



## PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER

**SICK & HOUSEBOUND:** Michael Fahey, Michael Griffin, Anne Hull, Gillian Gibbs, Catherine Kevill, Margaret O'Shea, Lionel Stonehouse, Edith Geissler, Marie Rego, Christopher Browne.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Norah Borthwick, Tosia Rumun, .

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** Brian Drake, Michael O'Connell (5th Ann), Roisin Nolan (11th Ann), Kathleen O'Connor, Patrick Hannon, Daniel Harrington, Daniel Collins, Lillian Lee (30th Ann).

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Ava Fernando, Sancho Monteiro,

**INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR MARCH 2019**  
**Recognition of the Right of Christian Communi-**  
**ties:** That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless.

The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.

We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta



### MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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**A Mother's Day Prayer**  
*Happy Mother's Day*

*In the name of JESUS CHRIST, we lift up all MOTHERS today.*

*We thank them for their sacrifices so that we can have a life of contentment. Grant them favour, Lord and may they have a wonderful place in existence in Your heart of GRACE.*

www.jesuscrist.com

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
HAS BEEN SPONSORED THIS WEEK  
For the Intentions of  
VENCEL AND VIELKA

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM**  
has been sponsored this week  
For the Intentions of  
THE LAWRENCE FAMILY

**ROSARY AT HOME:** This week the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at the home of  
RAJAN GEORGE

 **Switch mobile phones off or to silent**



Sunday cycle  
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings  
Lent week 4

Divine Office  
Week 4

The Catholic Parish  
of St George, Sudbury



# Sunday 31st March 2019 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome to all at Mass today, especially to any visitors and particularly those who are here for the first time. Please take this sheet home with you which will tell you about this week's celebration and the activities during the week and also to remind you of our Liturgy today.

## TODAY'S MASS



In today's gospel 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 honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. By way of contrast, the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

**First Reading: *Joshua 5:9a,10-12***  
The Israelites celebrate the Passover in the promised land.

**Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 34:2-7***  
A prayer of praise to God.

**Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:17-21***  
St Paul preaches our reconciliation with Christ.

**Gospel Reading: *Luke 15:1-3,11-32***  
Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal

**SPIRITUAL QUOTE**

*"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..."* Pope Benedict XVI

# SUNDAY REFLECTION

What is the main point of Jesus' story about two ungrateful sons and their extravagant father? Is it the contrast between an obedient and a disobedient son? Or the reception given to a spendthrift son by the father and the reception given by the eldest son? Jesus does contrast the eldest son's cold and aloof reception for his errant brother with the father's rather lavish party and warm embrace for his repentant son. While the errant son had wasted his father's money, his father, nonetheless, maintained unbroken love for his son. The son, while he was away, learned a lot about himself. And he realized that his father had given him love which he had not returned. He had yet to learn about the depth of his father's love for him. His deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed on the husks of pigs and his reflection on all he had lost, led to his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father. While he hoped for reconciliation with his father, he could not have imagined a full restoration of relationship. The father did not need to speak words of forgiveness to his son; his actions spoke more loudly and clearly! The beautiful robe, the ring, and the



festive banquet symbolize the new life – pure, worthy, and joyful – of anyone who returns to God.

The prodigal could not return to the garden of innocence, but he was welcomed and reinstated as a son. The errant son's dramatic change from grief and guilt to forgiveness and restoration express in picture-language the resurrection from the dead, a rebirth to new life from spiritual death. The parable also contrasts mercy and its opposite – a lack of forgiveness. The father who had been wronged, was forgiving. But the eldest son, who had not been wronged, was unforgiving. His 'lack of forgiveness' turns into contempt and pride. And his resentment leads to his isolation and estrangement from the community of forgiven sinners. In this parable Jesus gives a vivid picture of God and what God is like. God is truly kinder than us. He does not lose hope or give up when we stray. He rejoices in finding the lost and in welcoming them home.

During this Lent let us rediscover the joy of repentance and the restoration of relationship as a son or daughter of our heavenly Father.

age who are not attending a Catholic school and have not yet received their First Holy Communion. An Information Leaflet can be picked up from the porch and Enrolment Forms are available from the Parish Office.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8 June 2019 at 3pm. The deadline for this has now been extended to April 29th. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass 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 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, telephone number and email address.

**SANCTUARY REORDERING UPDATE:** the plans have all been submitted to the Historic Churches Committee (St George's is a listed building so this is a requirement). They have tweaked the plans a little but the overall scheme remains the same. We need to liaise with them about some of the issues concerning the floor but we will be ready to begin in earnest soon. Inevitably some fundraising will need to take place so any ideas etc. are really welcome.

