

Sunday 27th February 2022

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Welcome to all at mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings
Week 8, year 2 & after
Ash Wednesday

Divine Office
Psalms week 4 & after
Ash Wednesday

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

Sun 27 Feb 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Tim Geraghty RIP Joan Longuet RIP (10th) Special Intentions of Baptiste Fernandes Matthew Rammelt RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH	
Mon 28 Feb 9.30am	feria Ignatius Fernandes RIP	
Tues 1 March 9.30am	S. DAVID, Patron of Wales Paul Gayson RIP	
Weds 2 March 9.30am 12.30pm 8.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Eddie (Ned) Connolly RIP Patrick Hows RIP Eddie Egan RIP	
Thurs 3 March 9.30am	Lent feria Vincent Anthony Lucy RIP	
Fri 4 March 9.30am	Lent feria Allister Romain RIP	
Sat 5 March 9.30am	Lent feria Pauline & Eddie Spencer RIP	
Sun 6 March 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Domingo & Lourdes Fernandes RIP Gerard Carney RIP Kahleen Egan RIP Michael John Paughnan RIP	

TODAY'S MASS



The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

First Reading: *Sirach 27:4-7*

In his conversation is the test of the man.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 92: 2-3,13-16*

The just shall flourish like a palm tree.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15: 54-58*

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 6:39-45*

Each tree is known by its yield.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When the stomach is full it is easy to talk of fasting."

St. Jerome

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday - Saturday 9.30am.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: *Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Tom Fernandes, Dee Auriol, Kathleen O'Brien, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan, Jocalyn Almeida, John, Rowland Watts, Catherine Corcoran.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Jayhan Jeyapragash*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Kevin Dowd, Bridie Cunningham, Mary Willis, Christine Knottenbelt, Alfonso Ledo Toucedo, Alan Woods, Bridget Dunne, Patrick Hows, Natalina D'Ortenzio*

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Pauline & Eddie Spencer, Michael Hughes, Matthew Rammelt, Eddie (Ned) Connolly, Ignatius Fernandes, Joan Longuet*

SANCTUARY LAMP

Allison Stonehouse (Thanksgiving)

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

In memory of Gregorio Castillo RIP

POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH:

A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

"Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Quoted in Vernon Johnson's book *Spiritual Childhood: The Spirituality of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*



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Are you clear-sighted, especially in your perception of sin and the need for each of one of us to see ourselves correctly as God sees us - with our faults, weaknesses, and strengths? Jesus' two parables about poor vision allude to the proverb: *Without vision the people perish!* (Proverbs 29:18) What can we learn from the illustration of a blind guide and a bad eye (the *log* in the eye)? A *bad eye* left untreated and a *blind guide* can cause a lot of trouble that will only end in misery and disaster for us! We can only help and teach others what we have learned and received from wise teachers and guides. And how can we help others overcome their faults if we are blinded by our own faults and misperceptions? We are all in need of a physician who can help us overcome the blind spots and failing of our own sins, weaknesses, and ignorance.

The Lord wants to heal and restore us to wholeness, not only for our own sake alone. He also wants us to be his instruments of healing, pardon, and restoration for others as well. What can hinder us from helping others draw near to Jesus the divine Physician? The Rabbis taught: "He who judges his neighbour favourably will be judged favourably by God." How easy it is to misjudge others and how difficult it is to be impartial in giving good judgment. Our judgment of others is usually "off the mark" because we can't see inside the other person, or we don't have access to all the facts, or we are swayed by instinct and unreasoning reactions to people. It is easier to find fault in others than in oneself. A critical and judgmental spirit crushes rather than heals, oppresses rather than restores, repels rather than attracts. "Thinking the best of other people" is necessary if we wish to grow in love. And kindness in judgment is nothing less than a sacred duty.

Jesus connects soundness with good fruit. Something is sound when it is free from defect, decay, or disease and is healthy. Good fruit is the result of sound living - living according to moral truth and upright character. The prophet Isaiah warned against the dangers of falsehood: *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness* (Isaiah 5:20). The fruits of falsehood produce an easy religion which takes the iron out of religion, the cross out of Christianity, and any teaching which eliminates the hard sayings of Jesus, and which push the judgments of God into the background and makes us think lightly of sin.

