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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: First Sunday in Lent (C) 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### Today's Readings

*Deuteronomy 26:4-10* We are to walk in the ways of God and listen to God's voice.

*Romans 10:8-13* Paul says that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

*Luke 4:1-13* Jesus, like Moses before him, retreats into the wilderness, where he fasts for forty days and rejects the temptations put before him.

#### Mass This Week

			Intention
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm		Ukraine
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am		For Our Parishioners
	10:30am		Fr Seamus RIP
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	St John of God	Caritas Westminster
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	St Frances of Rome	LeCouteur Family (Intention)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Lent Feria	Spiritual Directors
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Lent Feria	CAFOD

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Intentions of The Giordani Family

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (5:30pm Saturday) or by appointment.

Please note: Morning Prayer will be at 9am and Evening Prayer at 5:30pm most weekdays.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday in Lent at 9:45am

**Fr Seamus' funeral** The coach will leave promptly at 10am on Tuesday 8th. If you have signed up to come, please be at the bus stop outside the school by 9:45am. The cost per person will be £20. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Lent Lunches** will start in the Parish Hall next week, 9<sup>th</sup> March. They will run from 12 noon to 1pm. All the Churches in the town, and some of the surrounding villages are taking part. We are responsible for the first one next Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, so we would particularly encourage you to come next

week. Lunch consists of home-made soup, bread, cheese, and a piece of fruit, followed by tea or coffee. The suggested donation is £4pp, and funds raised will go to CAFOD and Christian Aid. Thank you very much to all those who have agreed to help. There are 4 lunches altogether, each is on a March Wednesday.

**Penitential Service** we will have an opportunity to celebrate God's mercy and compassion together at our Parish Penitential Service Thursday 7th April 7:30pm

**Mission Appeal** Next weekend it will be our pleasure to welcome Fr Ifeanyi Chibuzo who will be making a Mission Appeal on behalf of his congregation, the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers)

**Stations of the Cross** It is good to have a variety of voices leading our devotions. If anyone or any group would be willing to lead the 9:45am Stations on Fridays in Lent, please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church. If you need help preparing stations, please see Fr Philip who can share some resources. It would also be good if we had volunteers willing to prepare a set of Stations with our children during Holy Week.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal; Every child should grow big and strong** - Family Fast Day is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website ([cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent))

**Our Lady's Church, Hitchin** are holding their Service of Healing and Wholeness this Sunday at 3pm. Anyone who feels the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

**Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022 HEAT or EAT? Help those facing this choice.** This year, we celebrate 10 years of Caritas Westminster, the social action agency of the Diocese, working with parishes to restore hope, and enable people to lead a life of dignity. Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for all. Price rises mean many families face an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Just as a mosaic is made up of many different coloured pieces, each one unique, each person's contribution to this mosaic of hope will bring light into the lives of people across our Diocese. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Our next steps**

Our Parish Pastoral Council has, as promised, kept our protocols of mitigations against Covid-19 under review. We were very pleased to see the decline in concern across all the metrics we had access to and the substantial reduction in risk of severe disease.

The Government is encouraging us to move now from legislated restrictions to personal responsibility.

Last week new guidance was issued by the Bishops' Conference, which is available in the Sacristy.

In the light of all these we have decided:

- To make the wearing of face coverings a matter of personal discretion whilst continuing to ask people to care for the more vulnerable and respect each other;
- In line with the guidance we have received from the Bishops' Conference, the priest and ministers of holy communion will continue to wear face coverings during the distribution of communion;
- Holy Communion shall remain in one kind; and
- The peace may be shared physically but respect should be given to those who prefer to avoid contact. We would suggest that any not wishing to physically touch other people should simply grasp their hands in front of themselves and nod their head.