

CHURCH of Ss ANSELM & CÆCILIA, KINGSWAY, WC2

Parish Office: 70 Lincolns Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3JA **Tel:** 0207 405 0376

Email: Lincolnsinnfields@rcdow.org.uk

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH 2025

THE GARDENER, THE FIG TREE AND THE PROMISE

TODAY'S GOSPEL: When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. We don't die in order. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster or a critical illness, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: Weds & Fri, 6:30pm

DVD EVENING: MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2025, in the parish room at 6.45pm. Bishop Robert Barron: **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: TUESDAY 25th MARCH 2025

The Annunciation was the moment when St Gabriel the Archangel communicated to Mary that she was to be the Mother of the Son of God, Mary also a daughter of God, gave her "Fiat" (Be it done) by which she conceived the Savior by the working of the Holy Spirit. Christians can always find meaning in this dialogue in which our Lady appears to us so humble yet so great. Through her consent to God's plan, she took part in the whole redemptive work of her Son, Jesus. We venerate her as the Mother of Christ and our Mother.

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE TO BUY: from either the Repository or the Sacristy. **The LENT: WALK WITH ME Booklet is ONLY £1.00** **The monthly Edition of the Magnificat: March 25: £6.50.**

PILGRIMAGE TO LISIEUX, SUNDAY 8th JUNE TO SUNDAY 15th JUNE 2025:

Holy Year 2025 - Centenary of the Canonization of St Thérèse.

Originally started by the late Canon Frank Hegarty, a former Parish Priest of St Anselm and St Cæcilia's, this annual pilgrimage is now in its 37th year. Travelling by coach from St Anselm and St Cæcilia's Church via Euro Tunnel to France and staying at the Hermitage in Lisieux. There will also be visits to Alençon (the birthplace of St Thérèse), Evreux, Bayeux, Arromanches and Honfleur. The cost is £710 per person for a twin/double room and £760 for a single room. Rooms are ensuite. For further

information please contact Stephen Osborne: 07870 769631 or email sta.osborne@gmail.com

FIRST THURSDAYS ORGAN RECITAL SERIES: The next recital will take place here on Thursday 3rd April at 1:10pm to be given by **Anthony Davie**.

MOIRA ANDREWS RIP: Moira Andrews along with her husband Denzil, were regulars here at St Anselm & St Cecilia for many years. Moira's family have advised her funeral service will be at Breakspear Crematorium in Ruislip (HA4 7SJ) on Thursday 3rd April at 2pm. Please remember her and her family at this time. May she rest in peace.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Lourdes Pilgrimage 25th July - 1st August 2025
Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Nicholas is now open via the online form at <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering Opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Wednesday 30th April.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS: A Mass for bereaved parents will be celebrated in the Cathedral by Bishop Paul McAleenan on Saturday 5th April at 2pm. All welcome.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: The annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will take place on Saturday 20th September 2025. Further information will be available in due course.

MASS INTENTIONS ARE USUALLY BOOKED AT LEAST 6 WEEKS AHEAD

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH 2025

Saturday 22nd March:

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Greta Jen Gap RIP

Sunday 23rd March:

8:30am Mass (In Latin)

3rd Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass

Pro Populo

6:00pm Mass

Pio & Desolina Costella RIP

Monday 24th March:

6:00pm Mass

David King RIP RD

Tuesday 25th March:

6:00pm Mass

Private Ints

Annunciation of the Lord

Wednesday 26th March:

6:00pm Mass

Holy Souls RIP

Thursday 27th March:

6:00pm Mass

Eileen & Patrick Connole RIP

Friday 28th March:

6:00pm Mass

Angela Madronero Vargas - RIP

Saturday 29th March:

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Arturo Balbin RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 30th March:

8:30am Mass (In Latin)

Pro Populo

4th Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass

Kathleen Carrick RIP

6:00pm Mass

Kennedy Mcewan RIP