

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Introit: Psalm 90: 15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

Collect

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
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: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden? The woman answered the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death. Then the serpent said to the woman, No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil. The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 50

R/. *Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. R/.

2. My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. R/.

3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R/.

4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. R/.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on

everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation;

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

*Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:
You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Prayer over the Offerings

Give us the right dispositions,
O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings,
for with them we celebrate the beginning
of this venerable and sacred time.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed now with heavenly bread,
by which faith is nourished,
hope increased,
and charity strengthened,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread,
and strive to live by every word
which proceeds from your mouth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer over the People

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray,
come down upon your people,
that hope may grow in tribulation,
virtue be strengthened in temptation,
and eternal redemption be assured.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUBBURY

Sunday 26th February 2023

THE FIRST 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 A

Weekday Readings
Lent week 1

Divine Office
Lent week 1

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 26 Feb
6.15pm
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Mary & Richard Cooksey RIP
Margaret Mc Elwee Ints.
Charles Pinto RIP
Matthew Rammelt RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Mon 27 Feb
9.30am

lent feria
Keith Kugaswaran RIP

Tues 28 Feb
9.30am

Lent feria
Ignatius FernandesRIP

Weds 1 March
9.30am

S. DAVID
(Patron of Wales)
Maria Desa RIP

Thurs 2 March
9.30am

Lent feria
Terry Madden RIP

Fri 3 March
9.30am

Lent feria
Delia Sheehy RIP

Sat 4 March
9.30am

Lent feria
Holy Souls

Sun 5 March
6.15pm
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Luciana Fernandes RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Annamma Manuelpillai RIP
Pauline & Eddie Spencer RIP
Kathleen Egan RIP (7th Anniv.)

TODAY'S MASS



In St. Matthew's gospel the devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture. Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture,

Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness. As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Eve and Adam eat from the tree that was forbidden to them by God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17

A prayer for mercy

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife.

Pope St. Leo the Great

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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

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Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.

Charity No: 233699

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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, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan, Jocalyn Almeida, John, Rowland Watts, Catherine Corcoran, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Jean Lurshay, Patrick.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Maja Liss*

RECENTLY MARRIED *Liam Cunningham & Laura Collins*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Avril Toppin, Francis Rowan, Susan Scannell, Marcelle Williamson.*

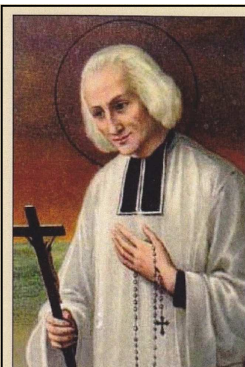
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Matthew Rammelt, Keith Kugaswaran.*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Socorro Goes Birthday Ints.

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
Ophelia Jules Birthday Ints.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR March 2023
For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



St. Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney

"Offer your temptations for the conversion of sinners. When the devil sees you doing this, he is beside himself with rage and makes off, because then the temptation is turned against himself."

What motivated Jesus to spend 40 days and nights of solitude, prayer and fasting in the Judean wilderness? This desert landscape was largely uninhabitable and was full of dangers for anyone who dared to venture in it for long. Danger from scorching heat by day and extreme cold at night, danger from wild animals and scorpions, plus the deprivation of food and the scarcity of water. For the chosen people of Israel the desert was a place of testing, encounter, and renewal. When the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, they wandered 40 years in the wilderness. This was seen as a time of purification and preparation for entry into the promised land. So why did Jesus choose such a barren, lonely place for an intense and long period of sustained prayer and fasting? Was it simply a test to prepare him for his mission? Or did Satan want to lure him into a trap? The word tempt in English usually means to entice someone to do what is wrong or forbidden. The scriptural word used here also means test in the sense of proving and purifying someone to see if there are ready for the task at hand. We test flight pilots to see that they are fit to fly under all conditions, including times of adverse turbulence and poor visibility. Likewise God tests his servants to see if they are fit and ready to be used by him. Jesus was no exception to this pattern of testing. He went to the desert without food or shelter. Adam and Eve had everything they needed in the Garden of Paradise. But they ate of the forbidden fruit out of disobedience because they trusted in themselves rather than in God. They were cast out of Paradise and driven into the wilderness. Jesus freely enters the wilderness in order to regain Paradise for those who lost it. So where did Jesus find the strength to survive the desert's harsh conditions and the tempter's seduction? He fed on God's word and found strength in doing his Father's will. During Lent, Satan will surely tempt us and he will try his best to get us to choose our will over God's will. If he can't make us renounce our faith or sin mortally, he will then try to get us to make choices that will lead us, little by little, away from what God wants for us.

Jesus was tempted like us and he overcame sin not by his own human effort but by the grace and strength which his Father gave to him. When tempted by the devil Jesus did not try to fight his adversary on his own human strength. He relied on the power which the Spirit gave him. His obedience to his Father's will and his willingness to embrace the cross reversed the curse of Adam's disobedience. His victory over sin and death won for us not only pardon for our sins but adoption as sons and daughters of God.

