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Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 21st January 2024

Today's Readings

Jonah 3:1-5. 10 Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance. They hear his call and return to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Life is short. Do not waste it on passing things.

Mark 1:14-20 Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.

Mass This Week

Saturday 20th 6:30pm

Sunday 21st 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 23rd 6:00pm

Wednesday 24th 9:15am

Thursday 25th 9:15am

Friday 26th 9:15am

Weekday

St Francis De Sales

Conversion of St Paul

SS Timothy & Titus

Intentions

For Our Parishioners

Betty Caulfield (RIP)

Our hearing the Word of God

Christian Unity

Enrica Villa

Fr Bernard Fisher (RIP)

Gerard Brazier (anniversary)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Victims of War

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

Please note that it is our intention to livestream the 9am Sunday Mass and most of the weekday Masses.

Sunday of the Word of God. This Sunday has a special focus on our encounter with God and in his mercy through Holy Scripture. We will renew or commission readers at the masses this weekend. We did order more than enough copies of St Mark's Gospel (in the *English Standard Version* translation – which we will be using at Mass from later this year). If you would like a copy there are some spares on the Sacristy table. And if you would like to make a donation that would be much appreciated.

Week of Prayer For Christian Unity 2024 We are permitted to offer a Mass for Christian Unity within the week, and this shall be on Tuesday evening (6pm).

This year, the major event for the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* in Royston and District will be a social get together this Sunday 21st January in the Parish Centre from

12 noon. Prayer service 12:30 followed by bring and share lunch Please do come along, and bring your friends and family. We kindly request that you bring a savoury or sweet contribution.

Lent will be on us very soon. If you are willing to give up your palm crosses to create ashes for Ash Wednesday, please leave them in the Sacristy.

Weddings: Summer 2024 Several couples have dates coming up for their weddings this summer. As we are getting to the stage of six months before the marriage ceremony, please can they contact Fr Philip to make sure that all the necessary paperwork and timings we have are correct, and begin to plan the Orders of Service.

World Day Of Prayer This will be on Friday 1st March 2024 at 2.00pm - 3:00pm(ish) for an hour at The Methodist Church (times to be confirmed). All are welcome. A bit nearer the time we will need some volunteers to do Readings etc - possibly up to 4 or 5 - not sure yet exactly how many but if anyone felt able to please let Marion Kett know. There will be more information coming out in the next few weeks. Telephone Number 07511 009472 or email @marion.kett@btinternet.com.

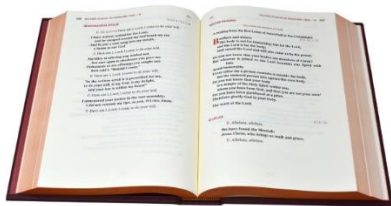
Pilgrim Cross - Palm Sunday 24th March 2024

We are looking for some lovely hosts for the evening of Palm Sunday from about 5.00pm until Monday at 8.00am. The Pilgrims always appreciate a warm comfortable bed, a hot meal in the evening and breakfast to restore them for the onward journey on Monday. Last year we were able to host all our Pilgrims and it would be wonderful to be able to open our homes to them again this year. Prior to their visit we are made aware of any dietary needs and, on this occasion, we do know that we have a Pilgrim who has an Assistance Dog. Please contact Marion on 07511 009472 or email @marion.kett@btinternet.com.

The Westminster Yearbook 2023-2024 (containing the 2024 Liturgical Calendar) Copies are now available to purchase for £5 in the sacristy.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisma within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

White Flower Appeal 2024 The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this weekend**. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.



"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel" (GIRM, no. 29).

These words from the [General Instruction of the Roman Missal](#) (GIRM) set before us a profound truth that we need to ponder and make our own. The words of Sacred Scripture are unlike any other texts we will ever hear, for they not only give us information, they are the vehicle God uses to reveal himself to us, the means by which we come to know the depth of God's love for us, and the responsibilities entailed by being Christ's followers, members of his Body. What is more, this Word of God proclaimed in the liturgy possesses a special sacramental power to bring about in us what it proclaims. The Word of God proclaimed at Mass is 'efficacious' that is, it not only tells us of God and God's will for us, it also helps us to put that will of God into practice in our own lives. How, then, do we respond to this wonderful gift of God's Word? We respond in word and song, in posture and gesture, in silent meditation and by listening attentively to that Word as it is proclaimed. Following each reading we express our gratitude for this gift with the words "Thanks be to God" or, in the case of the Gospel, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,"

The Word of God, calls for our listening and our response. Most importantly of all, the Word of God, which is living and active, calls each of us individually and all of us together for a response that moves beyond the liturgy itself and affects our daily lives, leading us to engage fully in the task of making Christ known to the world by all that we do and say.

Edited from <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-word/hearing-the-word-of-god>