**CHURCH LAMPS:** If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week. There are still some weeks free in May and June. Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

**MASS INTENTIONS** are booked completely up to August 2019. Remember to book your anniversary Masses early.

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2019:** In February 2016, Pope Francis asked each Bishops' Conference to establish a Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. In response, the Bishops of England and Wales designated the Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent to be observed as this Day of Prayer. This year, therefore, the Day of Prayer is Friday 12 April. Cardinal Vincent writes "I ask that this Day of Prayer is observed in all our parishes and chapels. It is important that we do so. Day by day, the pain of those who have suffered abuse, and its lasting corrosive impact, are brought more fully into the light. The pain of that betrayal of trust is all the more profound when the abuse took place within the community of the Catholic Church. We also see so clearly the failures in leadership in the Church that have exacerbated the sufferings of those who have

been abused. We have plenty of reasons to pray".

**KNIFE CRIME:** On Saturday 6 April 2019, Cardinal Vincent will be taking part in a Rally in Trafalgar Square under the heading 'Standing Together'. The Rally runs from 2.00-4.00pm. It will focus first on the tragic consequences of knife crime, sharing a lament with those who have suffered the loss of life of a loved one and now carry a burden of great sorrow. Then it will proclaim the goodness of so many young people and give forth a voice of hope, much needed at this time.

**ST GEORGE'S PARISH COOKBOOK:** A little fun project to raise some money for the church. Please take a flyer from the back of Church.

**EASTER FUN DAY AND BAZAAR** at Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday 13th April, 11am-2.00pm. Please see poster in porch.

**LOOKING FOR A PAINTER AND DECORATOR?** Ring David on 07904913443.

**WHITE/YELLOW FOLDER INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING:** (See in church porch)  
**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** helps separated, divorced or widowed Catholics.  
**SMART LOVING SEMINAR** for married couples.  
**CATHOLIC SINGLES** information  
**RETROUVAILLE**—a lifeline for married couples.  
**WIDOWED YOUNG**—support events.  
**CALIX CENTRE**—A Catholic ministry to addicts.  
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES.**  
**MARRIAGE/ENGAGED ENCOUNTER:** [www.wwme.org.uk](http://www.wwme.org.uk)

**DIOCESAN AND SCHOOL VACANCIES** please see folder in porch or School/diocesan website.

**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL**—new premium pupil information for year 7 entry in September 2020. Please information in porch.

**FUNDRAISING MANAGER** required for FACE—an international NGO (c/date 7/4/19). Please see folder in porch.

**FOLDERS in the church porch:** look for pilgrimages & retreats, job opportunities, schools & colleges information

# NEWS & VIEWS

**NEW TO THE PARISH?** If you are, please know you are very welcome. Please fill in one of the new parishioners forms at the back of church and we'll get back to you.

**PLEASE LEAVE THE PEW NEAT AND TIDY AS YOU DEPART CHURCH TODAY.** This is especially true if you have children using their worksheets. Please make sure they (or you) bring all the crayons back to the basket.

**THIS SUNDAY is also Mothering Sunday.** There will be a sale of cakes, flowers and plants in the Parish Centre after all the morning Masses in aid of St. Luke's Hospice. Also Fr Jeremy is selling prints of his paintings (in aid of our Sanctuary project) - so take a look!

## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday 31 March:</b>	
Teas/Coffees after 9.45am/11.15am Masses.	
<b>Mother's Day SPRING FAIR after all morning Masses</b>	
<b>Monday 1 April:</b>	
Confirmation	7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 2 April:</b>	
Over 60's Group	1.00pm
First Holy Communion	7.30pm
Set/Ceilidh Dancing	8.45pm
<b>Wednesday 3 April:</b>	
Ladies Social Guild	2.00pm
<b>Thursday 4 April:</b>	
Church Cleaning Group B	10.30am
<b>Friday 5 April:</b>	
Teas/Coffees after Stations of the Cross	
Friends of Jesus	5.30pm

**PLANNED GIVING—envelopes for 2019/20 will be available again this weekend.** We have many similar names so please make sure you take your box. Please check the name and address and let us know if it is incorrect. Please DO NOT use the new envelopes until 7th April. If you are new to the parish and wish to use these envelopes for the first time please give your name to one of the helpers outside after all Masses this weekend. **If you have a Gift Aid and ceased to pay tax in the last year you must inform the parish office.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** after the Friday 9.30am Mass (around 10am) during Lent.

