

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24th DECEMBER 2023

THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT is our final day of preparing the way for the Lord to celebrate the Nativity of Our Saviour. It is a time to renew our hope and expectation: God is always faithful to His promises. The fourth **CANDLE** on our Advent wreath is seen as the **MARY** candle because the Nativity is the consequence of Mary's YES to God — her **FIAT** (let it be done.....).

This week we should, together with Mary, ponder the wonderful thing God has done for us in the Incarnation.

How does it touch us, move us?

How do we want to respond to it?

How do I see my **“YES”** to God? Is it whole hearted? As we ponder this we shall be moved to confess our sins — all of which express our **NO** to God: every sin is a “no-no” to God.

A good confession is the best way to find a truly Happy Christmas, when we prepare the way for Our Lord to be born again in our heart, where we can treasure Him, adore Him, and love Him, like the shepherds.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the God-given means of making the way for Him to enter us—so do go to confession.

“Mary Immaculate, my Mother, keep me close to you, at one with you, so that I may imitate your wholehearted Yes to God.” Fr David Barnes, Rector

This will be the last bulletin of the year – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
17th December 2023

GAUDETE SUNDAY

“REJOICE” SUNDAY (from Latin “Gaudete”) is the name given to this Third Sunday of Advent. We rejoice because of the coming celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, born in the manger in Bethlehem.

We rejoice not only because He is “Emmanuel” (God with us), but because His coming (or advent) is the proof of God’s love for us: he has come to share His life completely with us.

This is re-confirmed every time we receive Holy Communion.

Like Mary His Mother we have the privilege of holding Him and treasuring Him in our heart. Go to Mary, asking Her how we can hold and treasure Him better, more devotedly, more tenderly.

Pope Francis teaches us that the Church should be a “House of Joy”. Our parish and families will be “a House of Joy” in so far as we recognise that the infant in the crib is truly God fully among us. To help us ponder this please ensure that the **CRIB** has a central place in your home. Let us gather around the crib to pray as a family.

Our joy is the fruit of our faith, God’s gift for our “Yes” to God. **REJOICE!**

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

2nd SUNDAY ADVENT
10th December 2023

BIBLE SUNDAY 2023

THIS SUNDAY (ADVENT 2) is sometimes called **BIBLE SUNDAY**: We pray for a deeper love of the Sacred Scriptures.

St Jerome lived during the 4th century of the Church. A man of brilliant mind, he lived as a hermit for years, in order to deal with his many sins. However, God needed his intellect and gift of language; thus St. Jerome is credited with translating the Scriptures into Latin, known as the Vulgate.

St. Jerome famously said, “*Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.*” That thought alone should send us all scurrying for our Bibles! So, why *should* Catholics make regular Scripture reading and study part of their daily lives?

1) It is the living Word of God. There are many ancient texts in the history of the world. Many of us, in high school and college, read *The Iliad*, *I Ching*, and the *Tao de Ching*. They are all worthy of study, but what sets the Bible apart? It is the living Word of God. It has no equal, and it is as relevant today as it was when Jerome labored over its translation. Further, the Word of God is Christ: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.* (Jn. 1:1) Thus, every encounter with Scripture is an encounter with Christ.

2) Sunday isn’t enough. Indeed, the Mass is full of Scripture. We hear the Word proclaimed from the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, and the Gospel. We hear the Word sung in our hymns. The prayers at Mass are full of Scriptural quotes and references. And yet ... it’s not enough. It’s easy to miss parts of the Word as it’s proclaimed as Mass: we get distracted, the Word is not proclaimed well, we don’t quite hear it. In order to prepare well for Mass, we should “read ahead:” [find the readings for Mass](#) and read them prior to Mass. How are they connected? What is God’s message for His people today?

3) God’s Word keeps us grounded. It is very easy, in the midst of our sloppy, busy, stress-filled days, to lose touch with who we are: God’s children. Taking time to read Scripture every day keeps us grounded, reminds us of who we are. Reading Scripture helps us to recall, every day, that Christ is with us – even in the sloppiness, the busy-ness, the stress.

4) Scripture reminds us of God’s covenant. God made a promise to our forefathers in faith, the Jews. He told them, “I will be your God, and you will be my people.” Even though the Jews (like us!) did many things that should have destroyed that covenant, God’s promise is eternal. A covenant is unbreakable, because it is God’s truth. Then, with the coming of Christ, we received a new covenant: “This is My Body and this is My Blood. Whoever eats and drinks of it shall have eternal life.” The Bible, from start to finish, is the story of God’s unbreakable promise to us. That’s pretty important.

5) Reading Scripture helps us to pray better. Every one of us needs to pray better. Prayer is our lifeline to God. Scripture can help us to pray better. We see ourselves reflected in the sorrow, pain and faithfulness of Job. We understand Jonah’s reluctance to do the job God has set before him. We rejoice, laugh, cry and challenge God with the psalmist. We understand the shame of the woman about to be stoned. We tremble with fear, abandoning Christ, just as most of the Apostles did when He most needed them. To enter into God’s word helps us to see, hear, feel and understand basic human responses ... and then do better. We rise above our fears, our sorrows, our shame, because we know God is with us. Always. He never abandons us. Scripture is the story of God’s eternal love and faithfulness.

St. Jerome knew all this. He spent his life carefully and faithfully translating God’s word. He did it not because it was yet another text that smart people wanted to read in their own language. No, he understood that Scripture is the living word of God, as relevant to us as it was to the Jews in their many triumphs and struggles, as it was to the earliest Christians during St. Jerome’s life, and now, in a world where we have so much information at our fingertips it would make St. Jerome’s head spin. But there is no website, no book, no podcast, no

Facebook post that equals God's word. Do not be ignorant of this word, lest you be ignorant of Christ.

THE ADVENT WREATH: The Advent wreath helps us reflect on how God has come to us. The circle of the wreath is a symbol of both the eternity of God and our being called to eternal life. The evergreen foliage symbolises on-going life, while the holly and the red berries symbolise that the child in the manger is also the one who will suffer and die for us on the Cross. The five candles too have meanings. The outer candles are purple and one pink - the four weeks of Advent: purple is a sign that Advent is "little Lent", a time for prayer, fasting, repentance and conversion. The pink candle is for "Gaudete Sunday", the third Sunday in Advent, reminding us to rejoice in the coming of the Saviour. The white candle symbolises Christ, the Light of the World. The coming of the Light (Christ) into the darkness of the world is a constant theme in Advent, and the gradual lighting of the Advent candles reminds us of this. Various meanings are given to each specific candle -here is one set of meaning:

1st CANDLE- (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE-We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE- (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION- God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE- (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY - The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE- (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE - The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE- (white) "CHRIST CANDLE" -The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd December 2023

ADVENT

TODAY, Sunday, the great season of Advent begins. The word comes from the Latin verb "*advenire*" meaning "*to come to:*" so Advent calls us to ponder Our Lord's THREE "comings to us".

- the Incarnation when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" ie. Our Lord's Nativity in Bethlehem.
- Our Lord's *daily coming* to us in the Holy Mass.
- the Second Coming, when "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead".

ADVENT is sometimes called “Little Lent” because it is properly a time of prayer, fasting and good works, a time of repentance. This is why purple is the colour of Advent. Do your best to keep Advent in this way, even though secular society is making merry around us, the celebration of Christmas *begins* with the Vigil of Christmas, and is celebrated for the 12 days that lead up to the Epiphany on 6th January.

THE ADVENT WREATH, with the build-up of lighting the candles, reminds us of the coming of Our Lord into this world in His Nativity– He is “the Light of the World” who dispels the darkness of the world.

ADVENT is a time of **HOPE** as we come understand better that God is always faithful to His promises.

OUR LADY “believed that the promises made her by the Lord would be fulfilled:” We pray that we may have faith like hers, and invoke her powerful intercession.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is this Friday 8th December: Our Lady is conceived free from every stain of sin. Mass at 6:00pm

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
26th November 2023**

CHRIST THE KING

TODAY is the Grand Finale of the Church’s year. On this final Sunday, our celebration focuses on Our Lord through whom the Kingdom of God comes. Our Lord taught constantly about the Kingdom of God: the Kingdom comes through the Church, founded by Christ and with which He is totally identified in every way apart from our sin. The Church is the sign and seed of the Kingdom, and through the Church we are called to let Christ reign in every area of our life. The more we co-operate with Him, the more the Kingdom comes.

