

St. Agnes Catholic Church, Cricklewood

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Last Sunday's collection: £1766. Many Thanks. Please collect your Planned Giving boxes of envelopes from the Parish Room today.

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7pm.

Requiem for Annie Crossan on Monday 18th March at 7pm. Repatriation to Ireland. Your prayers for the repose of her soul and for her family in their loss.

The full programme of Masses and Services for Holy Week and Easter will be available next week.

The rotas for Ministers and Readers are now available. We are always looking for new people as gaps are showing.

Synodal Pathway discussion meeting on Saturday 23rd March at 11am in the Parish Room. We are looking ahead to the second part of the Synod in Rome in October 2024. No one questions the challenges facing the Church at the moment, the dearth of vocations, the legacies of the past, and peoples' shift in attitude towards their Christian heritage and religious practice. There is a need for new life with a focus on being missionary disciples steeped in prayer and exercising pastoral outreach to all kinds of need.

Tuesday 19th March is the Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Diocese.

Next Sunday 24th March is Palm Sunday. Blessing and distribution of palms at all Masses.

Happy St Patrick's Day to everybody. Prayer for those away from home. Loving God, we pray for those whom we love but who are absent from us. Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger. Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy. Grant that we may be united in the fullness of love; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

During his 6 years as a slave Patrick learned the language and culture of the Irish people. This was important for his missionary efforts. He came to the Irish as one who had spent the time becoming one of them. His efforts led to the Christianisation of Ireland and the subsequent arrival of Irish missionaries into mainland Europe. This was a legacy that Irish missionaries gave to the world and it originated in Patrick. For this reason Patrick is celebrated not only in Ireland but in many other places as well. The Patrick story teaches us that Christian mission matters.

Gospel Notes. John 12:20-30. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that is in dying to self that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?

Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead. We pray save us from this hour. Then we realise we have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain and hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.

The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves.

Some can be overwhelmed by life's contradictions. This can cause a loss in faith in God and in life. This could have happened to Jesus. But through all the injustice and pain of life his faith did not fail. He kept on believing in God, in people and in life. Faith won the battle at Calvary.

The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. Please sponsor Agnes and Anthony who are doing the walk for St Agnes Parish. Please read the notice board in the Church Porch as to how you can contribute to the sponsored walk.