**EASTER LILIES** in memory of a loved one. Envelopes are available now to buy an Easter lily in memory of a loved one. Their names will also be inscribed in our Easter Lily Book. You'll find the envelopes at the back of church in a nominated basket.

**DIVINE MERCY** -The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited in the church every Monday after the Rosary. All are welcome!

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES** leaflet is now available—please take a copy home.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY FLOWERS** will be blessed at 9.45am & 11.15am masses for children to give to their mothers.

**HOLY BAPTISM:** Information packs are available from the parish office. You can sign up there for the preparation course. Parents to be, i.e. before birth, are welcome to attend. The date of the next baptism preparation is **Friday 26th April 2019 at 7.30pm** in the parish centre.

**WELCOMING** - We are just about to send-out a new rota to those who welcome the people to Mass each Sunday at the Parish. If you are interested in helping in the future please let us know a.s.a.p. so we can include you too. Thank you!

**CONFIRMATION**—A huge **THANK YOU** to all who helped make last Sunday's Parish Charity Breakfast such a massive success. The breakfast raised over £1000 for our Lenten Charity.

**REPOSITORY** Open after Mass today with a selection of Mothering Sunday gifts and cards. If you think you could help with staffing the repository can you let one of the parish Team know.

**YOUNG ADULT TRIP TO TAIZÉ 2019** — Our Deanery is planning a Trip to Taizé (France) for those aged **18 to 29** from **27th July to 5th August 2019**. The estimated cost is just **£250**. Those interested are welcome to pick-up an **Information Leaflet & Booking Form** from the porch.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - We continue to search for some **generous volunteers to help our Catechists prepare the children for their First Holy Communion.** If your child is currently in Year 2 perhaps you'd like to lend a hand next year? Please speak to one of the Parish Clergy, the Catechists or our Catechetical Coordinator to find out more. Thank you.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS**—The Friends of Jesus Programme takes place on **Fridays from 5.30-6.30pm** providing a little **Religious Education** to children of Primary-School

## This Sunday is MOTHERING SUNDAY

doubtless a profitable weekend for card retailers, florists and chocolatiers!

But did you know that the origins of Mothering Sunday lie in going to church on this day?

In the Middle Ages in England, boys and girls who lived away from home (as apprentices, servants, etc.) were allowed on mid-Lent Sunday, as it was called, to go home to visit their 'mother church', where they had been baptised or had been brought up (the church which had given them spiritual birth in baptism was known as the 'mother church'). They brought gifts to be placed on the altar and then visited their own mothers, bringing them flowers and cakes and doing all the housework for them!

The Fourth Sunday of Lent has also had other names: Mid-Lent Sunday, Laetare Sunday, Rose Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves.

The original name was 'Laetare', from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, 'Laetare Jerusalem': 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem'. As a symbol of this day, Popes used to carry a golden rose in their right hand when returning from Mass - hence Rose Sunday. The Golden Rose was then blessed and given by Popes to Catholic sovereigns, or bestowed upon important shrines or churches as a token of esteem. King Henry VIII received three golden roses, from Pope Julius II, Leo X and Clement VII!

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY MASS:** 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

**HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

**DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am.

**ROSARY:** Daily after Mass.

<i>Sun 31 March</i>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
6.15pm ( <i>Sat. Vigil</i> )	Brian Drake RIP
8.30am	Kathleen O'Connor and Patrick Hannon RIP
9.45am	Agnello Noronha RIP
11.15am	Michael O'Connell RIP (5th Ann)
5.30pm	PRO POPULO
Mon 1 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	Stephanie Kennedy RIP
Tues 2 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	Mary Conroy Intentions
Weds 3 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	S. Manuepillai RIP
Thurs 4 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	1. Christine O'Halloran Intention 2. Patsy & Mairead Wedgeworth Intentions (60th Wedding Ann.)
Fri 5 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	The Duke Family Intentions
Sat 6 April	<b>Lent feria</b>
9.30am	Michael & Tom Haugh RIP

# TODAY'S MASS

## Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 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.

## Collect

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## 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: Ps. 33:2-7

**R/. Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

1. 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. **R/.**

2. 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. **R/.**

3. 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. **R/.**

## 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: Lk15:18

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!  
I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!**

## 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.'"

## Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

## Communion Antiphon

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

## Prayer after Communion

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer over the People

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak;  
give life by your unfailing light  
to those who walk in the shadow of death,  
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.  
Through Christ our Lord.. **Amen.**