TODAY also focuses us also on our young people. The Theme for this year is “*Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen. (cf. Acts 26:16)*” In our parish we have many, and we should thank God for them and pray for them. On this “**Youth Day**” we should reflect carefully on what we are doing to help form our young people. How can we strengthen the life of faith in our homes? How can we help our school, St. Joseph’s, Macklin Street, which is developing wonderfully through the present leadership? I am concerned about our adolescents: how can we support them better? Do let me know your ideas. Pope Francis speaking to young people says:

“God loves us the way we are, and no sin, fault or mistake of ours makes him change his mind. As far as Jesus is concerned – as the Gospel shows – no one is unworthy of, or far from, his thoughts. No one is insignificant. He loves all of us with a special love; for him all of us are important: you are important! God counts on you for what you are, not for what you possess. In his eyes the clothes you wear or the kind of cell phone you use are of absolutely no concern. He doesn’t care whether you are stylish or not; he cares about you! In his eyes, you are precious, and your value is inestimable.”

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19th November 2023

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

TODAY is World Day of the Poor: *'Do not turn your face away'*

As the Church prepares to celebrate the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis urges everyone to work toward providing free healthcare, medical examinations, vaccinations, and bill payment assistance to those in need.

"Do not look away from the poor" (Tobit 4,7), is the theme for the 2023 World Day for the Poor.

Pope Francis begins his message for the Day by stressing that

"a great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity."

"We are living," he continues, "in times that are not particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. The pressure to adopt an affluent lifestyle increases, while the voices of those dwelling in poverty tend to go unheard."

To read the full message, please visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20230613-messaggio-vii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2023.html>

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR PRAYER

Loving God,

Open our ears to hear you in the cry of those living in poverty.

Open our eyes to see you in the lives of the oppressed.

Open our hearts to meet you in others and to respond with mercy and compassion.

Pour out on us your grace, so that we may grow as your faithful people, always seeking your kingdom of Truth, Justice and Peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER IS THE FEAST OF ST CECILIA OUR CO-PATRON: Sung Mass at 6pm.

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
12th November 2023

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY marks Remembrance Sunday which marks the end of the First World War. On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn.

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

O God, merciful and strong,
who crush wars and cast down the proud,

be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst and to wipe away all tears,
so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children.
Amen

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST: Envelopes are available at the back of the church for the Month of Holy Souls. Please hand in to the Sacristy or with the collection at Mass.
Thank you.

CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS: Since we no longer stock the Catholic magazines and newspapers here, you can buy subscriptions online for both digital and paper copies, please use the following links:

THE TABLET: <https://checkout.thetablet.co.uk/singleitem?item=TAB&prom=XMASLP23>

THE CATHOLIC HERALD: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/subscriptions/>

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE: <https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/product-category/subscriptions/>

THE CATHOLIC POST: <https://www.catholicpost.co.uk/>

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
5th November 2023

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

Our retiring collection today will be in support of **the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund**.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. Last year, the Diocese provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000.

By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund today, you can help us to ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need. The fund is used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest, or that a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery.

If you took an envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available at the back of the church. The envelopes & posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. Please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick & retired priests. You can fill this form out either on the envelope or via one of the Patron's programme leaflets. By assuring income to the fund, the Diocese can plan its continued care for our retired & sick priests. Thank you for your generosity & please remember to pray for our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill.

NOVEMBER — MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Pope Francis on praying for the souls in purgatory: "Even now we experience a communion between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven through our union with those who have died. The souls in heaven assist us with their prayers, while we assist the souls in purgatory through our good works, prayer and participation in the Eucharist. As members of the Church

then, the distinction is not between who has died and who is living, but rather who is in Christ and who is not ...

There is a deep and indissoluble bond between those who are still pilgrims in this world — us — and those who have crossed the threshold of death and entered eternity. All baptized persons here on earth, the souls in Purgatory and all the blessed who are already in Paradise make one great Family. This communion between earth and heaven is realized especially in intercessory prayer”.

See Also: <https://www.cathdal.org/home/ten-ways-to-pray-for-the-holy-souls-in-purgatory>

1. Pray the [Novena to the Holy Souls](#) by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

2. Offer up your Holy Communions for the souls in purgatory.

3. Have Masses said for your departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of his or her death.

4. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the intention of the Holy Souls.

5. Eucharistic Adoration: visit the Blessed Sacrament to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on behalf of those in purgatory.

6. Sacrifices: practice small acts of self-denial throughout your day & offer these penances up for the poor souls.

7. Give alms: The giving of material assistance to the poor has always been considered a penance that can be offered for the Holy Souls. *“For almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin” (Tobit 12:9).*

8. Ask for the intercession of saints who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime to join you in prayer for the faithful departed: St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others.

9. When passing by a cemetery: Pray the short Eternal Rest prayer: *“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”*

10. Pray to earn indulgences for the holy souls: On all the days from November 1 to November 8, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Poor Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed (standard requirements for indulgences apply*). Partial indulgences are granted to those who recite Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, and to those who recite the prayer, “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace”

ETERNAL REST

Lord, this month we pray especially for the departed loved ones.

We ask you to give them the gift of a dwelling place in your eternal home.

We pray too for those who have no one to pray for them.

Through your infinite mercy may they share in the company of the saints to offer you eternal praise and glory. Amen

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29th October 2023

TUESDAY 31st October:

Vigil Mass 6pm

WEDNESDAY: 1st November FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Mass at 12:30pm and 6pm

THURSDAY 2nd November: FEAST OF ALL SOULS
Mass at 12:30pm & 6pm

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION

NEXT WEEKEND is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. Whilst we work with the NHS and local authorities to ensure funding gaps are met, we still rely heavily on the generosity of parishioners who contribute to this worthy fund each year.

Therefore, I would like to ask for your help once again as we draw close to this year's annual appeal for our Sick & Retired Priests.

The priests in our Diocese, although retired, continue to serve long into their late seventies and eighties. They continue to work in our parishes and schools, visit our sick or elderly in hospices, and hospitals, and make themselves available, at our time of crisis and need. We continue to depend on them, in times of grief and sorrow, but also at times of joy, such as baptisms and weddings. They, however, are also dependent on us, and our generosity, for their care, and for essentials like housing, rent or any health needs.

By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, next week, you can ensure these needs are met. If you can, please take a donation envelope, and return it next weekend. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code, either on the envelopes or posters at the back of the church and give online.

Finally, if you feel you would like to give to the SRP fund on a more regular basis, please do consider joining our Patron's Programme. You can give as little or as much as you can via a monthly standing order, and this assured income helps the Diocese plan its continued care for our retired and sick priests. Leaflets about the Patron's Programme are also available at the back of the Church with the donation envelopes. Thank you so much and please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill.

CHILDRENS LITURGY: Every Sunday at 10am Mass. Children from Reception to year 2 included are welcome to attend. Parents are welcome to accompany their child/ren to the Parish Room and can then come up to the main church.

FIRE EVACUATION NOTIFICATION: today there will be a brief instruction regarding the Fire Evacuation Plan after each Mass. Please speak to Stephen Ogilby for further information or to volunteer.

PAUL - FROM TARSUS TO THE WORLD: A seven part film telling the story of St Paul according to the record of his activities found in the Acts of the Apostles and his letters. Monday evening's at 6.45pm in the Parish Room.

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
22nd October 2023

‘HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE’

TODAY is **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**. World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope’s charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Mary who has given her whole life to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio’s website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: www.missio.org.uk

PRAYER FOR THE FIRE OF FAITH

God of faith, Your son commanded us to go out and make disciples of all nations. His Apostles set out on foot: their hearts ablaze with the fire of your Good News. Today, missionaries continue this work, igniting your love and hope wherever there is hardship, darkness and fear.

We pray that we too will find the courage to join this great mission, in the ways that you call each one of us, and be messengers of love to all we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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PAUL - FROM TARSUS TO THE WORLD: A seven part film telling the story of St Paul according to the record of his activities found in the Acts of the Apostles and his letters. Monday evening’s beginning 23rd October at 6.45pm in the Parish Room.

