

NEWSLETTER

**FOURTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT**

Let us serve Christ in the poor

Mercy is high in the list of the Beatitudes, ‘Blessed are the merciful’, says scripture, ‘for they shall obtain mercy.’ ‘Blessed is he who considers the needy and the poor.’ And again, ‘it is well with the man who deals generously and lends.’ We read elsewhere: ‘The righteous man is ever giving liberally and lending.’ Let us lay hold of this blessing and earn a name for understanding, let us be kind.

Even the night must not interrupt your works of pity. Do not say, ‘Go away and come back. I’ll give it to you tomorrow.’ Nothing must come between your intention and your carrying out your act of kindness. Kindness is the only thing which does not admit of delay.

‘Share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house’, and do so with joy and alacrity. ‘He who does acts of mercy,’ writes the Apostle, ‘[let him do so with cheerfulness’. Then your good deed is doubled by your readiness. On the other hand, what is offered reluctantly and under constraint is unwelcome and unadorned.

Good deeds must be cheerful, not doleful. ‘If you get rid of oppression and unfair preference’, as it is written, that is, meanness and scrutinizing, or ambiguity and grumbling, what will happen? What a great and wonderful thing this is! What a great reward awaits the man who does this!’ ‘Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily.’ Now who is there who does not long for light and healing?

If you are willing to listen to me, then, servants of Christ, his brothers and co-heirs, I say that we should visit Christ while there is opportunity, take care of him and feed him. We should clothe Christ and welcome him. We should honour him, not only at table, like some; not only with ointments, like Mary; not only with a sepulchre, like Joseph of Arimathea; nor with things which have to do with his burial, like Nicodemus, who love Christ only by half; nor finally with gold, incense and myrrh, like the Magi, who came before all those whom we have mentioned. But, as the Lord of all desires mercy and not sacrifice, and as compassion is better than tens of thousands of fat rams, let us offer him this mercy through the needy and those who are at present cast down on the ground. Let us do this so that, when we depart hence, they may welcome us into the eternal habitations, in the same Christ our Lord, to whom be glory for ever. Amen

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. I tell you this; anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did it for me.

St Gregory Nazianzen

<p><i>“As we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph on Thursday, let us pray for all fathers, that, through their example, they may demonstrate the loving provision and compassion of Almighty God to their children. Lord hear us”.</i></p>		<p>MASS INTENTIONS March 14th, 2026 6pm - Pro Populo March 15th, 2026 9 am — For Persecuted Christians 11 am - For our First Communion & Confirmation Children For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church. Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm or by appointment.</p>		
<p>A Prayer after Communion Grant O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things. We may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p><u>Readings for this & next Sunday</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1792 785 2136"> 1st Reading– 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7; 10-13 Psalm 23; 1-6, R 1 2nd Reading - Ephesians 5;8-14 Gospel - John 9; 1-41 </td> <td data-bbox="785 1792 1165 2136"> 1st Reading— Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; 1-8. R.7 2nd Reading - Romans 8; 8-11, Gospel – John 11; 1-45, </td> </tr> </table>		1st Reading– 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7; 10-13 Psalm 23; 1-6, R 1 2nd Reading - Ephesians 5;8-14 Gospel - John 9; 1-41	1st Reading— Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; 1-8. R.7 2nd Reading - Romans 8; 8-11, Gospel – John 11; 1-45,
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Lenten Appeal: "Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love."

Our annual Lenten Appeal across the Diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through **Education, Youth & Evangelisation**, and **Marriage & Family Life**, the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith, and strengthens families within our parishes. Through **Social Action**, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone.

Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. To donate today please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal. Alternatively, envelopes are available in church. Thank you for your support and for helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

Please support the Lenten Appeal 2026



You can help young people in our Diocese

You can make a difference to people in need who are hungry or alone

Please make a gift today

To donate now, scan the QR code or visit rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal



Diocese of Westminster

Reg. Charity No: 233099



Scan Me



Stations Of The Cross

From Friday 20th and throughout Lent we shall have Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Should you wish to lead the Stations, then let the Parish Office know and indicate which Friday you wish to lead.

Holy Hour

From 21st Saturday we shall have Holy Hour commencing at 5pm.



Dear Friends, Peace be with you.

In 2019, a group from the Parish went to the Holy Land. During our time there we had the pleasure of visiting Bethlehem University; meeting the staff and students, with great difficulty they pursue their education, to obtain the relevant degrees. Now, the University in these difficult times in the Middle East is making an appeal. I urge you to read the letter and if you can make a donation to the University, in their continued efforts give education to the young people of Palestine. Fr Christopher

Grace and peace to you.

