Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole
The Parish Office is open:
Tues 9:30am – 12:30pm
Wed 9:30am – 12:30pm
Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent (C) 17th March 2019
Today's Readings
Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18 God enters into a covenant with Abraham, the man of faith.
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Christ will transfigure our bodies into copies of his glorious body.
Luke 9:28-36 Jesus is transfigured and the disciples hear a voice from heaven.

Mass this week			*Intention*
Saturday 16th	6:30pm		Seamus Little (anniversary)
Sunday 17th	9:00am		For Our Parishioners
	10:30am		Dermot Shilton (RIP)
Tuesday 19th	**9:15am**	**St JOSEPH**	Josephine Walsh Int)
Wednesday 20th	9:15am	Lent Feria	Canon Desmond Swan RIP
Thursday 21st	**7:30pm**	Lent Feria	Colomba Conflitti Pasika (anniv)
Friday 22nd	9:15am	Lent Feria	Fr Edward Higgs RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:45pm or by appointment
The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Church and people of Ireland

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £444.98 about £600 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.

Change of Mass Times: Please note that for the Solemnity of St Joseph, mass will be at 9:15am, not the usual Tuesday evening time. On Thursday it will be the other way around: there will not be a morning Mass but there will be Mass at 7:30pm.

St Patrick's Day Although in the Calendar for England and Wales Sunday takes preference over the Feast of St Patrick we nonetheless celebrate with our Irish Community and pray with and for the Church and People of Ireland. B*eannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh ar fad.*

Confirmation ***Please note the change of dates***
Our next group session will be on May 9th. There will be no session next week. There will be an extra session May 23rd.

RCIA Our next sessions will be at 10 am and 6:30pm on Wednesday 20th March in the Presbytery.

Centenary

- **NEXT WEEKEND** The main Centenary Mass will be at 10:30am and will be presided at by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Please note that there will be masses at the usual 6:30pm on Saturday and 9am on Sunday morning but that the 9am mass will be a shorter said Mass.
- ***Photographs Wanted!*** We are putting together a display of photographs of the church over the past 100 years. If you have any photographs you would like to share with us, please could you email them to tomoneill@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk
  If you are unable to scan your photos, please could you bring them to the school office where they can do it for you. Thank you .
- ***There will be a major Church Spring Clean*** from 9:45am on Thursday 21st March
- ***Furniture Moving!*** Help is asked from 10:30am on Friday 22nd March to help move tables, chairs etc. to maximise seating in the Church.
- ***Coin Collection****:* The school and church will be jointly fundraising to help with the celebrations of the Church Centenary and the school's 50 years. There is a bucket at the back of church to collect your donations. Thank you

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Appeal Today's retiring collection is for any savings that you made on last Friday's Family Fast Day. If you are a UK tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

"Music for a Spring Evening" with Soprano Hannah Long and Pianist & Organist Jason Lambert. Come and enjoy a recital of opera, song and lighter music, including works by Mozart, Puccini, Gounod and Novello and Organ solos by Widor and Mendelssohn. **Friday 29 March 7.30pm** in church. Tickets £10 including refreshments (£5 children) available from Anita (07882 173865 / anitaclayson@hotmail.co.uk) All proceeds will go to the Church's Centenary Fund.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm The Cardinal invites couples celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the Parish Office by **22nd March** with your details.

The Priory Singers directed by Richard Price are presenting a programme of choral music and readings for Passiontide on Sunday April 7th at 3pm in our Church. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection.

Planned Giving 2018-19 Weekly Offertory envelopes have been prepared for the new tax year. Please collect yours from the Finance Committee member as you leave the church, otherwise from the Sacristan in the Martyrs' Chapel. To join the Planned Giving scheme, please contact the Parish Secretary, indicating whether or not you are a Tax payer. Donations by standing order are preferred and a form can also be obtained from the Parish Office. However, envelopes can be issued if you wish. If you currently donate by weekly envelope, you are most welcome to change to a Standing Order, which can be on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Further details, Standing Order and Gift Aid forms and envelopes can also be obtained from Lawrence Fernee on 01763 243395 or LFERNEE@BTInternet.com.

Cleaning Rota Monday – Linda Friday – Juby

Praying for the Candidates for the Easter Sacraments An important part of Lent is preparing for Baptism and the other Easter Sacraments. The whole diocese has been asked to pray for the Elect and Candidates as they begin their final preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments:

God of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide these chosen brothers and sisters of ours,
Strengthen them in their vocation,
Build them into the kingdom of your Son,
And seal them with the Spirit of your promise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Stations of the Cross, every Friday in Lent after the Morning Mass (~ 9:45am). Volunteers willing to lead us in the Stations are invited to sign up on the list at the back of Church.

Lent Lunches We will again host in our Hall, with our ecumenical partners, Simple Lent lunches on the Wednesdays of Lent. Monies raised going to CAFOD and Christian Aid

Reconciliation The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at 5:45pm each Saturday or by appointment. There will also be a **Penitential Service** at 7:30pm on Thursday 4th April.

Lenten Alms We have been invited to contribute to the **Cardinal's Lent Appeal** which funds initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in the three mission areas of: *Marriage and Family Life*, enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church; *Youth and Evangelisation*, supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith; and the *Church's Service in Society*, putting our faith into action by serving the poor, the lonely and the marginalised. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about the last of these in particular, and he has launched a new programme focusing on the food poverty that affects so many across the Diocese.