How do we avoid falsehood and bad fruit in our lives? By being true - true to God, his word, and the grace and help he gives us so we can turn away from evil and wrongdoing. Those who are true to God know that their strength lies not in themselves but in God who supplies everything we need to live as his disciples. The Lord strengthens us with the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit - with faith, hope and love, justice, prudence, fortitude and temperance. And we grow in godly character through exercising the gifts and strength which God supplies. Do you want to bear good fruit in your daily life? Allow the Holy Spirit to train you in godliness and the wisdom to distinguish good fruit from bad fruit (1 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 5:14).

NEWS UPDATE



ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday 2nd March
Masses with imposition of ashes
at St George's at **9.30am, 12.30pm and 8.00pm**

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome if you have not been to Mass for a while due to the Covid restrictions.

TODAY WE HAVE A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE ARCH-BISHOP OF WESTMINSTER—The Cardinal in his message reiterating one we have been saying for several weeks concerning the encouragement we can give to those who have not yet returned to Mass.

TODAY WE WELCOME again members of the Prayer and Life to talk about our forthcoming workshops through Lent and beyond. You should all receive an invitation for this today at Mass.

AN APPEAL FROM POPE FRANCIS: *"My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.*

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

NEWS FOR MGR JEREMY—his time at Stanmore finishes on March 12th—much earlier than expected!

FUNERAL MASS of Alfonso Ledo Toucedo on Wednesday 9th March at 11.00am followed by burial in Northwood Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Christine Knottenbelt on Thursday 10th March at 11.00am. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Bridget Dunne on Tuesday 15th March at 11.00am. May she rest in peace.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS THIS COMING WEEK, 2nd March and marks the beginning of Lent. It is a time of Grace and Favour from the Lord. It is a time to turn yet again to Him; to attach ourselves yet again to Him who is the source of Life, Love and Mercy. A Bishop once reminded his Diocese that *"the observance of Lent is not just a personal thing. It is an observance that unites us with the whole Church, the Body of Christ."* All our prayers and good deeds go into the Church's treasury. We, in the words of the Gospel, are encouraged to store up treasure for ourselves in heaven. While some people give things up,

others will take on something extra. I dare say a small gesture done well pleases Almighty God far more than a big promise that remains unfulfilled. St. Francis de Sales once wrote *"It is better to accomplish a small penance with an ounce of love than martyrdom without any love at all"*.

It is also a day of fasting and abstinence. Masses with the imposition of ashes for all who wish, are at 9.30am, 12.30pm & 8.00pm. We receive the ashes on our heads with a sense of sorrow for our shortcomings, but also with a sense of hope, that with God's grace, we can repent. We look forward to welcoming you to Holy Mass.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE INFORMATION: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics, in addition to the usual Fridays, when we abstain from meat. For us members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from the age of 18 until the age of 60 (unless you have a medical condition). When fasting, a person may eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals, that together are not equal to a full meal. Liquid, for example water, may be taken at any time. Abstinence from meat on these days is binding on those over 14 years old.

LENT LEAFLET please take one today together with a collecting box for Mary's Meals. Thanks!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday in Lent after the 9.30am Mass (and the Café/Bar will then be open afterwards).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At this coming week's session, on **Tuesday 1st March at 7pm**, the children will be reflecting on how **'Jesus celebrates the Last Supper'**. Parents/Carers are reminded of the importance of ensuring they **attend Mass** with their children **every Sunday** as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time later this year.

CONFIRMATION - At Session 2, on **Monday 28th February at 7.30pm**, the Candidates will be reflecting on the **Christian Values** we are called to as Catholics. We also look forward to the **Confirmation Retreat Day** at SPEC (Pinner) on **Sunday 6th March**. Further details regarding this important day of spiritual refreshment for our young people will be provided by email to Parents/Carers this coming week.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is 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 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the Parish Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

THE OVER 60's CLUB had a great start. Lots of people Why not join them? All over 60's welcome—just turn up on Tuesday in the café/Bar at 1.00pm. Remember even Fr Jeremy is eligible!!

