



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

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Clergy: Father Tony Thomas;

Deacon Andrew Safo-Poku

School: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (27th MARCH 2022)

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;

exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First reading:

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 33(34):2-7

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Look towards him and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him

and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second reading:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your

son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Communion Antiphon:

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean.

Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.



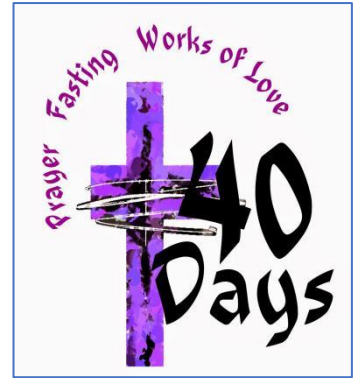
The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

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

Saturday 6.00pm -Sheila Curtain & Mary Chandler -
RIP Anniversary (Mothers Day)

Sunday 10.00am Jack Hehir & Daughter Esther
Hehir - RIP

Sunday 12.30pm Ann & Tom Devine - RIP
Anniversary

Monday 10.00am John Douglas RIP

Tuesday 10.00am Victoria, Mathew, Mathewin
and Avon Nicholas - RIP

Wednesday 10.00am Kevin Cantwell - RIP

Friday 10am George - RIP

Sick or housebound

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who
are sick or housebound:
Betty O'Reilly (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.

Last week's collection

Planned giving £471.38. Loose plate £483.13 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.

Holy week and Easter service times

From this weekend, a booklet is available with details of our Holy Week and Easter service times. Please take a copy with you as you leave the church.

Confessions

Next Sunday, 3 April, a priest will be available during the 10.00am and 12.30pm Masses to hear Confessions. The priest will be Fr Francis, the new Filipino chaplain. Please do avail yourself of this opportunity, as going to Confession is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

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.

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.

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.

Catholic Universe newspaper

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Shelia Mitchell RIP

The Requiem Mass of the late Sheila Mitchell will take place this Friday, 1st April, at 12 noon. It will be followed by light refreshments in the parish centre immediately afterwards.

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 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.

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.

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: 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.

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

Message from Ms Halpin – Headteacher of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Nursery & Primary School – Admissions 2022-2023

I would like to extend a warm invite to all parents seeking a Nursery place for September 2022. We are a small, unique one form entry school hidden within an oasis of green trees and shrubbery. Our Nursery children are a delight, with happy smiling faces and a true zest for learning through play, exploring and being active. As play is one of the most important ways in which young children gain essential knowledge and skills we provide our children with engaging and challenging experiences through a balance of adult led activities and a well-resourced provision which allows children to initiate their own activities. For further information, or if you would like to come and visit our wonderful school, please contact our school office on 0208 961 5037. Please note that we currently have limited places available for this year's intake.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | R | E | H | C | U | A | B | E | D |
| L | R | S | R | E | D | L | E | E | E |
| L | S | G | D | I | E | F | R | T | N |
| E | R | I | N | G | A | E | E | S | I |
| B | K | P | C | A | D | A | H | D | A |
| U | S | A | M | N | E | U | T | E | L |
| H | L | I | A | L | S | N | O | S | P |
| F | N | U | N | K | I | S | R | S | M |
| E | Q | T | S | A | E | F | B | I | O |
| S | R | E | H | T | A | F | E | K | C |

COMPLAINED
FATHER
DEAD

SONS
LIFE
DEBAUCHERY
PIGS
BELLY
HUSKS
KISSED
CALF
FEAST
ELDER
ANGRY
BROTHER

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord”

Pope Francis

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

Sunday 27th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Joshua 5:9-12 'The Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land'

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 'God reconciled himself to us through Christ'

Luke 15:1-3,11-32 'The prodigal son'

Monday 28th March

Isaiah 65:17-21 'Be glad and rejoice for ever at what I am creating'

John 4:43-54 'Go home: your son will live'

Tuesday 29th March

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 'Wherever the water flows, it will bring life and health'

John 5:1-3,5-16 'The healing at the pool of Bethzatha'



Wednesday 30th March

Isaiah 49:8-15 'On the day of salvation I will help you'

John 5:17-30 'The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and all who hear it will live'

Thursday 31st March

Exodus 32:7-14 'Moses pleads with the Lord his God to spare Israel'

John 5:31-47 'You place your hopes on Moses but Moses will be your accuser'

Friday 1st April

Wisdom 2:1,12-22 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man and condemn him to a shameful death'

Luke 7:1-2,10,25-30 'They would have arrested him, but his time had not yet come'

Saturday 2nd April

Jeremiah 11:18-20 'Let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name may be quickly forgotten'

John 7:40-52 'The Law does not allow us to pass judgement on a man without hearing him'