



PRECIOUS WOUNDS BULLETIN

The Five Precious Wounds Catholic Church,
Brentfield Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 8ER

Mass Times: Saturdays 6 pm; Sundays 10 am & 12:30pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am.

Holy Hour: Fridays after Mass

Confessions: Fridays after Mass from 10:40 am to 11:20 am, Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm

Office open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.30am – 2.30pm

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>

Telephone 020 89653313

email stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk

Clergy: Father Tony Thomas;

Deacon Andrew Safo-Poku

School: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (20th MARCH 2022)

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 24:15-16

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First reading:

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to

deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 102(103):1-4,6-8,11

The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is compassion and love.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,

The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is compassion and love.

Second reading:

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down

to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation: Mathew 4:17

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the
Word of God!

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Communion Antiphon: Mathew 17:5

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:

by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my
God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

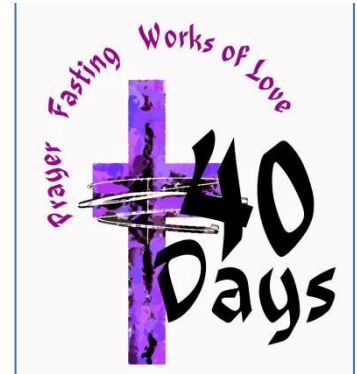
Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.



This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

THE SEASON OF LENT

This is the Holy Season of Lent. As Cardinal Vincent said in his pastoral letter of last weekend: "...we respond to the Lord's invitation to come forward and meet him afresh. He invites us to come through the doors of the church to stand before him and receive his blessing, his mark of mercy."



NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

This week's Mass intentions

Sunday 10.00am Dores Camilo Antao - 1st Death Anniversary

Sunday 12.30pm Pelagia Fernandez Thanks giving

Monday 10.00am George RIP

Tuesday 10.00am Flora Cardoza -Ukraine Intention

Wednesday 10.00am Maude Robert - 1st Death Anniversary

Friday 10am Madonna Ignasias Thanks giving

Sick or housebound

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound:
Betty O'Reily (Elizabeth)

Mass intentions

Arranging to have a Mass celebrated for someone's intentions, or for the repose of their soul, is a great act of faith and love. If you would like to book a Mass intention, please do so by phoning the parish during office hours (see above), by visiting the repository on Sunday mornings, or by taking a Mass intention envelope and putting it through the door or the presbytery.

Fr Tony writes: I am making a good recovery from my recent dose of Covid-19. The doctor has recommended that I rest for a few more days, so this weekend I am pleased to welcome Fr Guy Sawyer, who will be celebrating our Masses. Thank you to all of those who have left messages wishing me well. I should be back in action very soon!

Last week's collection

Planned giving £424.00. Loose plate £573.36. Our parish relies entirely on your donations to pay our bills, so thank you for making a difference! Many are now switching to making a standing order with their banks to make their weekly contributions. For more information, please visit our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/donate/> and follow the link to make a donation.

Office opening hours

Following her appointment as parish administrator, please contact Violet about booking Masses, obtaining duplicate certificates, placing items in the newsletter, and so on. The parish office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10.30am until 2.30pm.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross. Please do join us for this beautiful devotion, starting at 7.00pm. There will also be Confessions beginning at 6.15pm.

Confessions during Lent

Confession times during Lent are as follows: Friday 10.40am-11.20am and 6.15pm-6.50pm; Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm. In addition, a priest will be available to hear Confessions during the 10.00am and 12.30pm Masses on Sunday 3rd April.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022

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 and worth. Fund raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Course: No Greater Love Unfortunately, due to Fr Tony's recent illness, this course will no longer be taking place.

Train to Teach at Salvatorian College

Are you a graduate with a good degree and strong communication skills? Funded secondary teacher training opportunities are available at Salvatorian College from September 2022. Enjoy exceptional new facilities, a calm and orderly atmosphere, and polite, responsive students. Starting salaries of £30k+ available on qualification. Please send an email to recruitment@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk for more information.

Planned giving envelopes

Planned giving envelopes for the new financial year 2022-23 are ready for collection. They can be collected from one of the Finance Committee members at the back of the Church after mass on 20th and 27th March. If you can remember your envelope Number, it will be helpful while collecting your envelope box.

If anyone would like to contribute their offertory through planned giving envelopes, please let us know. We can provide you with the new envelopes.

Ukraine Support

CAFOD has launched Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal to transfer the funds directly to Caritas Ukraine and Poland. The link is below:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>

Contactless Giving

DONA is a new Diocesan scheme to make your weekly giving to the parish (and any one-off giving) much easier. It is a debit/credit card contactless payment system. We have introduced DONA in the parish. You'll see the machine on the left as you enter the main body of the church. Please do use it as you wish, especially if you choose to carry no cash. You can choose to gift-aid your donations if you are a UK taxpayer. Please note that DONA will also be available to make card payments in the repository.