COLLECTORS - Thank you to all those who generously help with the collection at Mass each week. We are searching for some more **generous volunteers** who would be happy to help with the collection at Masses. If you might consider helping, please contact our Welcomers Coordinator, Lucille Thomas, on 07886 575743 or lucille.thomas@gmail.com.

HOLY WATER STOOPS: Our Diocese have now advised that the Holy Water Stoops by the entrance to the church may now be refilled. The risk of transmission of Covid through use is considered very low. These are now availa-

ble to use and will be replenished weekly for those who wish to use them.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS Do you want to deepen and improve your prayer life during this Lent? There is an opportunity to attend a Taster Session of the Prayer and Life Workshops here in the Parish Hall on **THIS Friday 4th March at 7:30 pm**.

PALM CROSSES - (Last call today as they will be burnt Monday)

THE PARISH OFFICE will be open for booking Masses etc every Thursday and Friday after 10.00am—3.00pm.

THANK YOU for all you give in the weekly collection and thank you to those who count it but please, **NO FOREIGN COINS!** It really messes up the counting machine.

REPOSITORY: Volunteers urgently required to assist in the Repository after all Masses. If you are able to help please contact Imelda on 07982683664.

CHURCH CLEANING: - Church cleaning takes place on **Mondays after the 9.30am Mass**. All are welcome! Thank you for all who are already helping out.

ALTAR SERVING: - If your child would like to help with Altar Serving at Mass please note that you must first complete an Altar Serving Form, providing Parental Consent. Blank forms are available for completion from the Sacristy. Only once this form has been completed can your child begin serving at Mass.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Ash Wednesday - 2nd March
1st Sunday of Lent - 6th March
St Patrick - 17th March
St Joseph - 19th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
Palm Sunday - Holy Week commences 10th April
Maundy Thursday - 14th April
Good Friday - 15th April
Holy Saturday - 16th April
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 17th April

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE DIOCESE:
for details go to: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BUCHANAN COURT - Buchanan Court are looking for some new staff - Registered Nurses, Care Assistants, Kitchen Assistant & Housekeeping Staff. Students, who are only available Part-Time, are also welcome to apply. If you are interested, please contact Rohan Mathew at rohan.mathew@careuk.com.

WANTED: Large Room - for middle-aged working lady. I have lived in the same house locally for over twenty years but need to move as my landlord's circumstances have changed. Tel. no. 07985531525.

MET RECRUITMENT EVENT AT ST. GEORGE'S - We are delighted that the Metropolitan Police will be hosting a **Recruitment Event** at the Parish Centre on **Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm**. Opportunities are available for **young people** on their **Degree Apprenticeship Scheme** (offering a **fully-paid degree in Policing**) & for all other **age groups**. All are welcome!

There police will also be manning an Information Helpdesk outside the church after the Vigil Mass on 19th March for those who would like further information beforehand.

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: *Cf. Ps 17: 19-20*

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Collect

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church
may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion.
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: *Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his
conversation.
The orchard where a tree grows is judged on
the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps. 91(92):2-3,13-16*

R/. It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. *R/.*

2. The just will flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *R/.*

3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *R/.*

Second reading: *1 Corinthians 15:54-58*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and
when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the
words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in
victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your
sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power
from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory

through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep
on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the
Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation: *cf. Ac16:14*

Allelula, allelula!

*Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.*

Allelula!

Gospel: *Luke 6:39-45*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide
another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not
superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be
like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's
eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you
say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that
is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own?
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then
you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in
your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a
rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be
told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor
gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good
from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what
is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of
what fills his heart.'

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count
our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion,
we ask of your mercy that what you grant as the source of merit
may also help us to attain merit's reward.

Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Cf. Ps 12: 6*

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing
psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving gifts,
we beseech your mercy, Lord,
that by this same Sacrament
with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us
partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord.