



Catholic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Northfields
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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Duffy; Parish Deacon Rev Andrew Goodall
Pastoral Assistant: Anna Maria Dupelycz; Parish Administrator: Rosa Bambury
Alternative Number: 07787 048144 (Anna); northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk
Office Opening Hours 10.30am to 2.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Sacraments and Devotions:
Suspended until further notice.

Psalter Week 3

2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

Sunday 25th February 2024

Readings:

This Week (2nd Lent Year B) Genesis 22:1-2, Ps 115:10, Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

Next Week (3rd Lent Year B) Exodus 17:3-7, Ps 94:1-2, Romans 5:1-2; John 4:5-42

Reflection from Fr. Hilary February the 29th and the Calendar

I think the following is interesting – hope you find it so!

In 46BC Julius Caesar drew up a calendar which took its name from him – the Julian Calendar. Nothing quite like it existed before. Each year began in March so February was the last month. He fixed the months alternating with 31 and 30 days. March had 31 days, April 30 days, May 31 days and so forth. February had 30 days but that would have made 366 days for every year which was too much. So one was knocked off February leaving it with 29 days. September was the 7th month. It got its name from 'septem' the Latin for seven. So with October, the 8th month from 'octo', November, the 9th month from 'novem' and December, the 10th month from 'decem'.

The 5th month was named July after Julius Caesar. His nephew, Augustus, on becoming emperor, named the following month after himself but decided he too should have 31 days like his uncle! So August, already with 30 days now had 31. This created one day too many yet again and so poor old February had another day knocked off, being now reduced to 28. Keep in mind the Earth encircles the Sun in 365 days **and a ¼ day**.

It was to Julius Caesar's credit that he introduced the 365 day year with one leap day added every 4 years at the end of February which was the last month of the year. The leap year had to be divisible by 4. But even the leap years didn't correct things completely. Over a period of centuries real time became separated from calendar time. To complicate things the ¼ day attached to 365 isn't precisely 6 hours. It is about 11 minutes less! In the 4th century the Spring Equinox was falling on 21 March. By the 16th century it was on 11th March. If nothing was done things would get out of hand.

Step forward Pope Gregory XIII! He introduced a reformed calendar named after him. He removed 10 days to bring the Spring Equinox back to 21 March. This was in the year 1582.

The New Year was moved from March to January and the number of leap years was reduced slightly. This was achieved by laying down the rule that the turn of the new century had to be divisible by 400 not just 4. Hence 1600 and 2000 were leap years not 1700, 1800 or 1900. The next one will be 2400 but I can't hang around that long so I'm telling you now! All this should ensure that real time and calendar time don't get separated again.

The reformed calendar took effect on 5 October 1582 which became 15 October. Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar immediately but not the Protestant or Eastern Orthodox. England adopted it 170 years later in 1752 and Russia as late as 1917. In England there was an outcry "give us back our 10 days"!

I **think** I've got the facts right but I could be open to correction!

Lent

- 1. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout Lent from 8.30am.
- 2. Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated on Fridays during Lent after morning Mass, If you would like to lead on one of the Fridays, please sign up on the list in the sacristy.
- 3. Faith-Sharing "We Dare to Say"** is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring 5 sessions, each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Copies of the booklet are available from the back of the church at cost of £4 to be placed in the 'newspapers' wall slot above the hymnbooks. Large print copies also available.
- 4. Christian Meditation- Prayer of the Heart** Would you like to learn to meditate in Lent? There are opportunities to explore this either in person or on line. Do come along and join us in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings, 8pm-9pm OR there are opportunities to join groups that meet on line. To find out more, visit www.meditatiocentrelondon.org or to speak to a parish contact, email gabrieljones2015@gmail.com or mary.howley@mail.com
- 5. Music for Holy Week** :a) **Holy Thursday and Good Friday** Rehearsals for these Holy Week services will begin on Weds. 21st February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the church. (Entrance via the Parish Office on Felton Road.) b) **Easter Vigil** Rehearsals on Thursdays, 7.30pm. For more information on all rehearsals please contact Anna (northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk) Singers and musicians of any age welcome.

CAFOD Fast Day Appeal and collection **this weekend**.

Masses this week

Sunday 25th February (2nd Sunday Lent Year B)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Elizabeth & Patrick Owens (Ann.)
8.30am John Ryan (RIP.)
10.00am Martin Fernandes (Ann.)
11.30am Adrian Botley (RIP.)
6.00pm Kathleen Bierney (LD.)

Monday 26th February

9.30am Mary Boniface & Marriappan (Ann.)

Tuesday 27th February (St Gregory of Narek)

6.00pm Val McGovern (LD.)

Wednesday 28th February

9.30am Michael Carr (Ann.)