How can we overcome sin and oppression in our personal lives? The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness and to be our guide and consoler in temptation and testing. He gives grace to the humble who acknowledge their dependence on him and he helps us to stand against the attacks of our enemy, Satan, who seeks to destroy us. Jesus is ever ready to pour out his Spirit upon us that we may have the strength and courage we need to resist sin and to reject the lies and deceptions of Satan. God wants us to "fight the good fight of the faith". Let's do that this Lent!

NEWS UPDATE



Switch mobile phones
off or to silent

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

LENT LEAFLET & COLLECTING BOX—Have you taken yours? If not take one as you leave Mass today. There are just a few left.

FUNERAL MASS of Francis Patrick Rowan on Friday 10th March at 11.00am followed by burial in Northwood Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Avril Nicole Toppin on Monday 13th March at 11.00am followed by burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP ON WEDNESDAY DURING LENT: a get together & discussion, for all who would like to renew their faith. Beginning this week 1st March at around 10.30am in the Café/Bar. All welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At **Session 5**, on **Tuesday 28th February**, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups on '**Jesus celebrating the Last Supper**'. Thank you for continuing to arrive promptly for the start of the session at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION - At **Session 2**, on **Monday 27th February**, the Confirmation Candidates will be reflecting on '**Christian Values**'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at 7.30pm. Please remember the first **Confirmation Group Mass**, that all the Candidates should attend, is taking place on **Sunday 5th March** at 9.45am.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT - The **8th Greenford Scout Hut**, in Whitton Avenue East, is raising money for the **World Scout Jamboree in South Korea** through a **Quiz & Curry Night** on **Saturday 4th March** at 7pm. Curry & Snacks served (bring your own drinks). To book a table for six or buy single tickets costing £10, please contact Judy Osorio at 07956 118702.

CAN YOU SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? If so we need you. As we have begun a new year it would be good to see more of our community involved with the Music at both the 9.45am Family Mass and the 11.15am Solemn Mass. Too many of us leave it to a few. The great Saint Augustine reminds us that the one who sings prays twice! Our music and singing is one of the great ways we give glory to God especially when we are celebrating Mass. If you feel you could help, please let us know as you'd be very welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP). : If you are feeling isolated and would like a home visit or a chat with a friendly person over the phone please get in touch. If you are struggling financially or would like other practical assistance please do not

hesitate to contact us. If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a member of the SVP you would be very welcome, just call the number below or drop in to our next meeting. Tel. 0775 3654154 (Theresa). Email. frain.home@gmail.com

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 - Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

PLANNED GIVING—envelopes for 2023/2024 will soon be available. Thank you to parishioners who have now switched over to a standing order and those who are using our card machine. This saves us printing costs. **PLEASE** let us know:

- If you are new to the parish and wish to use planned giving envelopes for the first time
 - If you wish to change from Planned Giving envelopes to a Standing Order (ie direct through your bank).
 - You wish to contribute by Standing Order.
 - You are a standard tax payer and wish to Gift Aid your contribution - this can increase your donations by 25p in the £ at no extra cost to yourself..
 - You need a supply of "paid by Bankers' order" cards.
- You have a Gift Aid in place and your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax. It is the responsibility of anyone who has a Gift Aid and contributes by planned giving envelope or bankers' order to inform the parish office if they are no longer paying tax.** Please address all queries to sud-bury@rcdow.org.uk/020 8904 2552 (option 2).

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

St Patrick - 17th March
St Joseph - 20th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
Palm Sunday - Holy Week commences 2nd April
Maundy Thursday - 6th April
Good Friday - 7th April
Holy Saturday - 8th April
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 9th April
St George - 24th April

PARENTING FOR FAITH - a new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers over 5 weeks from 23rd March 23 via Zoom starting at 8:00pm. There is a £5 registration fee. <https://www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith>

A VERY RESPONSIBLE Catholic adult male is looking for accommodation. Any chance you could help? Contact Fr Jeremy for more information.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA were pleased to hear that 2 of their entries of the Nativity Painting Competition from pupils at St George's School have been chosen by the KSC Province 30 (Westminster West) for submission for natural judging. Entries were received from Councils including Harrow, Hanwell, Maidenhead and High

Wycombe. The entries we submitted will each receive a framed certificate. National judging takes place in early March. Good luck to our children!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 21-28 JULY: Bookings are not open yet, but 'Expressions of Interest' are sought from all who intend to participate in the Pilgrimage, whether as Praying Pilgrims, Clergy etc. An expression of interest can be made at the website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYERS in Notre Dame de France (French Church, 5 Leicester Place WC2H 7BX) at 19:30 on **25th February** and **25th March 2023**. A time of prayer with Taizé chants, scripture and silence in the heart of London. All are welcome!

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries - 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th 50th, 60th and 60+. As usual couples are asked to register their wish to attend with their parish, which then sends on the details by Saturday, 1st April 2023.

THE CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY will be on Friday 3rd March. In preparation, envelopes and prayer cards will be available from next week for those who wish to use them.

THE RISE THEATRE COMPANY is coming to St Gabriel's Church in South Harrow with a production called "Faithful Companions".... On Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm. See the poster in the porch.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

every FRIDAY in Lent
after the 9.30am Mass