**SUNDAY MARCH 1st, 2020. – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

*(Parish Mass Book P77)*

**ST MATTHEW’S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Parish Priest: Fr. Brian O’Mahony ([brianomahony@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianomahony@rcdow.org.uk))  
R.E. Coordinator Eileen O’Sullivan [eileenosullivan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:eileenosullivan@rcdow.org.uk)

Administration Assistant (and Hall Bookings) : Cheryl Myring (Mon-Fri 9am-11am)

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SATURDAY 29th 18.00 **Joe Da Cunha RIP**

SUNDAY 1st **[First Sunday of Lent]**

09.00 **People of the Parish**

11.15 **Tony Marano RIP**

18.00 **Jeff Stanley RIP**

*Weekday 10 am Masses preceded by Morning Prayer at 9:40*

MONDAY 2nd *[Lent Feria]*

10:00 **Maureen Cuss (Anniv)**

TUESDAY 3rd *[Lent feria]*

10:00 **Tom Grant (Anniv)**

WEDNESDAY 4th *[Lent feria]*

10:00 **Yui Shun Lee RIP**

THURSDAY 5th *[Lent feria]*

19.30 **Martha Feleppa (Sick)**

FRIDAY 6th *[Lent feria]*

10.00 **Stella Marie Fitzgerald RIP**

19:30*Stations of the Cross*

SATURDAY 7th *[Lent feria]*

10.00 **Elizabeth Duggan & Family Intn**

18:00 (Vigil) **Margaret Da Cunha (Thanksgiving)**

SUNDAY 8th **[Second Sunday of Lent]**

09.00 **Frances Wong (Thanksgiving)**11.15 **People of the Parish**

18.00 **Giuseppe Manfredi (Anniv)**

Masses and Services this week

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION(S)**

Offertory collection: £ 516.09

Many thanks, as always, for your generosity.

**RECENT CONCERN OVER COVID -19 (CORONA VIRUS)**

Some enquiries have been made about the Church’s response and guidance relating to this recent viral infection. This illness, which has generated much media attention, is currently relatively low-risk. To assist Catholics who are concerned, the Bishops Conference of England and Wales has created a link on their website to official government advice that can be followed for guidance.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/guidance-to-catholics-on-coronavirus/>

There is more detailed information about the current advice that we have been given now available on the noticeboards in the Church Porch.

At present the only changes to liturgical practice is that we ask anyone who has ‘flu-like sypptoms to refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, and also from receiving Holy Communion from the Chalice. If your neighbour refrains from shaking your hand, please respect this choice.

Shaking hands as a sign of peace is not the only action mandated by the Church’s rubrics, although it is the local cultural norm. Should any parishioner feel that another authentic sign is to be preferred, this is to be respected, in keeping with what the Church teaches about the sign-value of this act. For anyone who is interested in this symbolic act we share during the liturgy, an informative article can be found at <https://zenit.org/articles/sign-of-peace-an-option/>

**PARISH SICK LIST**

Please remember our sick parishioners in your prayers: John Cash, Stephen Byrne, Betty Conti, Margaret Wedgworth, Victor Kumarathasan, Jean Vaughan, Mrs Klavkowski, Michael Enskat, Laura Everest, Curzio Pirfo, Czeslaw Czaprowski, Mary Hodgison, Alexandre Silva, Bella King, Margaret Tso, Gerard O’Brien, John Donohoe, Margaret Saines, Mary Ahern, Dominic Manley, Cecil Cain, Eileen Murray, Kathleen Wood, Duncan Webster, Lisa Walker, James Elton, Michael Coyle, Timor Yonel, Jason Jackson, Luke Slater, Anna Benton, Joe Da Silva, Emma Quirke, Mary Wallace, Jacob Nuske, Susan Birley, Barrie Jervis, Ann Kelly.

**GENERAL PARISH NOTICES**

**Prayer during Lent**

**Stations of the Cross** each Friday in Lent at 7:30pm in the Church.

**‘Day by Day’ booklets** to guide us through the Lenten season with the daily Mass readings and reflections, are now vailable for £1.00. There are also infant and junior versions that may aid children to participate in Lent. Please place money in the ‘newspapers’ slot.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** before both the regular Saturday and Sunday evening Masses from 5pm, during which time Confessions will be available. The Church will be open daily, as usual.

**Lenten alms 2020**

Almsgiving is one of the three traditional disciplines that we exercise during Lent. This year our Lenten Alms will be split between a local project and an international or missionary one. Our local project is the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal, and our missionary project is to support the work of the Matumaini Project in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).

We have small collection boxes available to take home for anyone who wishes to have one. We hope that they will remind us of the Lenten commitments that we make as we journey towards Easter. These can be returned at the end of Lent.

We will also be supporting the CAFOD Lenten family fast day, in the customary manner. This year the Family Fast day is Friday March 6th.

**Lenten Talks - The Year of The Word**

We will host three talks during Lent to assist us in reflecting on the Year of the Word. These talks will all be held in the Fr Bebb Room, commencing at 8:15pm, following the 7:30pm Mass.

Our speakers will be:

**Thursday 5th March: Fr Brian,** St Matthew’s

**Thursday 19th March: Rabbi Dr Adrew Goldstein,** Rabbiemeritus of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue

**Thursday 26th March: Fr John Hemer MHM,** Scripture Studies Professor at Allen Hall Seminary

**ST PATRICK’S CELEBRATION**

Tickets for St Patrick’s Day are available this weekend. This event has already proved very popular, but tickets are still available. Please see Ann Grant or call her on 07968 248 898 to arrange yours.

**Raffle Prize Appeal**

Can you help us with supplying prizes for the raffle that we will hold on the night of the party? Donations of items such as bottles or other goodies that can be raffled will be gratefully accepted.

**PARENTS AND TODDLERS GROUP**

We are currently exploring whether there is interest in the parish in forming a weekly group for parents with young children to meet together to support each other socially, practically and spiritually. Please leave a message for Lizzy at the Parish Office if you might be interested.