Monday 23rd Oct: A Light from Heaven

Monday 30th Oct: Barnabas: “A Good Man”

Monday 6th Nov: We bring you Good News,

Monday 13th Nov: Strengthening the Churches

Monday 20th Nov: Do not be afraid – Continue to speak,

Monday 27th Nov: I appeal to Caesar • I have finished the race.

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
15th October 2023

‘HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE’

Next Sunday is **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites

Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and

Gift Aid your donation if possible: www.missio.org.uk There will be a retiring collection at all masses.

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
8th October 2023

CAFOD: Family Fast Day appeal – Harvest Collection

TODAY is the Harvest Collection Appeal. Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Donate to CAFOD today so that more families can get the expert help they need. Please return your envelope in church or give online at www.cafod.org.uk

HARVEST PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts you have given for all people to share.
Sometimes things go wrong.
Floods wash away homes and crops.
Living God, move us to help one another in times of need,
to care for the earth and love one another sharing your harvest with all.
Amen.

TODAY is also **PRISONERS' SUNDAY**: Prisoners' Sunday is a time to think about how we as individuals, as a Church and as communities are serving those affected by imprisonment. Prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families often find themselves on the margins of our society. Yet Jesus challenges us with His words: "*I was in prison and you came to me*".

Pact draws on the values of our faith: dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity. We believe that everyone can make a fresh start whatever they may have done. To donate please visit: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/donate/prisoners-sunday-appeal>

PRISONERS SUNDAY PRAYER

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison.
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.
Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.
Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ, in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.
Amen

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
1st October 2023

OCTOBER: Month of the HOLY ROSARY

THIS OCTOBER I am asking all of you to renew and deepen your love of the **ROSARY** this October. When we pray the Rosary we are pondering and walking through the wonderful things that God has done for us, together with Mary our Mother. Do please always have a Rosary with you, in your pocket. At different times of the day hold it with faith and love, so uniting ourselves to Jesus and Mary. These quotes from recent Popes will encourage us:

"The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints... it is a prayer from my heart." *Pope Francis*

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." *Pope Saint Pius X*

"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening!" *St. John Paul II*

"The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple and a theologically rich in Biblical content. I beg you to pray it." *St. John Paul II*

"The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying." *Pope Leo XIII*

Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, Pray for us.

Fr David Barnes, Rector

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

24th September 2023

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

TODAY is also our **VERY FIRST PROCESSION** of **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** around Lincoln's Inn Fields. Following 10am Mass.

Our Procession proclaims:

1. 1. GOD was made flesh and dwelt among us: Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Mary, and He is "Emmanuel" (God with us).

Mary said "YES" (Fiat) to God's invitation to be become the Mother of the Lord. God had faith in Her, honoured Her and trusted Her, and therefore so do we.

1. 2. Mary believed that the promises made to Her by the Lord would be fulfilled. We ask for that same faith.
2. 3. Mary was the first and greatest disciple of Jesus. We pray that we may imitate Her fidelity, and witness to Her as the greatest model of faithfulness.
3. 4. On the Cross Our Lord Jesus gave Her to us as our Mother: in this Procession we proudly proclaim and honour Her as our Mother who teaches us to do whatever Our Lord Jesus tells us.
4. 5. In the procession we should reflect, carefully, and prayerfully, on what we are doing. We should desist from personal conversations, and rather pray for those in the park and those who pass by.

Remember Pope Francis tells us to remember always that we are "missionary disciples". So let us be joyful and prayerful throughout the procession.

The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, in North Norfolk, was established in 1061 when, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad (c 1485), Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she

might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation.

This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Although we have very little historical material from this period, we know that with papal approval the Augustinian Canons built a Priory (c 1150). Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom.

In 1538, the Reformation caused the Priory property to be handed over to the King's Commissioners and it is said the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burnt. Nothing remains today of the original shrine, but its site is marked on the lawn in "The Abbey Grounds" in the village. After the destruction of the Shrine, Walsingham ceased to be a place of pilgrimage. Devotion was necessarily in secret until after Catholic Emancipation (1829) when public expressions of faith were allowed.

In 1896 Charlotte Pearson Boyd purchased the 14th century Slipper Chapel, the last of the wayside chapels en-route to Walsingham, and restored it for Catholic use. In 1897 by rescript of Pope Leo XIII, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Walsingham was restored with the building of a Holy House as the

Lady Chapel of the Catholic Church of the Annunciation, King's Lynn. The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom brought the first public pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20th August 1897. Visits to the Slipper Chapel became more frequent, and as the years passed devotion and the number of pilgrimages increased.

SLIPPER CHAPEL: In the Middle Ages Walsingham was one of the four great shrines of Christendom with pilgrims coming from all parts of the known world. There were wayside chapels along the pilgrim route and the Slipper Chapel was the last and most important of these. Pilgrims stopped here to go to Mass and to confess their sins before walking the last mile to the Holy House in Walsingham. The name of the chapel may come from the fact that pilgrims removed their shoes to walk the last mile or it may come from the word "slype" meaning a way through or "something in between", the slype or slip chapel standing as it did between the Holy land of Walsingham and the rest of England.

In 1538 the Shrine and Priory were destroyed and the Slipper Chapel, although not damaged, passed into disuse. It was used successively as a poor house, a forge a barn and even a cow byre. Stories of older residents suggest that even during this time of neglect occasional pilgrims would still come and pray there. In 1896 it was brought by Charlotte Boyd and restoration started the following year. For thirty years the Slipper Chapel remained restored but little used, as devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham was centred on Kings Lynn. On August 19th 1934, Bishop Youens of Northampton celebrated the first public Mass in the Slipper Chapel for four hundred years, and two days later Cardinal Bourne led a national pilgrimage of more than 10,000 people to the Shrine. At this pilgrimage, the Slipper Chapel was declared to be the National Shrine of Our Lady for Roman Catholics in England.

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17th September 2023

Pastoral Letter for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 16/17 September 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Coming to church today all of us will have made the Sign of the Cross, at least once. We did so at the opening words of the Mass. Many will also have done so on entering the church, using the holy water as a reminder of our baptism. This is our first prayer.

The Sign of the Cross is our hallmark, or, if you prefer, our foundation. It tells us who we are and how we understand our lives. We see our life to be founded and rooted in God, Creator, Father; we walk in the pathway marked out for us by Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father; we have within us the company and power of the Holy Spirit, the eternal love which flows between Father and Son and surges into our lives by God's gift. This is who we are, not just individually but together, as the community of the Church.

It is not easy to put this fundamental reality into practice. There is a yearning within the human spirit for precisely the mercy, forgiveness, truth and love which flow abundantly from the mystery of God. Our mission, through baptism, is to make visible this saving truth, each day, in every circumstance, fulfilled or failed by what we say and do.

In the last two years, Pope Francis has been calling us to be renewed in this mission. He wants us to rediscover our life in the Church as a communion of life with God and with one another, opened up for us through the Sacraments, those outward signs of inward grace. Furthermore, he wants us to be a sacrament for the whole world, the outward sign that leads people to the inward grace of faith in Jesus Christ, known and lived within the communion of the Church.

The method chosen by Pope Francis for this reawakening is his insistence that we learn to listen more closely to one another; that we are ready to work out, prayerfully, what we need to do to fulfil this mission; that we seek to enhance our service of others, acknowledging that every single person is endowed with gifts and abilities for this work. All this goes by way of the Synodal pathway the Pope has established for us all.

Over the last two years, there have been various concerted expressions of this Synodal journey, in our parishes, in the Diocese as a whole, and at the level of the Church in every continent.

Now all this comes together, in October, in a Synod of Bishops, in Rome, to assess the journey thus far and to fashion clearly the next steps to be taken. These findings can then be reviewed by us all, before a further Synod of Bishops that takes place in October 2024.

We are privileged that Bishop Nicholas Hudson has been chosen by Pope Francis to be a member of this Synodal Assembly. The Pope has also chosen a significant number of lay men and women, priests and religious, from each continent, to be members alongside those bishops chosen by Bishops' Conferences around the world. Theirs will be a demanding task and I ask you to pray for them all. Their method will be the same as the one the Pope has put before us all: prayerful listening of the heart, careful discernment of all that is put before them, faithfulness to the teaching of the Church, explored and presented with great love. Their work will be shaped, as is ours, by praise of the Father, fidelity to the Son, seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We can be clear, then, that this Synod meeting is not an ecclesiastical UN Assembly, nor a Church parliament or convention, nor a referendum on the teaching of the Church. In the words of Pope Francis, it is to be 'a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit', a setting out on a journey 'with the Lord always coming to meet us' (Pope Francis, 10 October 2021).