It was eleven (11) days ago when I last wrote to you saying "as the region enters yet another moment of deep uncertainty and escalation, Bethlehem University continues its mission of educating and forming young leaders for Palestine, grounded in faith, dignity, and hope."

Today, I write to you from Bethlehem with a heavy heart, yet also with deep faith and hope, as our University community continues to endure the painful effects of the ongoing war and the worsening conditions in Bethlehem and throughout the region.

In these difficult days, our first concern remains the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. Because of the surrounding dangers, all academic instruction last week and this week is being conducted online so that our students may continue their studies in safety. Even amid fear, uncertainty, and emotional strain, they and their faculty are persevering with courage. Their determination is a powerful witness to hope - and a testimony to the sacred mission of education entrusted to us by the Church.

Our administrative and support staff, too, have shown extraordinary dedication. Many continue to report to campus on staggered schedules in order to sustain the essential operations of the University. Others, because of military blockades and severe additional restrictions on movement, have been unable to reach campus and are carrying out their responsibilities remotely whenever possible.

Yes, the burden we as a University now face is grave. The deepening economic crisis is making what has been difficult, now far more serious, if not impossible, for many of our students and their families - that is, to meet tuition obligations. As a result, Bethlehem University may soon face worsening difficulty in meeting salary commitments and maintaining essential operations in the weeks ahead.

This is not simply a financial challenge. It is a human one. Behind these numbers are students striving to complete their education, families already carrying immense burdens, and faculty and staff who continue to serve faithfully under extraordinarily difficult conditions. In a time of war, Bethlehem University remains a sign of hope, a place of learning, and a vital Christian presence of hope in the Holy Land serving our Muslim and Christian communities in Palestine. We know that we do this not alone - and we are most grateful for your prayers and support.

I therefore ask for your help, and I ask with urgency.

Your gift at this critical moment will help Bethlehem University sustain its academic mission, support its dedicated faculty and staff, and remain a source of stability and hope for young people whose lives are being deeply shaken by conflict.

Please keep Bethlehem University and all the people of the Holy Land in your prayers. And if you are able, please consider making a special gift today.

https://www.bethlehem.edu/aboutbu/admin-offices/advancement-office/ways-to-give/?blm_aid=232506

With gratitude for your compassion, solidarity, and steadfast support, I remain,
Br. Herman Santos, FSC, PhD
Vice Chandellor

Our Contact Information

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Fr Christopher Silva

Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka

Parish Administrator

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Mrs Diane Winship - Safeguarding Representative

Mr Tomasz Daszkiewicz - Data Protection

Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £186.00 envelopes: £297.00 contactless collection last weekend: £440.00
total: **£923.00**

Standing orders in 2026: January- £2436, February- £2941,

All donations of unwanted foreign currency for Mary's Meals has been counted and valued at **£407.00**

As a Charity, we rely on your weekly donations. We will be grateful for your financial support. Your New offertory envelopes will be available at the end of March for collection after Mass or from the parish office. If you wish to have an offertory envelope, then give your details to the parish office, where a new box of envelopes will be made available to you. Alternatively, you could make your donation via bank transfer. The parish account is on our website.

WRCDT CHARITY NO: 233699

Thank you for your Generosity

NEW DONATION BOXES FOR A TAX YEAR 2026/2027

ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM OUR SACRISTY

We have created a specified fund for utility bills & building maintenance and we encourage you to give specified donations towards one of the funds. As we need to share our general donation with the diocese, we find it difficult to meet our parish needs. Your donations towards a specified fund let us keep 100% of the money in our parish.

If you give by a card, just chose: utility bills or building maintenance on the screen, if you transfer by bank: type 'utility bills' or "building maintenance" in description, or you can give money in a prepared envelope that can be found on the table in the church's lobby.

Counting of the Collection

Dear Friends, To comply with guide lines set by the Diocese, they require us to create a Rota of Counters to Count the collection. Therefore we are appealing for volunteers who would be willing to count the collection after the 11 am Mass on a Sunday or on an alternative date. You need to count in pairs, with another member of our community. It will take probably half an hour, once a month if we have enough volunteers to cover each week. We also ask students of six forms to step forward. **If you are interested, please give your details into the Parish Office.** Hope we will hear from you, *Fr Christopher with Parish Finance Committee Members.*

"On 11 April 2026, we're hosting a fun charity event to raise funds for our local food bank, and we'd love for you to be involved. There'll be a barbecue, live music from a local band, a DJ, and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. We're also inviting the Church to set up a stall on the day. Whether it's baking, crafts, or anything else, to help support the cause. If you'd like to take part or find out more, please get in touch. Let's come together and support our community!"

Contact no: [020 7987 1365](tel:02079871365) Email: info@thewatermansarms.co.uk