



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 21st March 2021
+5th Sunday in Lent

MASS TIMES

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

Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Contact Info

Parish Priest
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary
Jackie Sheils

51 Nether Street
Finchley
London
N12 7NN
020 8446 0224
finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding
Claudia Clayman
finchleynorthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish website

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

First reading:	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 (Ezekiel 37: 12-14 - 11am Sunday Mass)
Psalm:	<i>A pure heart create for me, O God</i> <i>(With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption-</i> 11am Sunday Mass)
Gospel:	John 12: 20-30 (John 11: 1-45 – 11am Sunday Mass) <i>First Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation during Lent</i>

The short passage from the Letter of the Hebrews casts unusual light on Jesus. The Gospel accounts tell us that Jesus prayed (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12) and what he prayed about (Mark 14:36; Luke 22:22), but here we read that Jesus prayed 'with loud cries and tears.' John's account tells us that Jesus was confident that God heard his prayers (John 11:41-42), perhaps because he was God's Son; here we read that Jesus 'was heard because of his reverence.' The Gospel accounts tell us that Jesus remained in constant communion with the will of God (Matthew 26:39; John 8:29); here we read that 'he learned obedience from what he suffered.' The Gospel accounts tell us that at Jesus' baptism he was already 'my Son, the beloved' in whom God was 'well pleased' (Luke 3:22), but here we read that Jesus was 'made perfect.' The letter's frank statement that Jesus progressed toward perfection stands alongside a Christology equal in majesty to any in the New Testament: This same human Jesus is the 'heir of all things and through whom (God) created the universe,' 'the refulgence of (God's) glory, the very imprint of (God's) being,' the one who 'sustains all things by his mighty word' (Hebrew 1:2-4).

This writer grasped what many views of Jesus lack: a clear understanding of Jesus' humanity. Human beings develop over time, feel doubt and pain, do not know their fate, aspire to achieve. Hebrews make explicit what the Gospel accounts imply: Jesus progressed toward God by suffering.

The Jeremiah passage speaks of the new covenant where rule-keeping cannot pass for true devotion and God will write God's law 'on their hearts.' Jesus' moment-by-moment practice of obedience fulfilled that prophecy by engraving God's covenant into the human heart forever. He wrote this inner law on our hearts with the stylus of his passion.

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.

EASTER OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

The offertory collection at Easter and Christmas, makes up the bulk of the priests' salary in each parish. These envelopes can be found at the exit doors and gives you the opportunity to contribute. Thank you for continued generosity.

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.



BLESSING PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY

"Many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields." (Mark 11:8) As we continue to take necessary precautions due to the pandemic, we will not be distributing palms at this church on Palm Sunday. However, true to the account given by Mark in his Gospel for this Palm Sunday, please feel free to bring your own branches to mass on the weekend of Palm Sunday, and they will be blessed in the usual fashion. If you do not have a garden or access to trees, perhaps come to church via a park and collect a branch there. We can all feel better about not having flown branches from Spain, thus lightening our carbon footprint! (In most Mediterranean countries, the faithful cut branches from trees for Palm Sunday) This is a worthy devotion in our Catholic tradition and serves as an ongoing reminder of our Redemption through Christ, as the branches find a prominent place in our homes throughout the year. You might even consider incorporating your blessed branches/fonds into a table decoration for Easter.

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

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

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.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the Beat the Winter Blues Quiz night in January – we now have confirmation that your contributions raised £885 which will be split equally between the East Finchley Food Bank and St Alban's Parish. Thank you so much for your generosity. We look forward to having some in-person social events in the not-too-distant future. Social Committee.

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Jimmy Gray, Michael O'Boy,
Johnny Bannon, Sr Mary Paul PCJ
Molly Lloyd (Former parishioner)

all the recently departed and their loved ones.

Bruna Antonioni, Freddie Antonioni, Alex Daly

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

Honorina de Borman, Gerd-Uwe Jahns,
Mabel Scanlon, Sylvia Derriman