Volunteers needed for counting

At the moment we have a very small and dedicated team of parishioners who meet on Monday mornings to count the previous weekend's collection. It would be great to have a few more volunteers to help them in their important work - are you able to assist? If so, please speak to Fr Tony or Deacon Andrew. Many thanks.

Tea and coffee after the 12.30pm Mass on Sundays

We are now serving teas and coffees in the parish centre after the 12.30pm Mass on Sundays. It is so



important now that the pandemic is receding to find ways of building up our community once more. Please come along – all welcome! We will initially trial this during the month of February, and will continue if we get a good response. Any donations collected will be sent to **Mary's Meal** charity.

Monthly devotions

First Saturday Devotion – Rosary Group: first Saturday of each month at 4.00pm in the parish hall.
Divine Mercy Devotion – third Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation preparation

This year we have a very large number of candidates for Confirmation, due in part to the backlog caused by the pandemic. Instead of an extended programme running over several weeks, we plan instead to run two whole-day preparation classes on Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 7th May. We will be joined on these days by members of the Diocesan Youth Service outreach team, who will help to make them lively and engaging events. Please note that attendance on both days is mandatory for those wishing to be confirmed.

First Holy Communion – Year 3 and 4

The next preparation sessions for First Holy Communion for Year 3 and 4 are as follows: 20th March, 10th April (after the 10.00am Sunday Mass)

Open House

There will be an Open House this Tuesday between 5pm and 6pm in the church, to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.

Altar servers

We are once again able to recruit new and old servers for Mass. If you would like your child to serve at the Mass, please give your child's details to Deacon Andrew after Mass. We expect a high standard from our servers. Children must wear black shoes and are expected to arrive 30 minutes before Mass begins to go through training each Sunday.

Tea and coffee after weekday Mass Teas and coffees are once again be served in the parish centre after each weekday Mass. Do join us if you can for a friendly chat and a cuppa!

Sick and housebound

We plan to introduce a list of sick and housebound in our newsletter, so that we can remember them in prayer. Please give the names of anyone you would like mentioned in the newsletter to Fr Tony or Violet, our administrator.

External Vacancies

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27 March 2022. For further details please visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-look-for-an-organising-secretary/>.

Lent Retreat for Young Adults (aged 18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 2nd April 2022** in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10.30am-6.30pm) to prepare for Holy Week and Easter, with talks, workshops, prayer, Stations of the Cross, time for confessions and mass. Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations only. **Register** by emailing: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

Maude Robert RIP

Mass on Wednesday 23rd March at 10am will be celebrated for the repose of the soul of Maude Roberts, on the anniversary of her death. There will be graveside prayers at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, at 2pm with Fr Sean Carroll.

If you require transport to the cemetery and back, a minibus will meet outside the Church of the Five Precious Wounds, leaving at 1.30pm. The Robert

family would like you to join them for refreshments
between 3pm and 5pm at the Jason Roberts
Foundation, The Pavilion, Stonebridge Recreation
Ground, London, NW10 8LW.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



This wordsearch is inspired by today's Gospel.
How many hidden words can you find?

D	N	U	O	R	G	I	M	T	H
I	R	I	G	U	S	S	A	N	S
G	S	A	I	F	R	N	O	E	I
O	I	L	Y	B	E	A	L	P	R
T	T	F	L	E	N	E	I	A	E
Y	H	O	T	S	N	L	S	R	P
T	O	R	W	L	I	I	S	A	A
D	T	E	E	E	S	L	V	B	R
T	N	E	P	E	R	A	O	L	A
E	N	E	E	T	H	G	I	E	B

GALILEANS BLOOD SINNERS REPENT
PERISH EIGHTEEN TOWER SILOAM
GUILTY PARABLE FIG THREE



QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The world was unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the Father’s hands. He gave him to Mary, in order that the world might receive him through her” - St Augustine

The feast of the Annunciation falls this Friday

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

Sunday 20th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15 'I AM has sent me to you'

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 'The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us'

Luke 13:1-9 'Leave the fig tree one more year'

Monday 21st March

2 Kings 5:1-15 'There were many lepers in Israel, but only Naaman, the Syrian, was cured'

Luke 4:24-30 'No prophet is ever accepted in his own country'

Tuesday 22nd March

Daniel 3:25,34-43 'Let our sacrifice to you today be a contrite soul and humbled spirit'

Mathew 18:21-35 'To be forgiven, you must forgive'



Wednesday 23rd March Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9 'Keep these laws and observe them'

Mathew 5:17-19 'I have not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to complete them'

Thursday 24th March

Jeremiah 7:23-28 'Here is the nation that will not listen to the voice of the Lord its God'

Luke 11:14-23 'Know that the kingdom of the God has overtaken you'

Friday 25th March The Annunciation of the Lord

Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10 'The maiden is with child'

Hebrew 10:4-10 'God's will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ'

Luke 1:26-38 'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

Saturday 26th March

Hosea 5:15-6:6 'What I want is love, not sacrifice and holocausts'

Luke 18:9-14 'The tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified'