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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole

Parish Office is open:

Tues 12:30-3:30pm

Wed 11am -1pm

Fri 10:30am -1:30pm

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### Mass this Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23 Despite the rejection of God by the leaders of the people, God engineers their return after exile through the unexpected agency of the Persian king, Cyrus.

Ephesians 2:4-10 God's love is so great that even when we were dead through our sins, God brought us to life in Christ.

John 3:14-21 A simple statement says so much: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

### Mass this week

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	
	10:30am	
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Lent Weekday
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Lent Weekday
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Lent Weekday
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Lent Weekday

### Intention

David Rainey (anniversary)  
Patricia Desmond (RIP)  
For Our Parishioners  
The Sisters of Providence (intention)  
**Bp David Cashman RIP**  
**Fr Walter Donovan RIP**  
**Fr Charles Connor RIP**

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

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for in memory of Alice Bristow (anniversary)

**Last Week's Offertory** This amounted to £553.47  
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.

**Lent Lunches** We and our partners in Churches Together in Royston & District will still be running Lent Lunches for the next two Wednesdays in our Parish Hall, from 12 noon to 1.45pm. All proceeds go to support the work of Christian Aid & CAFOD.

**Living between Two (or more) cultures** Fr Philip is engaged in a research project considering mission and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. He would value the help of those within our community who live between two cultures. What would be very good is to gather for an informal conversation to explore what it feels like to live here in Royston or district but to have a cultural background in India, the Phillipines, Africa, Central Europe or wherever. A meeting is proposed at 8pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Anyone is welcome and anyone who wants to know more is welcome to ask Fr Philip.

**Student Cross** Are you able to provide a bed for one or more pilgrim on the evening of Palm Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>

March)? Please sign up on the list at the back of Church as soon as possible. The presence of the pilgrims is an important part of our Holy Week.

**Parish Centenary** Our Church was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1919. Next year is therefore our Centenary Year. We have already invited Cardinal Vincent Nichols to come and celebrate with us on the Sunday nearest the Centenary Date. We are also thinking of a parish Mission next year and possible a significant Parish building project to mark 100 years of our parish church. There will be an initial meeting of a *Centenary Committee*, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm in the Presbytery for any willing to help prepare for this special year.

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

**Catholic Women's League** The CWL AGM takes place on Monday night in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

**CWL Easter Hamper Raffle** We will be selling tickets for our Easter raffle outside church after all Masses **this** weekend. Knitted chicks and rabbits filled with mini Easter eggs also on sale. Next Sunday will be our

last coffee morning before Easter and we will be drawing the raffle - last chance to buy raffle tickets. Please come and support us.

**First Holy Communion** The next parents meeting will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall and the children's workshop will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, also in the Parish Hall, at 11:30am (prompt start please!) until 1 pm. Please could the children bring their books with them and may we suggest a snack and drink **before** they attend the session to help with concentration. There will be a link Mass on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30.

**A Call to Young Adults** – Our bishops are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, 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. You are invited to attend one of these meetings to make your voice heard. Please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

**Romero Week 2018** There is a poster at the back of the Church about a talk on "Romero and the Social Challenges of El Salvador Today", in Cambridge, on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. See Poster for details.

**Cardinal's Lenten Appeal** This weekend please take a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet as you leave Mass. The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal funds the work of Catholic parishes, schools and charities in London and Hertfordshire contributing to three fundamental mission areas of the Church: *Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, and the Church's Social Outreach within Civil Society* Please consider making the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal part of your Lenten Almsgiving and sacrifice for the benefit of others, and to support the Church's dynamic efforts to increase outreach in these three focal areas of ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

**Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse** As requested by the Holy Father, Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent, 23rd March, has been designated by the Bishops' Conference as a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. Resources are available at <http://www.protectionofminors.va/content/tuteladei/minori/en.html>

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3pm The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>

**anniversaries** (and every year over 60) in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the Parish Office with your details by the closing date, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018: Volunteer Recruitment** The Diocesan Pilgrimage office is looking to recruit volunteers for medical/practical support of sick pilgrims for the 30th annual Lourdes pilgrimage this summer from 21st to 27th July 2018. Interested applicants are asked to contact the office on 0207 798 9173 or email [lourdes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdow.org.uk), [westminsterstfrai@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterstfrai@gmail.com)

**SPEC Volunteers** SPEC are now recruiting volunteers who are 18 years of age or older for the academic year commencing September 2018. SPEC are looking for young people enthusiastic about their faith and willing to share it with others, to spend a year living in community with other people their age; in return they receive formation in the faith, training in youth work, experience living in community. For information, email [spec@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:spec@rcdow.org.uk) or call 0203 757 2503.

**World Youth Day 2019** The next World Youth Day takes place in Panama, January 2019. The diocesan Youth Ministry team will be taking a group of young adults to Panama, from ages 18-35 from 20-30 January 2019. Any young people are invited to contact [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). Financial support options are available.

**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.

**Sponsored Swim** Thank you to everyone that sponsored us for the Swimathon in memory of Margaret Murray. We were completely overwhelmed by your generosity and comments, and are delighted to advise that we have so far raised £1537; to be divided equally between Home Start and St Mary's school. If you would still like to make a donation, please see Sharon in the Parish Office or alternatively you can donate online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ellachapman1> On behalf of the team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind support. Sharon O'Toole

**Cleaning Rota** Monday – Yvonne Friday – Sharon