

Presbytery

337 Harrow Road, London, W9 3RB
Tel: 020 7286 2170

Parish Priest

Fr. Michael Jarmulowicz
michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk

Also in Residence (for advanced studies)
Fr Daniel Isah

Harrow Rd Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Jennifer Ellis
Office Hours: Mon & Friday 9 - 3 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2170
E-mail: harrowroad@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrowroad

Paddington Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Mandy O'Sullivan-Whitting
Office Hours; Thursday 10 - 2 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2672
E-mail: paddington@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/paddington

Mass Times

Monday: 10:00 am (Harrow Road)
Tuesday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Ash Wednesday: 10:00 am (Harrow Rd) 7:00pm (Paddington)
Thursday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Friday: 10:00 am (Harrow Road)
Saturday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
6:00 pm (Harrow Rd)
Sunday: 9:30 am (Paddington)
11:30 am (Harrow Rd)

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent—7:00 pm (Paddington)

Eucharistic Adoration

One hour before weekday and Saturday Masses.

Confessions

During periods of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and on request.

Our Lady of Lourdes Readings

Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 4:4-7; John 2:1-11.

Parishes of
OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST VINCENT DE PAUL
(HARROW RD)

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

FEBRUARY - MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

11TH FEBRUARY 2024

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Our Lady of Lourdes

Today we would expect to be celebrating the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, but because our Patron is Our Lady of Lourdes—which liturgically is a 'memorial'—in our Parish church it is elevated to the rank of a 'Solemnity' which takes precedence over a Sunday.

For those maybe unfamiliar with the account of some of the appearances of Our Lady to Bernadette, I will give a very brief summary of one aspect.

As background information we need to know that in 1854 Pope Pius X declared infallibly the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (ie that Mary was conceived without Original Sin).

Four years later, on February 11th 1858, Bernadette (aged 14) was with her sister (aged 11) and a friend (aged 12) gathering firewood for her mother. I now use Bernadette's own words "*I heard a noise like the sound of a storm. I looked at the trees near the river, but nothing was moving. I was frightened, and I stood up straight. Bewildered, I looked across the mill-stream to a niche above a cave in the rock of Massabielle. A rosebush on the edge of the niche was swaying in the wind. It was all that moved. All else was still. A golden cloud came out of the cave and flooded the niche with radiance. Then a lady, young and beautiful, exceedingly beautiful, the like of whom I had never seen, stood on the edge of the niche. She smiled and smiled at me, beckoning me to come closer as though she were my mother, and she gave me to understand in my soul that I was not mistaken. The Lady was dressed in white, with a white veil on her head, and a blue sash at her waist. A Rosary of white beads on a golden chain was on her right arm. On that cold winter's day, her feet were bare, but on each foot was a golden rose radiant with the warmth of summer.*" Word spread of this

(Continued overleaf)

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 10th February 2024

Saturday	6:00 pm	People of the Parish	Sunday	9:30 am	Monica Philip (Anniv)
Sunday	11:30 am	Agnes McHugh (Ints)	Monday	10:00 am	Augustine & Family (Ints)
Tuesday	10:00 am	Jesuino Fernandez (Anniv)	Ash Wednesday	10:00 am	Euline Joan Charles (Ints)
				7:00 pm	-
Thursday	10:00 am	Jim Johnson (Ints)	Friday	10:00 am	-
Saturday (17.2)	10:00 am	Gwen Johnson (Ints)	Saturday	6:00 pm	Mary & John Kennedy (Ints)
Sunday (18.2)	9:30 am	People of the Parish	Sunday	11:30 am	John & Comfort Ekechukwu (RIP)

(Continued from page 1)

vision, the first of 18 apparitions, but many disbelieved her, and she was interrogated by many, including the police, who even threatened her with prison for lying!

On the apparition on Thursday 25th February, the Lady said to Bernadette "Go, drink at the spring, and wash in it"; but she could see no spring and so went to the River Gave (nearby), but the 'Lady' called her back and pointed to a spot beneath the rock. There was just some mud there, but in obedience she smeared her face in mud. Her aunt, who was with her slapped her face and said "Stop your nonsense" and sent her home, with the people around jeering! That afternoon she returned to the grotto with another friend, and found water bubbling from that spot which quickly became a large flow of crystal clear water. The people who had laughed that morning, now recognised a gift from God, and obeyed the instruction given to Bernadette 'to drink and wash in the spring'. One such man was Louis Bouriette, a quarryman aged 55, who was blind in his right eye from a mine explosion (which killed his brother, who was at his side). He bathed his blind eye and his vision returned completely.

One of the messages that 'The Lady' gave Bernadette was to tell the priest to build a chapel and come in procession. The local priest (though kind, was still thinking that Bernadette was an imposter with a vivid imagination) said he would not deal with a nameless vision and so demanded to know this beautiful lady's name.

There was a gap before further apparitions, and on the Feast of the Annunciation (25th March) Bernadette felt an urge to go to the grotto—it was still dark—and she asked 'The Lady' her name. She leaned towards Bernadette and, using the local patois dialect said: "*Que soy era Immaculada Conceptiou*" and disappeared.

Bernadette could neither read nor write at this stage, and she did not understand what the words 'Immaculate Conception' meant, so repeating them in her head, she went straight to the priest. He stood there stunned, pale, full of emotion and in tears. He instantly realised that Bernadette had truly seen and talked with the Virgin Mary. She admitted that she didn't know what the words meant, and he

also knew that neither would she know about the Pope's infallible declaration four years earlier. He immediately contacted the bishop—and (as they say) the rest is history. That spring still flows today and is the water that all pilgrims drink and wash in.

Diocesan News

Evangelising post-Christian Britain. Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary (Bismark, North Dakota) co-authored the extraordinary book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. He will give a lively lecture and Q&A on **Tuesday 20 February at St James Church, Spanish Place, Marylebone**. He will examine the different visions that the Church and the world have for our society, and suggest effective strategies to engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be available. Tickets £5 at: guild-ransom.co.uk/events. He will be talking to priests on this topic the following day.

Parish News

Ash Wednesday—This coming Wednesday (14th February) is Ash Wednesday—the Start of Lent. It is **not** a Holy Day of Obligation, but I know many like going to Mass that day. So we will have two masses (with distribution of ashes) on this day. Mass at **10:00 am at Our Lady of Lourdes**, Harrow Road, and at **7 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows**, Paddington.

We Dare to Say. 18 parishioners have signed up to the 5 weekly Lenten sessions, as asked by the Pope, to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year. These will be held in the **Hall at Harrow Road** on five consecutive Mondays, starting on **Monday 19th February** (ie First Monday in Lent) at **7:00 pm**. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will be available during these reflections.

Stations of the Cross. These will be held on **Fridays during Lent**, but this year they will be held at **Our Lady of Sorrows, Paddington**. Starting Friday 16th February at **7:00 pm**

Society of St Vincent de Paul. Our small parish SVP group (combined with Kensal New Town Parish) is getting increasing requests for help, too much for our very active members to respond to. Our most requests have been to 'befriend' people who are lonely and need some more companionship—including for residents in our local care homes. One bed bound lady would love to pray the rosary with someone on a regular basis. If you have an hour per week to spare, to meet Christ in the poor and suffering, then please come and join our SVP group.