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Parish Office is open:

Tues 12:30-3:30pm

Wed 11am -1pm

Fri 10:30am -1:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: First Sunday of Lent (B) 18th February 2018

Genesis 9:8-15 God gives us the rainbow as a sign of God's everlasting covenant with humankind.

1 Peter 3:18-22 God's will is to save us all. Baptism is God's pledge to us of this desire.

Mark 1:12-15 After being tempted in the wilderness by Satan, Jesus begins his proclamation of the Good News from God.

Mass this week

			<i>Intention</i>
Saturday 17 th	6:30pm		For Our Parishioners
Sunday 18 th	9:00am		Sister Bridget (Intention)
	10:30am		Peter Haney (anniversary)
Tuesday 20 th	7:30pm	Lent Weekday	Patrick Cleary (RIP)
Wednesday 21 st	9:15am	Chair of St Peter	Edmund Cleary (RIP)
Thursday 22 nd	9:15am	Lent Weekday	Timothy Clohessy (RIP)
Friday 23 rd	9:15am	Lent Weekday	Tom Ryan (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 5:45pm or by appointment.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for our keeping of Lent

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £533.51
Many thanks for all your generosity. We also receive approx £300 each week in bank standing orders from parishioners. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.

Friday 23rd February Pope Francis has called for this coming Friday to be marked by all Catholics as a day of fasting and prayer for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the South Sudan.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23 February On Friday 23 February can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat.. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. Please return your Fast Day envelope next week and give generously. Further information available at www.cafod.org.uk

The House of Prayer meets on Thursday morning, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive. New members most welcome.

A Call to Young Adults - Your Bishops Want to Hear From You. Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

Evangelisation Team: Our next meeting will be in the presbytery at 7:30pm on Wednesday 21st February. Our main focus will be our Welcome Pack. Thank you to those who have already contributed: if there are any other groups, activities, etc. in our parish who would like to be part of the Welcome Pack, please send Fr Philip something as soon as possible.

First Reconciliation: CHANGE OF DATE Most families will have heard already. Fr Philip has had to re-arrange the date of the First Reconciliation. This will now be a week later than originally scheduled. Please note that this is now on Saturday 3rd March at 11:30am. Will children and their families please be in Church in good time for this.

Penitential Service Friday 9th March from 7:30pm we will have an evening of adoration with the opportunity for Sacramental Reconciliation.

Beginning Experience There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 20th to 22nd April 2018 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For more details please telephone Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

CWL Coffee Morning The CWL will be serving refreshments in the Parish Hall after the Sunday morning Masses **next** weekend. There will be a cake stall and tombola, and tickets will be on sale for our Easter Hamper raffle. The Repository will be open as usual. Please come and support us.

Lent Lunches We and our partners in Churches Together in Royston & District will be running Lent Lunches for the next five Wednesdays in our Parish Hall, from 12 noon to 1.45pm. All proceeds go to

support the work of Christian Aid & CAFOD. They will be serving homemade soup, bread, cheese & fruit; the recommended donation is £3.50. The Year 6 pupils from St Mary's school will be waiting to serve you! EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Women's World Day Of Prayer Friday, 2nd March, at 2.15 pm at Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Melbourn Street, Royston. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname and the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good. All are welcome - men, women and young people - and refreshments will be served after the Service.

Faith Sharing Groups/Booklets 15 copies of the diocesan resource on the Holy Eucharist have been ordered. They cost £3 each and will be at the back of Church when we receive them.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the Parish Office with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). The closing date is 24th March.
Cleaning Rota Monday – Ruth Friday – Vanessa



During this Year B, our first reading on the Sundays of Lent, concern Covenants that the Lord made with his people: the Covenant with Noah this week; the Covenant with Abraham next week; the Covenant with Moses on the Third Sunday of Lent; the Covenant with David at Jerusalem focussed on the Temple on Lent 4 (OK, our reading that Sunday concerns the collapse of that Covenant and the fall of Jerusalem); and the prophetic promise of a New Covenant on Lent 5. In these we see God's constant purposes by which he acts so that his people may find peace, justice and flourishing in relationship to him.

Covenant comes from the Latin word *convenire* which means to come together. A covenant is a binding agreement by which partners 'come together' into a solemn relationship and commit themselves to each other and in which each accept responsibilities. Whereas a contract may be thought of as an exchange of goods or services for money or the equivalent, a covenant is about a public relationship, usually made in a public ceremony before witnesses, often marked by ritual actions and celebration meals. Perhaps the covenant we are most familiar with is marriage, which at least in the Catholic sacramental vision, is a covenant between husband and wife which echoes the first covenant God made between Adam and Eve, and commits the couple to a fruitful relationship sharing in the love of God revealed in Creation and in our redemption by Christ.

All the Covenants in Holy Scripture receive their fullness and decisive revelation in the New Covenant established in Jesus. Our season of Lent is our opportunity to refresh our commitment to this Covenant so that we may come renewed to the great celebration of that Covenant in Holy Week and Easter.

