### **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)

Wednesday: No Mass

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)

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

One hour before weekday and Saturday Masses.

#### **Confessions**

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

#### **Sunday Readings**

Parish Mass Book—Vigil Pg 216, Sunday Page 251 Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-9. Parishes of

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

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

MARCH - MONTH OF THE ST JOSEPH 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR B)

# **Approaching the Empty Tomb**

Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied," I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection, but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone we wonder. Why were the linen wrappings removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In our modern day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised. Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and

(Continued overleaf)

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Saturday (HR) 8:30 pm People of the Parish Sunday 9:30 am -

Sunday 11:30 am Sylvia Marris (RIP) Monday 10:00 am Matthew Sterne (Ints)

Tuesday 10:00 am - Wednesday No Mass

Thursday 10:00 am - Friday 10:00 am - Saturday (6.4) 10:00 am - Saturday (7.4) 9:30 am - Sunday (7.4) 9:30 am - Sunday 11:30 am People of the Parish

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suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.

**Season of Easter** Easter isn't just one day; it's a 'season'. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday". The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper.

# Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April 2024.

For the Role of Women.

Regardless of where you live in the world, gender equality is a fundamental human right. Advancing gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and the well-being of both girls and boys. There has been progress over the last decades, but there is still lots to do in order to achieve the UN gender equality goal by 2030.

Pope Francis invites us to join his prayer intention "... that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

# **Parish News**

**Planned Giving Envelopes.** The envelopes starting next week are now available for collection. Please take your box as they do start next week.

**Freedom in Christ Conference**. There was a very successful conference last weekend. The deliverance team will be returning this coming Thursday (4th April) at 7:30pm (for period of Adoration) and 8:00pm for individual prayer ministry for those wishing this. The team asked if you could register (if you have not already done so) at <a href="https://wvdg.uk">https://wvdg.uk</a> so that they have your e-mail and can keep in touch if need-

ed.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**. The traditional Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be held at our adjacent parish of Our Lady of Holy Souls (Kensal New Town), Hazlewood Crescent, **next Sunday (4th April)** at **2:30—4:30**. Fr Daniel and myself will be assisting there.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19th- 26th July 2024 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <a href="https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/">https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/</a> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All need to also complete the Medical Form. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

Fr Daniel will be coming also. I will be booking to stay at the Alba (where most of the redcaps stay) and will be going by air rather than train.

Redcaps (age 16-25)—please apply to the Catenian Bursary to help fund your trip—last year each applicant received £100. Goto <a href="https://catenianbursary.com/lourdes-awards/">https://catenianbursary.com/lourdes-awards/</a> to apply.