The overall aim of the October meeting has been clearly set out: how can we become a listening Church, one that is profoundly open to all, humble and seeking forgiveness - as we have been

reminded in today's readings? Can we be a Church of encounter and dialogue which seeks to hold together, often in tension, fidelity to the truth expressed in her teaching and a compassionate love for every person? How can we be a Church of deep respect for all that is truly human, seeking to bring the gifts and talents of every person into the mission given by Christ? How can we be a Church which is constantly restless because we are incomplete, yet a sign and instrument of the union of all with God? The Synod must consider what processes, initiatives, and structures can help us in becoming a truly missionary Church.

It is not difficult to see that the agenda of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops is an agenda for us all: for each of us individually, for families, for every church association and group, for parishes, for the Diocese. The Synod is a journey we share. For this reason, I invite you today to be part of this historic process, not simply through following the reports that come from Rome, but in the thoughts and resolutions of your own hearts. How can we be more attentive to each other? How can we listen with our hearts to the distress and the joy of those around us? How can we make our community more welcoming? How can we find ways of enabling the talents and abilities of everyone to become part of our outreach, of that invitation to come to know the Lord?

Every moment and every place is, for us, a time and location for mission: the supermarket, the casual meeting, the places of leisure and of work, the family circle. By this I do not mean that we are always talking about the things of faith, but that we are constantly attentive to the many ways in which the good Lord might be prompting a person, and us ourselves, to take a step nearer to him. How can we then accompany that person to take the next step, with sensitivity and humility, grateful for our own friendship with the Lord, the gift of faith that we have received?

May the coming month of October be a time of grace for our Church, both in the great gathering in Rome and in the circles of our lives here at home. May October, the month of the Holy Rosary, see us take up our rosary beads each day, asking our Blessed Mother to strengthen and guide us in this journey of faith. I ask you this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Yours devotedly,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10th September 2023

SEASON OF CREATION:

1st September – 4th October

POPE FRANCIS writes:

Dear brothers and sisters! **“Let Justice and Peace Flow”** is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring

sustenance. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that “ecological conversion” which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our “ecological sins”, as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well. Let us cooperate in God’s ongoing creation through positive choices: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste, and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 51). [5] The world leaders who will gather for the COP28 summit in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December next must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuel. According to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement to restrain global warming, it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures. Let us raise our voices to halt this injustice towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change. I appeal to all people of good will to act in conformity with these perspectives on society and nature.

In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 13 May 2023

FRANCIS

+22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
3rd September 2023

OUR BULLETIN WILL RETURN TO NORMAL NEXT WEEKEND

HOLIDAYS JULY/AUGUST

The end of the school term signals the summer holiday season ahead. Our English word comes from “holy days”, which makes clear the nature and purpose of a holiday - a re-orientation of our life to God and to growing in wholeness / holiness. This is the way to a happy and restorative holiday.

Central to our holiday should be:

- ◆ Mass: make sure you find out the location of the nearest Catholic church.
- ◆ Daily prayer
- ◆ A good spiritual book
- ◆ A good self-examination and a good confession.

This is the last bulletin until early September. I wish you all a good holiday and summer: remember to pray for each other, and especially our sick and housebound.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2023
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The feast of the Assumption is a day of joy. God has won. Love has won. It has won life. Love has shown that it is stronger than death, that God possesses the true strength and that his strength is goodness and love.

Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven: There is even room in God for the body. Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us. We have a Mother in heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: “Behold, your Mother!” We have a Mother in heaven. Heaven is open, heaven has a heart ...

Let us make God great in public and in private life. This means making room for God in our lives every day, starting in the morning with prayers, and then dedicating time to God, giving Sundays to God. We do not waste our free time if we offer it to God. If God enters into our time, all time becomes greater, roomier, richer.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

HOMILY FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION, 2005

+17th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
30th July 2023

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from “holy days”, which makes clear the nature and purpose of a holiday - a re-orientation of our life to God and to growing in wholeness / holiness. This is the way to a happy and restorative holiday.

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Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

PRAYER FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II for SEAFARERS

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in Him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life’s journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
“Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?”

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

DENZIL (DENNY) ANDREWS RIP: Please pray for the gentle repose of Denny’s soul, whose Funeral Service is on FRIDAY 14th JULY 12:15 pm Breakspear Crematorium – West Chapel, Breakspear Road, Ruislip, HA4 7SJ. Please remember Denny’s family in your prayers at this difficult time. May he rest in peace. Amen

+13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2nd July 2023

JULY – MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD:

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus is a powerful means to help us be devoted to the totally sacrificial love of Our Lord, as also loving Him totally present in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Cathedral here in Westminster is

dedicated to the Most Precious Blood.

OUR PARISH: On 6th July 1909, Archbishop Bourne opened our present church, celebrating Mass at 11am. Do please pray that we take good care of our parish church, and pray that we can all proclaim the Kingdom of God

PETER'S PENCE

TODAY, SUNDAY, we have the annual collection for **"Peter's Pence"**. This collection started here in England at the end of the 8th century, when the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity. They wanted to help the Bishop of Rome, as successor of St Peter, in his universal ministry. The money collected is for the Pope to give to those suffering from natural disasters, such as famine or flooding, or those in great need, such as those suffering the consequences of war. The Pope gives money in the name of the whole Church. This annual collection expresses well our love for the Successor of Peter in his universal ministry. Please do give generously, and do pray for Pope Francis.

May the love and prayers of Ss Peter and Paul sustain the Church, increase our love for the Church as the "Mystical Body of Christ" as also our love for the Pope, and our love for the mission of the Church. For more information visit: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html>

POPE FRANCIS SAYS: *"We cannot proclaim good things but without service it is not proclamation. It may seem to be, but it is not, because the Spirit not only carries you forward to proclaim the truths of the Lord and the life of the Lord, but He also brings you to the service of the brothers and sisters, even in small things".*

"All of us have been saved gratuitously by Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must give gratuitously. Those who carry out the pastoral work of evangelization must learn this. Their life must be gratuitous, given in service, proclamation, borne by the Spirit. Their personal poverty forces them to open themselves up to the Spirit".

STELLA MARIS – SEA SUNDAY 2023: Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure on-board. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. **SEA SUNDAY** is **SUNDAY 9th JULY**. It is when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'sea' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. There will be a collection after all masses. Thank you.

+12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25th June 2023

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

THIS THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2023 is **THE FEAST OF SS PETER AND PAUL** and is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. Mass at 6:00pm Wednesday (Vigil) and on Thursday 12:30pm (Lunchtime) and at 6:00pm (Sung).

The Church founded by Christ has Ss Peter and Paul as its principle pillars. Peter was chosen by Christ to be His first Vicar on earth, endowed with powers of the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Mt 16:13-19) and charged with the role of Shepherd of Christ's flock (Jn 21:15-17). In Peter and his successors, the visible sign of unity and communion in faith and charity has been given.

Divine grace led Peter to profess Christ's divinity. St Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67.

He was buried at the hill of the Vatican, where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St Peter's.

Paul was chosen to form part of the apostolic college by Christ himself on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16). An instrument selected to bring Christ's name to all peoples (Acts 9:15), he is the greatest missionary of all time, the advocate of pagans, the Apostle of the Gentiles.

St Paul was beheaded in the Tre Fontane, (just outside of Rome along the Via Ostiense) & buried nearby, on the spot where the basilica bearing his name now stands. *Daily Roman Missal- SCEPTER PRESS*

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18th June 2023

DAY FOR LIFE

TODAY is DAY FOR LIFE. There will be a retiring collection at every Mass. Please give generously.

Bishop John Sherrington writes: This year the Day for Life seeks to highlight the trauma caused by abortion. The theme is **"Listen to Her"**. The message is an invitation to listen to the voice and story of a young Catholic woman who was suffering after an abortion and found healing. With her consent, we are able to highlight the distress which she suffered and how she found healing.

