives us one of the many names for this Sunday and reflects many aspects of the day and the week. It is the mid-week of Lent. It used to mark a break in the Lenten Fast. As a Sunday observance, it allowed an easing of the fast for the day. People were encouraged to visit the church of baptism or the mother church of the diocese, the cathedral. Hence it was called Mothering Sunday. Today it coincides with Mothers' Day which dates back to 1907. Its colour was rose like the flowers, a sign of victory of spring over winter. It was thus called Rose Sunday. Another name was Refreshment Sunday.

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7pm and after the 12 noon Mass on Sundays.

The readings of the Mass today underline how sinners and outcasts are at ease with Jesus, and his story of the prodigal son tells why. Today's readings are a source of hope and consolation for all who have sinned in any way. Our Lord's eating with sinners is a sign of God breaking through his own laws in order to save those who are in danger of being lost.

A parishioner requests help with doing her garden. Telephone 0208 452 7744.

**CAFOD Walk against Hunger:** Fr Tony Convery, recently retired and now living in one of the flats in Francis Court, is taking part in the CAFOD challenge to walk 200 kms during Lent. If you want to sponsor him the link is <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fr-tonys-lent-walk>

### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 3pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).