Thursday 29th February

No Mass

Friday 1st March (St David)

9.30am Peter & Elisa Joseph (Ann.)

Saturday 2nd March

No Morning Mass

Sunday 3rd March (3rd Sunday Lent Year B)

(Sat.) 6.00pm Benny Langan (Ann.)
8.30am Ali Sahabadi (RIP.)
10.00am Deceased members of Aiyadurai Family
11.30am Kieran Foley (Ann.)
6.00pm Francisco Rodrigues (RIP.)

Prayers for the Sick We pray for those suffering from illness and their carers, Peter Devlin, Madge Starr, Richard Chance, Sean Nally, Bridget Hopkins, Aimi McEwan, Doreen Foley, Anna Keane, Barbara Lennon Snr, Teresa Hartnett, Stephania Pullin, Geraldine Davison, Dave Mortby, Cerys Edwards, Andrew Chandiram, Kathleen Walsh, Donna O'Hagan, Ann Hagan, Alan Worman, Sankar Ghosh, M.S., Margaret Adu, Therese Biks, Shantha Kumari, Sagundala Devi, Victor Young, Ernst Barroclough, Giuseppe Ianotta, Barry Kiernan, Jane Spurr. Our Lady, help of the Sick, pray for us.

Prayers for those Recently Deceased and Anniversaries We pray for the repose of the souls of : Evelyn McNeely, Kathleen Bierney and Val McGovern. and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including Ellen Fitzgerald, Kathleen Reilly, Martin Fernandes, Elizabeth and Patrick Owens, Mary Boniface and Marriappan, Michael Carr, Peter and Elisa Joseph, Bennie Langan, Ali Sahabad, Francisco Rodrigues, Kieran Fowley, John Ryan, Adrian Botley May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Catechetics (Sacramental Preparation) Contact Anna initially on northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk or 07787 048144 with enquiries and queries. **Please include a mobile/phone number with your e-mail enquiry.** Please pray for candidates and their families during their time of preparation.

Infant Baptism Participation in a short preparation course is required before celebrating the sacrament. For more information, please contact Anna preferably by e-mail initially. Next course will begin in April.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Liturgy is aimed at children aged 3 -7 (Nursery to Year 2). If you would like to be involved as a leader or a helper, please contact Anna. DBS checks processed by the diocese are required for this role.

Thinking of Becoming Catholic? Or would like to know more about the Catholic faith? For more information on how to go about this, please contact Anna to arrange an informal chat in the first instance.

First Communion Preparation **Sat. 24th Feb.**, 4.00pm -5.30pm, Parish Hall: Reconciliation workshop: a repeat of the December session. **Weds. 28th:** Children's session for 'Peter' group, 6.00pm – 7.15pm, Parish Hall

Confirmation 2024 Preparation session for the fundraiser, **Sun. 25th Feb.** 4.00pm – 5.30pm, Parish Hall,

Getting Married? Six months' notice is required regardless of where the marriage is to take place. Please contact Anna to check on requirements. Paperwork should be completed in the parish of domicile. More information available on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/northfields/sacramental-prep/marriage-preparation/> A Marriage preparation course will take place on 16th and 23rd March, 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Please register with Anna at northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk

Liturgical Ministries:

Altar Servers New recruits required. Anyone of any age – from 8 to 80! - eligible as long as First Communion has been celebrated. Next Training **5th March at 6.30pm.** Please contact Deacon Andrew (andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk)

Readers Next session **27th February** Also, more adult readers needed for all Masses Please contact Anna or Deacon Andrew for more information.

Parents & Toddlers Wednesday mornings, term time only, in the Parish Hall, 9.30am – 11am, a great opportunity to meet with families of the parish and the local area. We are still looking for volunteers to help run the group. please contact Rosa or Anna in the office if you are interested.

Confirmation Fundraiser takes place next Sunday, **3rd March**, 9.00am – 1.00pm, Parish Hall, plus 'bucket' collection after all Masses. The group will be raising funds for the parish energy Project as an expression of their living out the Catholic social teaching principle of 'caring for the earth'. They will also be working together with 'Second Sunday' Coffee group in providing refreshments. Raffle and tombola prizes needed. Please bring contributions to the parish office from Monday. More importantly, support our young people in their efforts. Thank you!

'London Irish Social Group- Parish hall, **Thursday's 10am to 12.45pm.** All Welcome. .Contact Maria Connolly or Mary Whelan-O'Neill on 07592508680.

Are you a UK Taxpayer? As a parish we can claim the tax back on all donations received that have been gift aided, which increases your donation at no extra cost to yourself. Gift aid forms are available at the back of the church and we ask that you fill one in, stating the method you use to contribute and either leave in the box or return to the Parish office.

Safeguarding The Parish reps are Susie Worthington, northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk and Tracy Patterson northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk