

# St. Agnes Catholic Church, Cricklewood

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March is Lent Fast Day. CAFOD offerings will be taken up next Sunday. CAFOD envelopes in Church Porch. Last week's collection. £1986. Many Thanks.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March is the Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March is First Friday. Exposition and Adoration after the 9.15 Mass until 1pm. Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

Requiem for Mrs Mary Carter on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 12 noon.

Requiem for Mrs Peggy Egan on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.

Your prayers for the repose of their souls and for their families in their loss.

Readings this Sunday. First Reading Genesis. The creation and sin of our first parents. Psalm. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned. Second Reading Romans. However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater. Gospel Matthew. Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

Jesus, in the Gospel, is enticed to gratify his own needs or to perform some spectacular act in public. He rejects the temptation because he chooses commitment to his mission and to dependence on his Father over any immediate gratification. We can all be tempted to go for some immediate gratification, but is that where happiness lies? Have you found that sometimes it is better to say no for the sake of some long term goal?

One way of looking at the Gospel is to say that Jesus went into the desert to face his demons. We all have demons that we need to face such as compulsions, fears, prejudices, anger etc. It is in facing these demons that we can find a way to live a fuller life. Can you recall how this might have happened to you? Lent is a time to start anew and rediscover lost treasures. These might include reading, exercise, mindfulness, prayer, socialising etc. Would this Lent be a time to rediscover that lost treasure?

The word Lent really means spring. In this hemisphere, the cycle of ritual memory and of nature meet. As we enter the forty days of desert, nature is insisting vehemently on life's return. We learn through liturgical patterns that unless the seed falls to the ground and dies it cannot live and how nature illustrates the process. Lenten days, spring days are full of promise. The earth renews itself.

The Pope's Monthly Intention. For parishes. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

## Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD The Big Walk: Fr Tony, one of our retired priests in Francis Court, will be walking for CAFOD during Lent and asks if you would like to sponsor him. Please click on the link: <https://cafod.enthusé.com/pf/fr-tony-convery>

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland from London Heathrow, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport,

Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).