We were inspired towards this message from a number of experiences: the ever-rising number of abortions in these countries, the introduction and impact of 'telemedicine' after the COVID 19 pandemic, and the stories of post-abortive trauma which we have heard from Rachel's Vineyard, (based in Birmingham), ARCH (based in Scotland) and GiannaCare (based in Ireland).

The message is also inspired by the Holy Father's own words in 2016 which underlined both the gravity of abortion and that nothing is beyond the mercy of God.

Many in our society, but especially women, are affected by abortion and we want people to know they can find a welcome in the heart of the Church and the promise of hope and healing found in Christ Jesus. To read the message in full visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/df123-message/>

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH - DEFENDER OF LIFE

Dearest Saint Joseph,

At the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home.

As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,

Welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger,
And fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child.
We praise God that as their faithful protector,
You never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you.
May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift
of life.
Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defence of human life –especially
where it is vulnerable or threatened, Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.
Amen.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all our fathers in the Parish, please also remember those whose
fathers are no longer with us and remember them and their families in your prayers.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday 11th June 2023

CORPUS CHRISTI

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the wondrous love of Our Lord for us — how He gives
Himself completely to us in Holy Communion, and how He is with us always in the Sacred
Host in all the tabernacles throughout the world.

MASS is the means to bring us this presence. The priest takes bread and wine, and through the
Holy Spirit our gifts are transformed to become really, truly and substantially the Body and
Blood of Christ, so that Our Lord is present as perfect God and Perfect Man, body, soul and
divinity. This transformation we call *transubstantiation*.

ADORATION is therefore the appropriate response to this gift, so on this weekend's
celebration we should resolve again to

- Make a good preparation for receiving Holy Communion followed by thanksgiving.
- Visit Our Lord regularly in the tabernacle (“making a visit” is an important part of
Catholic spirituality, and builds up our bond with Our Lord).

Show ever greater respect when we come into church, “the House of the Lord”, by
genuflecting to the tabernacle and kneeling to adore and pray. Keeping silence in church is not
only a way to respect Our Lord, but also one another.

TODAY is our **ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION** around Lincoln's Inn
Fields.

Our procession is:

1. 1. Professing our faith in Jesus Christ, and that we are his disciples: we have accepted
his invitation - “Follow me”.
2. 2. We profess our faith that Jesus Christ is fully present among us in the Blessed
Sacrament. He is present as perfect God and perfect Man, body, soul and divinity.
3. 3. We rejoice to proclaim Him everywhere and to everyone that He is truly God among
us.
4. 4. In the procession we should reflect, carefully, and prayerfully, on what we are doing.
We should desist from personal conversations, and rather pray for those in the park and

those who pass by.

5. Remember Pope Francis tells us to remember always that we are “missionary disciples”. So let us be joyful and prayerful throughout the procession.

Fr. David Barnes, *Rector*

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

4th June 2023

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

GOD has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — three persons, but one God. We could never know this by use of reason: we know it because Our Lord Jesus has *revealed* it.

GOD’s love is made known to us as a dynamic interaction of loving between the Three Persons of the Trinity. God is loving — the active relationship of loving between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

GOD’s love for us is made known in the Incarnation — the enfleshment of God — when “*the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*” That love is *revealed* above all through the Mystery of the Cross. God’s love for us is confirmed in every Mass through receiving Holy Communion. As Pope Francis tells us: “*Christ has shown us the face of God, one in substance and triune of Persons. God is all and only Love, in a subsisting relationship that creates, redeems and sanctifies all: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*”

God’s love for us is made known in the fact that God wants to be known by us — to live in relationship with us. We can do so with confidence because in our baptism God made us adopted sons and daughters with the great privilege of relating to God as a most beloved son or daughter. We always have access to God on this personal level. So relate to God every day, ever faithful, through that daily conversation which is prayer.

Fr. David Barnes, *Rector*

SACRED HEART NOVENA: Here at St Anselm & St Cecilia will be praying the Novena before Mass from **Thursday 16th June to Friday 24th June**. Petitions may be placed in the box at the Sacred Heart statue and will be placed on the Altar on the Feast day, Friday 24th June.

St Anselm and St Cæcilia, Kingsway

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Sunday 11th June at 10:45am

At the end of the 10am Mass we process with the Blessed Sacrament around Lincoln’s Inn Fields, visiting the statue of St Thomas More, then the site of the former Sardinian Chapel (the predecessor of our present church).

This annual outdoor procession is a great act of witness, proclaiming Our Lord’s reign over our parish, and, by publicly following Him in procession, witnessing to our faith in Him.

DO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

The children who made their First Holy Communion on 13th May will lead the procession, dressed as for their First Holy Communion.

PROCESS and JOYFULLY CELEBRATE!

PENTECOST SUNDAY
28th May 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY

“**COME HOLY SPIRIT.....**”**THE HOLY SPIRIT** transformed the apostles from being inward- looking, timid and afraid, to being outward-looking and bold in proclaiming the Risen and Ascended Lord. The Spirit set them on fire: for this reason we sometimes call the Feast of Pentecost the **BIRTHDAY** of the Church.

The Holy Spirit can do the same for us—if we are open and really want to be transformed. Pope Francis said “The Spirit is the wind pushing us forward, keeping us going, that makes us feel like pilgrims and foreigners and doesn't allow us to get comfortable and become sedentary.....

HOPE collects the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into energy”.

This Pentecost, pray that we shall all be filled with the Holy Spirit and be full of hope.

How well do we know the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The **Seven Gifts** of the Holy Spirit are

Wisdom, Understanding Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge Piety Fear of the Lord.

The **Twelve Fruits** of the Holy Spirit are

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty,

Self-Control and Chastity.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.....

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V.Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R.And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O, God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Holy Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever enjoy rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ Our Lord.

R.Amen.

7th SUNDAY IN EASTER
21st May 2023

World Communications Day

TODAY is World Communication Day 2023. The theme for this year's world day of social communications, chosen by Pope Francis, is '**speaking with the heart**'.

We are charged with the responsibility of genuinely encountering one another so that our love for each other may become stronger. In keeping with this high undertaking, we petition the Lord now on behalf of those who are especially in need. For the full message visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd23-papal-message/>

“The call to speak with the heart, radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth”. Pope Francis

6th SUNDAY IN EASTER

14th May 2023

The Ascension of the Lord – THURSDAY 18th May

“...HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN...” (Creed)

THURSDAY's celebration of Our Lord's Ascension gives us much to ponder and treasure in our heart.

Our Lord has completed everything the Father had given Him to do, crowned by the Paschal Mystery, and now He is returning to the Father. His joy is complete, and He invites us to share His joy.

Our true joy is to share His joy!

He goes to prepare a place for us. Heaven is where we truly belong, to be with God for all eternity. Our Lord has prepared a place for us. He is calling us "so that where I am, you may be too".

Do I live with heaven as my goal and true homeland?

We are never alone: in his Ascension He promises that He will be with us always, "Yes, to the end of time".

He is always present to us: *are we always wanting to make ourselves present to Him?*

My Mission and purpose in this world is to share in the Mission Jesus gave the infant Church at His Ascension: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News..."

Our Lord shares His life fully with us through the Church: do we seek to bring others to share His life through the Church?

"Gladden us with holy joys, Almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son in our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope".

(Thursday's Collect)

5th SUNDAY IN EASTER

7th May 2023

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The Coronation of King Charles III took place yesterday on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, in a service steeped in centuries of tradition and rich in Christian symbols

and values.

The Presidents of Churches Together in England (including Cardinal Vincent) issued the following statement encouraging Christians to join in prayer for the newly crowned King:

“The Coronation of King Charles III is a moment of great importance and joy for this nation. As Presidents of CTE (Churches Together in England), we invite Christians from all traditions to join together prayer, for both the King and the nation”.

On Sunday 7th May

A Prayer of Intercession for the King. The National Anthem will be sung at the end of the 10am Mass.

LIVE STREAMING: All our masses are live streamed every day. The **LIVE STREAM** is also on **24/7**, this maybe of comfort to some people who are unable to sleep or would like to view the Sanctuary outside of Mass times or church opening times. Can access the stream by visiting our page at: <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinfields> and clicking on the live feed button.

