



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 28th February 2021
+ 2nd Sunday in Lent

First reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Responsorial Psalm: *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

First Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation during Lent

MASS TIMES

Monday	9.30am
Tuesday:	9.30am
Wednesday:	9.30am
Thursday:	11.30am-Funeral
Friday:	9.30am
Saturday:	6pm
Sunday:	9am and 11am

Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Contact Info

Parish Priest
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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

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Parish website

Visit our website
parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth
for all weekly updates and
Children's Liturgy Lessons.

God acts in mysterious ways in many places in the Old Testament; rejecting Cain's sacrifice (Genesis 4:5), choosing Jacob over Esau (Genesis 25:23), sending Job's time of trial (Job 10:1-22), forcing Jeremiah to suffer (Jeremiah 20:7-18), using Babylon to judge Judah (Habakkuk 1:12-13). But the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac renders God almost completely incomprehensible.

The entire story line about Abraham from Genesis 12 to this point has pointed to the birth of an heir to fulfill the astounding promise of descendants as countless as the sands of the seashore (Genesis 15:1-6).

But God's frightening demand throws everything into jeopardy. The storyteller seems unconcerned about the picture of God that this episode draws: God putting God's own integrity at risk. Nor does the storyteller take into account the other parts of the Bible that repudiate child sacrifice (see Jeremiah 7:31).

If God is incomprehensible, Abraham's steadfast faith stands out more boldly than ever. Abraham bargained with God about destroying Sodom (Genesis 18:22-33) but not about this. Why? He became the father of the faithful not only by boldly believing in God's promise but by boldly believing despite God's threat. He not only trusted, as Paul taught in his letters (Romans 4:16-22; Galatians 3:6-9) but acted on his trusting faith (James 2:18-24).

Put Isaac's sacrifice side-by-side with today's passage in Romans ("He who did not spare his own Son," 8:32). In Jesus' death, God is not the one to demand the sacrifice but the one to make the sacrifice. In the Jesus story, God is more like Abraham than like God in the Isaac story.

So what made God believe in us? 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were still sinners Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). In this sacrifice, God became the Abba of those who believe.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Please continue to pray for those in our Parish community who will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil: our Catechumens Jaimin, Mutsilu and Moi-Maree and our Candidates Catherine, Freddie, Lily and Rosanna, that they may grow in God's grace and persevere courageously through the power of His love. We shall be celebrating the Scrutiny with them on Sunday 21st March at the 11 am Mass.

Parish QR code

For online donations



Sacraments

Under current COVID restrictions:

Baptisms: No more than 6 people at the ceremony. To arrange a baptism please contact Fr Dermot.

Funerals: It is the normal procedure to first contact your chosen Funeral Director. They will liaise with Fr Dermot. At present only 30 mourners can attend the church service.

Weddings: Preparation for marriage: Six months' notice is required. Please contact Fr Dermot.

Newsletter

If you wish to receive a copy of our weekly newsletter by email, please sign up by using the website e-Alert or email the parish office to request.



DONATE TO THE CHURCH

Thank you to all who have converted their weekly contribution to Direct Debit. This has been a great asset to us. If you wish to join the planned giving scheme in our Parish, please contact the Parish office by email, if possible or visit our website for more information. Alternatively, simply set up a direct debit:

A/c name: WRCDT St Alban North Finchley-

Sort code: 40-05-20

A/c No: 51094491

Reference: Your name/donation

PARISH REGISTRATION

Are you registered in the Parish? Forms are available in the porch or can be requested by email from the parish office.

finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk

ST BARNABAS FOODBANK

St Barnabas Foodbank at 913 High Road North Finchley, accepts donations of food each Saturday between 9.30 & 12.30. They are open for those in need on Mondays 12.30 – 2pm.

CAFOD

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of our envelopes.

You can also easily give via text.

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5, plus one standard rate message.

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10, plus one standard rate message.

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20, plus one standard rate message.

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Further resources for Family Fast Day can be found on our web page <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES

Weekly updates of vacancies throughout the Diocese.

<https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Jimmy Gray, Michael O'Boy, Eileen Hanley
Bruna Antonioni

all the recently departed and their loved ones.

Daniel Maybin, Crystal Thomas, Genevieve Miranda

and the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at about this time:

Rebecca Condor, Mario Dias, Iliana Dima

