

Sunday 20th March 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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
Lent 3

Divine Office
Psalms week 3 & Lent 3

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
[http://www.sdc.me.uk/
sundayliturgy/](http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/)

THIS WEEK

Sun 20 March 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Brian Foley RIP Daniella Rozario (Birthday Ints) Roger Morton RIP Cissie Lennon RIP & Margaret Rinn RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 21 March 9.30am	Lent feria Mrs Anne Costello RIP
Tues 22 March 9.30am	Lent feria Tom & Ema Fernandes (Special Int)
Weds 23 March 9.30am 11.00am	Lent feria Vincent de Lima RIP FUNERAL MASS Sheila Trinidad RIP
Thurs 24 March 9.30am	S.Patrick Special intention
Fri 25 March 9.30am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Mrs Pat Walker RIP
Sat 26 March 9.30am	Lent feria Spencer Coomarewel RIP & the Holy Souls
Sun 27 March 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Private Intention Daniella Rozario (Birthday Ints) Souls of Fernandes Family Michael O'Connell RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



Today 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 counsel's patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

God speaks to Moses from the burning bush and sends him to the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1-4, 6-7, 8, 11

A prayer in praise of God's mercy.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Saint Paul teaches that the Scriptures were written to set an example for us.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When a person begins to fast, they straightway yearn in their mind to enter into converse with God."

St. Isaac the Syrian

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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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, Trezel Dias*

RECENTLY BAPTISED:

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Sr Una Trant, Mary Bunker, Sheila Trinidad, Gabriella Henry*

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Vincent de Lima, Louis Pais, Lennie Candappa, Lourdes Sebastian Rajendram (5th)

SANCTUARY LAMP

In memory of Denis David RIP

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Private Intention

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.

A reminder for the Lent season:

"That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts."

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and Merciful. He is not easily angered. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you."

Joel 2:12-13

GOD BLESS..

What can a calamity, such as a political blood-bath or a natural disaster, teach us about God's kingdom and the consequences of bad choices and sinful actions? When calamity and disaster hit the Jewish people, such as their 400 year enslavement in the land of Egypt, they often saw it as the consequence of their unrepentant sin and persistent unfaithfulness to God. God, however in his mercy, promised to deliver the Israelites when he sent his servant Moses to lead his people to freedom.

In today's gospel Jesus was asked by some listeners to address the issue of sin and its consequences in the light of two current disasters that befell the residents of Jerusalem. The first incident occurred in the temple at Jerusalem. Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Jerusalem at the time ordered his troops to slaughter a group of Galileans who had come up to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice in the temple. We do not know what these Galileans did to incite Pilate's wrath, nor why Pilate chose to attack them in the holiest of places for the Jews, in their temple at Jerusalem. For the Jews, this was political barbarity and sacrilege at its worst! The second incident which Jesus addressed was a natural disaster, a tower in Jerusalem which unexpectedly collapsed, killing 18 people. The Jews often associated such calamities and disasters as a consequence of sin.

However, the real danger and calamity which Jesus wants to point out is that an unexpected disaster or a sudden death does not give us time to repent of our sins and to prepare ourselves to meet the Judge of heaven and earth. The Book of Job reminds us that misfortune and calamity can befall both the righteous and the unrighteous alike. Jesus gives a clear warning - take responsibility for your actions and moral choices and put sin to death today before it can destroy your heart, mind, soul, and body as well.

Jesus' parable of the barren fig trees illustrated his warning about the consequences of allowing sin and corruption to take root in our hearts and minds. Fig trees were a common and important source of food for the people of Palestine. A fig tree normally matured within three years, producing plentiful fruit. If it failed, it was cut down to make room for more healthy trees. A decaying fig tree and its bad fruit came to symbolize for the Jews the consequence of spiritual corruption caused by evil deeds and unrepentant sin. The unfruitful fig tree symbolized the outcome of Israel's unresponsiveness to the word of God.

God, in his mercy, gives us time to get right with him, but that time is now. We must not assume that there is no hurry. A sudden and unexpected death leaves one no time to prepare to settle one's accounts when he or she must stand before the Lord on the day of judgment. Jesus warns us that we must be ready at all times. Tolerating sinful habits and excusing unrepentant sin will result in bad fruit and eventual destruction. The Lord in his mercy gives us both grace and time to turn away from sin, but that time is right now. If we delay, even for a day, we may discover that grace has passed us by and our time is up. Let us therefore, in what remains of Lent, take stock of our lives and turn to the Lord once more.

NEWS UPDATE



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

DON'T FORGET: The clocks spring forward one hour to British Summer Time **next Sunday 27th March.**

HELPUKRAINE COLLECTION Thank you to all who gave last 2 weeks. We have raised an amazing: **£3215.13**—as ever, St George's has been amazingly generous. This has been now sent out by the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK. If you want to give more/again/for the first time or through the GoFundMe fundraising when you can scan the QR code on the poster in the Church porch.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORKSHEETS Are available this weekend and are at the back of the church where you pick up the weekly sheet together with a basket of crayons (Please make sure you put these back neat and tidy. They are in two age groups: 3-6 & 7-12. Please try to make sure your children don't draw on the pews or the walls!!!