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY

30th April 2023

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

TODAY is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood.

There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, as well as two men studying in Rome and two in Valladolid. Last year five men were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ’s call to dedicate their lives to serve God’s people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations Thank you for your generosity.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III. A TRIDUUM OF PRAYER:

- From Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th at **ADORATION** 5:00pm-5:50pm with prayers for King Charles.
- On Friday evening 5th May our 6pm Mass is for the intentions of the King.
- On Sunday 7th May a Prayer of Intercession for the King and the National Anthem at the end of each Mass.

+ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

23rd April 2023

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood.

The motto of Allen Hall, where the men training for the ordained priesthood live and study, is *Vivamus in spe* – May we live in hope.

Now, more than ever, as the nation faces an unprecedented challenge and there are so many people in desperate situations across our Diocese, that hope is needed.

Our seminarians work in parishes, schools, hospitals and hospices, as well as prisons, with refugees, and anywhere where a Catholic presence can make a contribution.

In all they do, they strive to be formed in the image of Him who came not to be served, but to serve. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, countries, and religious congregations. However, despite their differences, their desire to be formed in the image of Christ unites them, and creates an even stronger bond to their faith.

We currently have 48 men in formation at Allen Hall, including 14 for Westminster Diocese. Another two are pursuing their studies in Rome. To form and educate a new priest costs £25,000 per year: that's around £150,000 over the total course of training.

Please do support our seminarians in their vital mission. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will also take place next weekend please take an envelope home with you today and return next weekend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Returns TODAY Sunday 23rd April and every Sunday at 10am Mass. Children from Reception to year 2 included are welcome to attend. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to the crypt and can then come up to the main church.

+ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 16th April 2023

The Divine Mercy Devotion

From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

+ EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION **9th April 2023**

THE LORD IS RISEN, Alleluia

HE IS RISEN INDEED Alleluia

This ancient Christian greeting, said on meeting one another during Eastertide, should surely be recovered and used again – encouraging us to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord.

THE RESURRECTION is a supernatural event, a clear break with the natural order, Jesus is raised from the dead through the power of God, and in sharing this victory we are “*saved*”. To reduce our understanding of life to the natural order alone is to miss out on the full reality of human existence: life is so much more wonderful, beautiful and exciting when we can see everything in the light of the Risen Lord!

WE ARE WITNESSES to our Risen Lord because we choose to believe and trust the witnesses who saw Him, believing the accounts of the Risen Lord in the Sacred Scriptures, and also believing the Church who has faithfully handed on the message to us.

TRUST and **FAITH** is at the heart of our believing.

Wishing you all a Blessed and joy-filled Easter.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

PALM SUNDAY – PASSION OF THE LORD **Sunday 2nd April 2023**

Holy Week & Easter

Holy Week is the most important week in the Christian year. Pope Francis says “Holy Week” is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with Him is shown in times of difficulty”. The best way to draw near to Our Lord is to participate as much as

possible the liturgies of the Church.

PALM SUNDAY — the commemoration of Our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted with praise and thanksgiving, the waving and strewing of palms. We too carry palms, then take them home to put with our household crucifix.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM —the 3 Holy Days of the Paschal Mystery

HOLY THURSDAY —**The MASS of THE LORD’S SUPPER** at 6:00pm commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the total gift of Himself to us as the Bread of Life. Afterwards, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. After this mass the consecrated hosts are taken to the “altar of repose”. All are invited to spend some time with Him, learning to be with Him in His suffering. The church is stripped of its candles and linens, all holy water is removed and the sacraments are not celebrated until Easter. It is a time of mourning, but always lived in light of the Resurrection.

GOOD FRIDAY — A day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting applies to those 18-60: no meat (abstinence) and only one simple meal and two small ones, and no food in between. Do all you can to be at **THE LITURGY OF THE LORD’S PASSION AND DEATH** at 3:00pm, the hour at which Christ died on the Cross.

HOLY SATURDAY — the Church waits in the Lord’s tomb, reflecting on his Passion and Death, waiting with faith, prayer and fasting the glorious Resurrection. Mary is waiting with us. We gather at 8:00pm to celebrate the Vigil Mass of the Resurrection, to celebrate in readings and song how God prepared His People for the Resurrection and conclude with the First Mass of Easter

EASTER CARDS: Please do take an Easter card home with you as you leave today, all the Easter Liturgies are inside the card.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES 2023

Palm Sunday 2nd April:

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

Vigil Mass (Saturday 1st April): 6:00pm

Mass (IN LATIN) 8:30am

Sunday Mass 10:00am

Sunday Mass 6:00pm

Monday of Holy Week (3rd April):

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

Mass 6:00pm

Tuesday of Holy Week (4th April):

Chism Mass 12 noon

(*Westminster Cathedral*): *Live Streamed*

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

Mass 6:00pm

Wednesday of Holy Week (5th April):
Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm
Mass 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday (6th April):
Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 6:00pm
Procession to the Altar of Repose
Watching before the Blessed Sacrament
Night Prayer 10:00pm
The Church will stay closed until Good Friday 9.00am

Good Friday (7th April) –
Day of Fasting & Abstinence:
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 10:00am
Stations of the Cross for children 10:30am
SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION 3.00pm
Stations of the Cross &
Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross 6:00pm

Holy Saturday (8th April):
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 10:00am
Confessions: 7:00pm-7:45pm
EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER – 8:00pm

Easter Sunday (9th April):
Sung Mass in Latin 8:30am
Sung Mass in English 10:00am
Easter Monday (10th April)
Mass 10:00am
Easter Tuesday (11th April)
Normal Mass times resume

5th SUNDAY IN LENT
26th March 2023

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - 25th March 2023

Bhp John Sherrington writes: At the General Audience on Wednesday, the Holy Father made the following statement about the Solemnity of the Annunciation this Saturday.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord will be celebrated on Saturday and our thoughts turn to March 25 of last year, when, in union with all the Bishops of the world, the Church and humanity were consecrated, especially Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us never tire of entrusting the cause of peace to the Queen of Peace. I therefore wish to invite each believer and community, especially prayer groups, to renew the act of consecration to Our Lady every March 25, so that she, who is a Mother, may keep us all in unity and peace.

And let us not forget, in these days, battered Ukraine, which is suffering so much.

A copy of the prayers are available at the back of the church, please take a copy home with you today.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION - 25th March 2023

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ.

The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

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THE CARDINALS APPEAL 2023

There will be a retiring collection **TODAY** after each Mass. Funds raised this year will be

shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please return your envelopes today. For more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: WED 6:30pm and FRI 6:30pm

Inspirational Quotes for The Lenten Season

1. "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." -- *Pope Francis*
2. "Are you capable of risking your life for someone? Do it for Christ." -- *Pope St John Paul II*
3. "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." -- *Blessed Teresa of Calcutta*
4. "Prayer is where the action is." -- John Wesley
5. "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." -- *Pope St. Gregory the Great*
6. "Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." - *Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*
7. "Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ; discipline your body; do not pamper yourself, but love fasting." -- *Saint Benedict*
8. "Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." -- *Pope Benedict XVI*

LENT PRAYER - LORD, GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO:

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith.

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4th SUNDAY IN LENT

19th March 2023

“LAETARE” (“Rejoice”) SUNDAY

TODAY we are invited to **REJOICE**, because the coming celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection (**the Paschal Mystery**) is fast approaching. May our rejoicing energise us to use this second half of Lent as well as we can to prepare for Easter.

THE FEAST OF JOSEPH: Monday 20th March

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: Saturday 25th March

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

12th March 2023

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:

TODAY -There will be an Appeal and retiring collection from the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Foundation of St. Anne's began in 1876 in Queens Drive, Dalston. Later the Little Sisters built a Home in Manor Road. Please give generously as always.

THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 11TH - 19TH MARCH 2023 AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH IN MAIDENHEAD.

Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Society patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Saturday (11th and 18th) at 10am; Sunday (12th and 19th) at 11am; Monday - Friday (13th - 17th) at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, Masses from St Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website:

www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet.

Please write to Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, telephone 01628 673178, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

THE NOVENA WILL BE RECITED EACH EVENING AFTER MASS HERE AT ST ANSELM AND ST CÆCILIA'S FROM 11TH - 19TH MARCH 2023. NOVENA LEAFLETS WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH EVENING.

**2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
5th March 2023**

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2023 (extract)

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend “a high mountain” in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – asceticism – as God’s holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration.....

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations. Full text available at: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/20230125-messaggio-quaresima.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/20230125-messaggio-quaresima.html)

**1st SUNDAY IN LENT
26th February 2023**

LENT: 40 days and nights

In these days we seek to identify with Our Lord’s experience in the desert and so come to know and love Him better.

It was the Holy Spirit who led Him into the desert, and we shall only keep a good Lent in so far as we keep asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. Our Lord was tempted by the Devil, and, if we are intent on following Our Lord, so shall we be tempted — to give up, to make the things of this world (food, drink, possessions, status and money) the treasures of our heart. This is why we must emphasise the disciplines of Lent: **PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING.**

Practising these liberates us from our self-centredness and self-indulgence. We need always to ask the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the help of the angels, just as Our Lord experienced this in the desert. There is the wonderful prayer to St Michael the Archangel to keep us from

the influence of the Devil and bad spirits.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: WED 6:30pm and FRI 6:30pm

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

(written by Pope Leo XIII in 1884)

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle;
Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke Him, we humbly pray,
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God, cast into Hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits,
who wander through the world, for the ruin of souls.
Amen.*

CHILDRENS LITURGY: Will begin here **TODAY** Sunday 26th February (1st Sunday of Lent) at 10am Mass. Children from Reception to year 2 included are welcome to attend. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to the crypt and can then come up to the main church.

PLEASE DO USE THE NEW CONTACTLESS MACHINES IN THE CHURCH FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS, INCLUDING, OFFERTORY, 7-9 DAY CANDLES, VOTIVE CANDLES, REPOSITORY AND MASS INTENTION. THANK YOU.

LENT PRAYER - LORD, GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO:

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
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Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith.

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19th February 2023

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023

CARDINAL VINCENT writes... "On Wednesday, Lent begins. I write today to give you every possible encouragement to use these weeks of Lent to refresh and deepen your faith. As we have just heard from the Book of Leviticus: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.' (Leviticus 19:2). This is a heartfelt plea. While there are so many challenges facing us all at this time, our faith underpins everything we do. The gift of faith gives our lives an enduring purpose and stability. A faith that is refreshed and deepened helps us to be gracious, steadfast and even robust in every circumstance".

Please do take a copy of the full Pastoral letter at the back of the church on your way home or visit our website for a digital copy: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/lincolnsinnfields/>

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

CARDINAL'S PASTORAL LETTER

On Wednesday, Lent begins. I write today to give you every possible encouragement to use these weeks of Lent to refresh and deepen your faith. As we have just heard from the Book of Leviticus: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy' (Leviticus 19:2). This is a heartfelt plea. While there are so many challenges facing us all at this time, our faith underpins everything we do. The gift of faith gives our lives an enduring purpose and stability. A faith that is refreshed and deepened helps us to be gracious, steadfast and even robust in every circumstance.

I put before you today three ways of refreshing and renewing your faith. They are these: a renewed focus on Jesus; a fresh readiness to bear witness to him; and, thirdly, a conscious effort to build community and compassion wherever you may be.

Let me speak about each one.

First, during these weeks of Lent please do all you can to place Jesus at the heart of your lives. Our relationship with him is the foundation of all we strive for, our abiding strength and our source of hope and joy. Without this relationship our faith loses its heart and warmth, becoming a matter of outward observance rather than inner wonder.

There can be no friendship with our Blessed Lord unless we give him space in our hearts. We need a time of prayer every day when we can simply talk to him, bringing him our worries and our joys.

When and where you pray doesn't matter; just whatever suits you. Pray in a style that appeals to you, whatever that may be. But, please, do it! And encourage each other to do so, whether in family prayer or with friends, in each other's company or even over Zoom. Jesus is there, waiting to embrace you, to rejoice in your achievements, to comfort you in your trials. Please give him space in your day, every day. After all, St Paul reminds us: 'You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God' (1 Corinthians 3:23).

Now the second aspect of the renewal I hope you can find is this: please let this faith, this relationship with the Lord, express itself when you are with other people.

I am certainly not asking you to find a soapbox or in any way to force your faith onto others.

No. But there are many moments when speaking of the goodness of the Lord is quite appropriate. For example, when someone is sharing with you their sorrow or distress, please don't hesitate to tell them you will pray for them. Or when you come across a person who is feeling alone or neglected, please do speak to them of the love of the Lord and the consolation you find in his presence.

In the recent Synodal discussions, many people expressed concern for those who feel excluded from the Church, often because of their understanding of Church teaching. We must remember that the teachings of the Church flow from words spoken by our Blessed Lord to those striving to be close to him. Yes, they are sometimes very demanding. But they are teachings which he gives us in love, invitations which are life-giving. When we hear his voice speaking to our inmost heart, we can grasp the real meaning of those teachings. When we attend to his voice, we can hear it resonating in the voice of the Church. Only with this attentiveness to him can we truly explain to others the beauty of his teaching.

When we fix our eyes on the Lord, feelings of exclusion can be overcome. We can appreciate more deeply that we are, each of us, made in the image and likeness of God. He has an embrace for everyone. He excludes no one. He offers an invitation to each person to come and follow him. As we respond to that invitation, we become aware of a need for a change of heart and behaviour, in one area of life or another, even though each of us makes progress in his way only gradually, step by small step.

The third thing I ask of you this Lent is to refresh in your lives the way you put faith into action.

Here I want to highlight just one thing: in every circumstance, whether at home or school, at work or leisure, strive to be 'a bond of connection between persons' (St John Henry Newman). Building for others a sense of being accepted is a genuine first expression of the life that Jesus offers. When we recognise and respect the goodness in every person we meet and strive, however simply, to reach out to them, we put faith into practice. Can we echo in our actions just a little of that truth in today's Psalm that 'The Lord is compassion and love'? Building community, breaking down hostilities is doing the work of our Blessed Lord. It is a work so much needed in our troubled world. Every day will bring opportunities to do this. I hope that in the days of this Lent, each of us will make an extra effort to put our faith in the Lord into practice in this special way. This is the appeal of today's Gospel message: a generous love that overcomes hostility!

One of my favourite saints is St Francis of Assisi. There is a lovely story, or maybe a legend, about him that I want to tell. It is said that towards the end of his life, when he was near to death, he gathered his followers together. Looking round he said to them: 'Brethren, let us begin to love the Lord because so far we have made little progress!' Well, if such a great saint can say those words, so can each of us.

My appeal to you, then, is very simple. This Lent, try to make a little more progress in prayer, in speaking of Our Blessed Lord to others, and in being a bearer to others of his compassion and love.

And please pray for me, as I will most certainly pray for you.

Yours devotedly,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th February 2023

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2023 (Saturday 11th Feb)
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS**

POPE FRANCIS

“Take care of him ” - Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing

Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true “field hospital”, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

The World Day of the Sick calls for prayer and closeness towards those who suffer. Yet it also aims to raise the awareness of God’s people, healthcare institutions and civil society with regard to a new way of moving forward together. The above-quoted prophecy of Ezekiel judges harshly the priorities of those who wield economic, cultural, and political power over others: “You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them” (34:3-4). God’s word is always illuminating and timely; not only in what it denounces, but also in what it proposes. Indeed, the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity, which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organized care. The elements of the inn, the innkeeper, the money and the promise to remain informed of the situation (cf. Lk 10:34

35) all point to the commitment of healthcare and social workers, family members and volunteers, through whom good stands up in the face of evil every day, in every part of the world.

On 11 February 2023, let us turn our thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God’s people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and

no one should be discarded or left behind.

To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing. **Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2023 POPE FRANCIS**

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th February 2023

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023

TODAY is **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** the theme for this year's Racial Justice Sunday is:

'All are included in the mission of Christ and his Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together.'

It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation'.

As Catholics we believe that every human being is created equally in the image of God. It is important to consider how we can better reflect this in our own actions, both as individuals and part of the wider Church.

Questions for reflections and for more information visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/rjs23-questions/>

Catholics are called to pray for those who experience unjust discrimination or are marginalised because of their race and ethnicity. We think in particular of those who feel they do not belong within our society or our communities because of this discrimination.

