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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: First Sunday in Lent (A) 1st March 2020

Today's Readings

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 A way to lie is to tell people what they want to hear, for pride makes us gullible.

Romans 5:12-19 Death entered the world through sin; God's life entered the world through Jesus.

Matthew 4:1-11 Friends do not use each other, but if he cannot make us deny God, Satan wishes us to use God, so we will not be friends with God.

Mass This Week

Saturday 29th 6:30pm

Sunday 1st 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 3rd 7:30pm Lent Weekday

Wednesday 4th 9:15am Lent Weekday

Thursday 5th 9:15am Lent Weekday

Friday 6th 9:15am Lent Weekday

Intention

In Thanksgiving to The Parish for their Prayers & Support (Brackenridge Family)

Mary Daly (anniversary)

For Our Parishioners

Special Intention

First Holy Communion families

The Year of the Word

World Day of Prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:45pm or by appointment

The Sanctuary Lamp burns In Memory of David Rainey

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £392.77
Many thanks for all your generosity. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.
RCIA Our next session will be at 10am on Wednesday 4th March in the Presbytery.

First Holy Communion The next meeting for the parents of the First Holy Communion candidates is on **Wednesday 4th March at 7:30pm** in the Sacristy. The children's workshop takes place on **Saturday 7th March** in the Parish Hall. The 10:30am Mass on **Sunday 8th March** will be a Link Mass. **First Reconciliation** Saturday 14th March 11am

Pope Francis' Message for Lent may be found at:
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20191007_messaggio-quaresima2020.html

The Holy Father begins his message by saying: "This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity."

Evening Prayer There will be evening prayer in Church most weekdays (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) of Lent at 5:30pm

Stations of the Cross 9:45am on Fridays in Lent. If you are willing to volunteer to lead these, please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Lent Lunches will be in our Parish centre from this Wednesday.

Lent Penitential Service 7:30pm Tuesday 10th March

World Day Of Prayer Friday, 6th March, at 2.15pm at our Church here in Royston. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe and the theme is "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". All are welcome

Fundraising Cookbook Our neighbours in St John's are preparing a cookbook to refurbish their church following the fire of December 2018. They are requesting recipes by the end of April. Please see the letter on the noticeboard for more details.

Ignite The Youth Mission team of the Diocese of East Anglia are running an event for teenagers on 15th March at St Laurence Primary School, Arbury Rd, Cambridge. See notice board for more information and contacts.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day on Friday 6 March is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day and is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please take home your Family Fast Day envelope this week and give whatever you can to help.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020 Your donations help three mission areas. Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. Youth and Evangelisation: supporting young people as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. The Church's Service in Society: putting our faith into action by serving poor, lonely and marginalised people. Sadly, poverty is deepening across our Diocese and more people are turning to foodbanks for help. For children who get free meals at school, the holidays can be a time of hunger because the family budget doesn't stretch to cover three meals a day. One initiative the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supports is school holiday clubs, where children can have fun, and prepare and eat a healthy meal during the school holidays. Please take a donation leaflet as you leave Mass today.



Alpha Course We still need people to help (to move furniture, to prepare food, to acts 'hosts' and to be prayerful supporters). If you are interested please let Fr Philip know as soon as possible.. There will be a **training session at 7:30pm on Wednesday April 1st.**

The House of Prayer will next meet on Thursday 5th March, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30th May 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting 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 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary and would like to attend, please give the parish office your details by 20th March at the latest.

Student Cross: please offer hospitality to our visitors for the night of Sunday 5th April. Last year we had about 25 pilgrims so would expect a similar number again. Please email marion.kett@btinternet.com or telephone on 07511 009472 if you are able to help.

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2020 at **St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead** and at **Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool**. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

Cleaning Rota Monday – Pat Friday – Theresa & Jo

Lent is a time of Covenant renewal. Time and time again God offers a covenant relationship which people accept and yet then break. We can see this from the very beginning with Adam and Eve, with Noah, with Abraham, with Moses and with David. In our Old Testament reading this Sunday we enter into the primordial Covenant between God and humanity, but we also hear of the breaking of that foundational covenant. This powerful imagery speaks to us of so many things: the boundless love of God and the self-seeking of humanity; the generosity of the Creator and the grasping nature of man and woman; the wisdom of the divine and folly of the human. Lent is a time for us to be thankful for the good and to celebrate the life God so lavishly gives us. It is also a time to recognise our poor choices and to commit ourselves to turn away from evil. Lent is a time for us to renew our commitment to God's covenant.