FUNERAL MASS of Shella Trinidad on Wednesday 23rd March at 11.00am followed by burial in Alperton Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Mary Bunker on Monday 28th March at 11.00am followed by burial in Acton Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Gabriella Henry on Tuesday 29th March at 11.30am followed by cremation at Breakspear crematorium. May she rest in peace.

LOOKING AHEAD—LENT MORNING OF RECOLLECTION Saturday 2nd April given by Fr Pius Collins O.praem. Beginning with Mass at 9.30am and end with a simple lunch. All Welcome. No need to book ahead.

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

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE leaflets are available as you enter church. Please use them individually and as a family.

MOTHERING SUNDAY falls traditionally on the Fourth Sunday of Lent—this year on the 27th March (ie next Sunday). There will be flowers blessed for children to give to their mothers at the 9.45am Mass and 11.15am Mass.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - On Tuesday 22nd March at 7pm the children will be reflecting on how 'Jesus' love unites us'. At last week's session the children started practicing receiving Holy Communion. Parents/Carers are also welcome to practice with their children at home in the coming weeks. Parents/Carers are reminded of the importance of **attending Mass each week** as the children prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time in May.

CONFIRMATION - We are delighted that **Westminster Youth Ministry** are coming to facilitate this week's **Praise, Worship & Adoration** session in the church on **Monday 21st March at 7.30pm**. Thank you for continuing to encourage **sponsorship of our candidates** on their **Sponsored Walk** at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sponsoredwalkformarysmeals and continuing to help the candidates to arrive in good time for the start of each session.

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 Lots of people and great fun too! Why not join them? All over 60's welcome—just turn up on Tuesday in the café/Bar at 1.00pm. Everyone welcome—and not just Catholics!

WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR YOUR OFFERINGS: We will very shortly be distributing boxes of envelopes to those who regularly use them to make their weekly offering to God. Thank you to parishioners who have switched over to a standing order. This saves us printing costs.

STANDING ORDERS: April is the beginning of the new financial year, if you are a gift aider and giving your offer-tory donation via the weekly envelopes why not consider giving by standing order? If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email.

GIFT AID DETAILS: In order to gift aid your donations you need to be a UK tax payer, if you are one you can gift aid your donations at no extra cost to yourself, we would be able to claim 25% of your donations from HMRC. It is also important that we keep our donor records up to date as we do not want to cause anyone any trouble, if your circumstances have changed or you are no longer a tax payer please inform the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. If we claim on behalf of someone who is not paying taxes HMRC may ask that person to refund the amount claimed.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS Fridays at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

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

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP & THE LAMP AT OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM is a lovely thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are some possibilities in the month of April. Please contact the office.

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.

STOP NEW ABORTION THREAT. Baroness Sugg has tabled an amendment to the Health and Care Bill that would make 'DIY' at-home abortion permanent. It is vital that as many Peers as possible oppose this amendment. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to send an email to a randomly-assigned Peer asking them to oppose the amendment. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionthreat to contact your MP now.

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.

MARY'S MEALS COLLECTING BOXES please hold on to the these for Lent (and, of course, fill them up) and return them for Maundy Thursday (not now!).

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-seek-an-organising-secretary/>.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order **your Digital 4 weeks FREE** trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7 6 5 0 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

CAR KEYS—Did anyone leave some VW keys behind ? Speak to Fr Jeremy.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS Bishop Michael Campbell OSA will celebrate the Mass for Migrants on Monday 2nd May at Westminster Cathedral for the feast of St Joseph the Worker, with ethnic chaplaincies and communities around London. The Mass will begin at 2.30pm, with a banner procession from 2pm. A poster is enclosed, all are welcome.

CATHOLICS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: ETHICS AND PRACTICE St Mary's University, the Anscombe Centre and the Bios Centre are holding an event on ethics and practice in health and social care, taking place on 2nd April at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square. The event is part of a series aimed at Christians working in the health and social care sectors, but anybody is welcome to attend. Topics include the challenges of assisted dying, the care of the dying and questions of conscientious objection in the workplace. Contributors include Bishop John Sherrington, Prof David Albert Jones, Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre; Margaret Doherty, Director of the Centre of the Art of Dying Well; and Dr Helen Watt, Senior Research Fellow of the Bios Centre. Poster is enclosed. Cost is £20. To book, please visit <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/04/catholics-in-health-and-social-care>. For more information, contact marianne.rozario@stmarys.ac.uk

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.



Earn while you learn with our new Police Constable entry pathways



SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Collect

O God, author of every mercy
and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of
our lowliness, that we, who are bowed
down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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: 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: Ps. 102:1-4,6-8,11

R/. The Lord is compassion and love.

1. 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. *R/.*

2. 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. *R/.*

3. 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. *R/.*

4. 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. *R/.*

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: Mt 4:17

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

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

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."'

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

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.

Prayer after Communion

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in
Mystery may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer over the People

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,
and in your kindness grant your
servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour,
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.