As Catholics we are asked to treat all humans with dignity, regardless of their background or circumstance.

There are many stories of alienation throughout the Bible, with clear calls to "Love the stranger". That the Church is a place where all belong is clearly seen in the recent Feast of the Epiphany, when Christ is revealed not only to the Israelites, but to all of God's people.

A prayer for Racial Justice

God of our past, present and future, As we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism you created each one of us in your image lead us this day to walk with one another, and likeness, pray with one another and work together, help us to recognise you in each person. so that we create a future based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29th January 2023

HOW TO BE HAPPY

GOD made us with a deep longing for happiness. We experience this longing and spend much time finding ways to be happy — often becoming frustrated in our search! Today's Gospel is the

BEATITUDES, which is Our Lord's teaching on the way to find true happiness.

Given the Beatitudes are Our Lord's own teaching as the way to find true happiness, should we not know them by heart so we can treasure them and put them into practice? This week, let us use them each day in our daily prayer, and, like Our Lady, ponder and treasure this teaching in our heart. Remember, Pope Francis says we should all carry a copy of the Gospel in our pocket or bag — the Beatitudes are found in Matthew 5:1-12.

The Beatitudes are essentially Our lord's way of life, and they are our way to true happiness. We can live them with the help of His grace.

Pope Francis also wants us to be very concrete, and so suggests we examine ourselves often in light of questions we shall be asked on Judgement Day. We read them in Matthew 26: 31-46.

We may find our own responses uncomfortable — but do not lose heart....we can begin again, today and every day.

Every Blessing, Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION, (Thursday 2nd Feb 2023) often called **CANDLEMAS**, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple, which occurred 40 days after his birth as prescribed by the Jewish law. According to Mosaic Law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days. Also, she was to remain 33 days "in the blood of her purification. "Luke tells us, quoting (Exodus: 2, 12) that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem because every firstborn child was to be dedicated to the Lord. They also went to sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons. This lowly offering showed that Mary and Joseph were most likely poor. Once in the Temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon, in the presence of Anna the prophetess. Simeon, upon seeing the Messiah, gave thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the *Nunc Dimittis*:

"Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled: My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."

Simeon told Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon thus foreshadowed the crucifixion and the sorrows of Mary at seeing the death of her Son.

The name **CANDLEMAS** is derived from the activities associated with the Feast. It came to be known as “*the Candle Mass*”. In the Western Church, a procession with lighted candles is the distinctive rite.

(Compiled by David Bennett: for more information visit: <https://prayerist.com/candlemasprayers.html>)

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22nd January 2023

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

POPE FRANCIS has made this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (**today!**) an opportunity to deepen our devotion to the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God.

“Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.” Pope Francis

THE SACRED SCRIPTURES (the Bible) are the inspired Word of God. God speaks to us in a particular way when we read them with faith and love. Like **Our Lady** we need to ponder them and treasure them in our heart.

St Paul writes: “All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for:

1. Teaching
2. Refuting error
3. Guiding people’s lives
4. Teaching them to be holy

This is how the person who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work”

(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

READ THE SCRIPTURES therefore every day, even if only a few verses. We should feast on them more than food and drink!

RESOLUTION: decide today to be committed to reading the Sacred Scriptures every day.

1. Give the Bible a special place of prominence in your house. Hold it with reverence. The priest kisses the Gospel after proclaiming it at Mass: we do well also to kiss the Bible as we use it.

2. If we are beginning again, why not start with St Mark’s Gospel, a clear and simple presentation of what Jesus said and did?

Or, the First Letter of John, a beautiful presentation of how to come back to God with all our heart.

WHATEVER WE DECIDE, DO SOMETHING!

Every Blessing, Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

Sunday 15th January 2023

56th WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Holy Father’s 2023 Message for World Peace Day is: **“No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.”**

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

To read the message in full visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

PAX CHRISTI PRESIDENT: A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM MCMAHON: 2022 has been a year of war and rumours of war. Lives lost, people displaced, fear and suspicion overwhelming many communities around the world. These wars are also contributing to the destruction of our environment. Sometimes it feels as though we have moved backwards in our efforts to bring peace and justice to our world.

However, the constant, faithful voice of Pope Francis urges us to keep going. Whether he is speaking about Ukraine and Russia, Yemen or the Middle East, his message is always the same: No to war and no to the trade in weapons that fuel war. His All Saints Angelus message offers these questions: ‘Brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace?’ to support **PAX CHRISTI** or to donate visit: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

Prayer for Peace

God, our Creator and Redeemer, May we see the sorrow of war in the eyes of those who suffer

and have known only violence in their lives.

Give us a voice for those who have no voice and are not heard; those who know that there is no tomorrow in war, and that the violence of weapons destroys both the beauty of creation and the joy of life.

That way, with your help, will we become true instruments of your peace. Amen

(adapted from Pope Francis’ Address for the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Assisi, 2016)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD [EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)
Sunday 8th January 2023



The Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

When, at this late hour of my life, I look back on the decades I have wandered through, I see first of all how much reason I have to give thanks. Above all, I thank God Himself, the giver of all good gifts, who has given me life and guided me through all kinds of confusion; who has always picked me up when I began to slip, who has always given me anew the light of his countenance. In retrospect, I see and understand that even the dark and arduous stretches of this path were for my salvation and that He guided me well in those very stretches.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in difficult times and prepared a wonderful home for me with their love, which shines through all my days as a bright light until today. My father's clear-sighted faith taught us brothers and sisters to believe and stood firm as a guide in the midst of all my scientific knowledge; my mother's heartfelt piety and great kindness remain a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough. My sister has served me selflessly and full of kind concern for decades; my brother has always paved the way for me with the clear-sightedness of his judgements, with his powerful determination, and with the cheerfulness of his heart; without this ever-new going ahead and going along, I would not have been able to find the right path.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the co-workers at all stages of my path; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I would like to thank the Lord for my beautiful home in the Bavarian foothills of the Alps, in which I was able to see the splendour of the Creator Himself shining through time and again. I thank the people of my homeland for allowing me to experience the beauty of faith time and again. I pray that our country will remain a country of faith and I ask you, dear compatriots, not to let your faith be distracted. Finally, I thank God for all the beauty I was able to experience during the various stages of my journey, but especially in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second home.

I ask for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart from all those whom I have wronged in some way.

What I said earlier of my compatriots, I now say to all who were entrusted to my service in the Church: Stand firm in the faith! Do not be confused! Often it seems as if science - on the one hand, the natural sciences; on the other, historical research (especially the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures) - has irrefutable insights to offer that are contrary to the Catholic faith. I have witnessed from times long past the changes in natural science and have seen how apparent

certainties against the faith vanished, proving themselves not to be science but philosophical interpretations only apparently belonging to science - just as, moreover, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith has learned to understand the limits of the scope of its affirmations and thus its own specificity. For 60 years now, I have accompanied the path of theology, especially biblical studies, and have seen seemingly unshakeable theses collapse with the changing generations, which turned out to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann, etc.), the Marxist generation. I have seen, and see, how, out of the tangle of hypotheses, the reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging anew. Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life - and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body.

Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord may admit me to the eternal dwellings, despite all my sins and shortcomings. For all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes out day after day.

Benedictus PP XVI.

Following the funeral, Cardinal Nichols said: he was collecting his memories of Pope Benedict during the Mass and considered his last homily before retiring as pope. In it, Benedict used the image of Jesus asleep in the back of the boat when the storm came on the Sea of Galilee and the disciples were frightened. The Cardinal repeated Archbishop Georg Gänswein's recollections: "He said, Benedict used to say, 'but now Jesus never sleeps and he's always with us.' So during the Mass I was thinking about those things and, quite simply, how lovable Benedict was and therefore thanking God for the gifts that He gave us through him." To read or hear the Cardinals full reflection visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-benedicts-funeral-an-unshakable-expression-of-faith-and-trust-in-the-promises-of-jesus-said-cardinal-nichols/>

THE SACRAMENTS: A series of DVD presentations by Bishop Robert Barron. Mondays at 6.45pm in the parish room. From 9th January 2023. Stephen Osborne has produced 7 contemporary paintings based on the administering of the Sacraments at St Anselm and St Cæcilia's and will display them each week prior to the DVD screenings. See Flyers at the back of the church.