

Sunday 12th March 2023

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 A
Weekday Readings
Lent week 3
Divine Office
Lent week 3

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 12 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
6.15pm	Felix Gilbert RIP
8.30am	Peter Cronin RIP
9.45am	Zayne Alexander DeSouza (1st Birthday intentions)
11.15am	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
5.30pm	Mrs Kitty O'Mahoney RIP
Mon 13 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Misbon Fernandes (Birthday Thanksgiving)
11.00am	FUNERAL MASS Avril Toppin RIP
Tues 14 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Watts & Ledo families RIP
Weds 15 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Private Intention
11.00am	FUNERAL MASS Pasquale Raffa RIP
Thurs 16 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Joyce & Ken Fernandez RIP 
Fri 17 March	S. Patrick
9.30am	Dorothy & Family intentions
Sat 18 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Stephanie Kennedy (Birthday intentions)
Sun 19 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
6.15pm	John Hernon RIP
8.30am	Michael & Tom Haugh RIP
9.45am	Private intention
11.15am	Hazel Elma Peter RIP
5.30pm	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



In today's Gospel the significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
Sing joyfully in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42
Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Mercy imitates God and disappoints Satan"

St John Chrysostom
V

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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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, Jocelyn 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, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Maja Liss*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Avril Toppin, Francis Rowan, Susan Scannell, Marcelle Williamson., Pasquale Raffa, John Flynn*

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Joyce Fernandez, Michael Hughes*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Arlene J. Stonehouse (Thanksgiving)

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Tyler Joel Caiado (3rd Birthday)

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.



As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.

— Mother Teresa —

AZ QUOTES

Very often we go to God the Father seeking help in our various needs. In the Gospel today we learn what the Father is seeking. This revelation takes place during a very unlikely encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well. It is unlikely because of the deep animosity that existed between the Jews and Samaritans. In Matthew's Gospel there is the account of the Samaritan Village that would not even permit Jesus and his Apostles to stay there because they were on their way to Jerusalem. In this Gospel Jesus and his apostles stop at the well and the only one there is a woman getting water. It is commonly thought that the reason why she was there alone is that because of having been married five times she was despised by the village, and would go at a time when no one would be there to harass her. This particular day she encounters Jesus, and she notices that he is a Jew and no doubt expects him to speak disrespectfully to her because she is a Samaritan. Instead he humbles himself and asks her for water. She is amazed at this and she and Jesus enter into a conversation in which Jesus tells her of the life-giving water that God desires her to drink. It is at this point that Jesus tells her about true worshipping, and that it is such people who the Father seeks to Worship Him.

The question we are compelled to ask ourselves is, "are we true worshippers?" Jesus amplifies the statement by telling us that true worshippers worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth. The gift of the Spirit is one that enables us to pray, but worshipping in Spirit is much more than this. It is the Spirit of God dwelling within us, and not our own spirit. It is the Spirit of God that brings truth into our lives so that our worship is in the Holy Spirit and the Truth of Christ. We are transformed and see Jesus in a different light. He is our Lord and Saviour, the one who gives us life-giving water, and eternal life. When we live in Spirit and Truth it is difficult to contain within us the joy of God's love and presence. It comes forth from us in numerous ways, both intentional and unintentional.

The woman Jesus met at the well was transformed from the sinner who was an outcast to a missionary who wasted no time in telling the rest of the village about her encounter with Jesus. This happened very quickly and the Spirit and Truth were so evident that those who despised her came to follow her to meet Jesus. The hearts of the Samaritans were changed and they went from being people who did not welcome Jesus, to a village that begged him to stay. He did, and more and more of the people came to believe that Jesus is Saviour of the World.

When we live Worship in Spirit and Truth our lives are transformed. We might go out with the intention of inviting others to experience the Lord. Our personal testimonies do not have to be long and complex, but can be simple sharing of how blessed we are by God. When we are living in Spirit and Truth even our regular everyday conversations reveal to those around us that there is something different about us. Maybe, it is a new sense of peace, an inner joy that others notice, or a confidence in speaking about God. May we become what the Father desires us to be, worshippers in Spirit and Truth, and may we allow him to transform us.

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.

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.

FUNERAL MASS of Pasquale Raffa on Wednesday 15th March at 11.00am followed by burial in Greenford Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of John Flynn on Tuesday 21st March at 11.00am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP ON WEDNESDAY DURING LENT: a Reflection series on a get together & discussion, for all who would like to renew their faith. Each Wednesday at around 10.30am in the Café/Bar. All welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY is the Fourth Sunday of Lent and a half-way point on our journey to Easter in Lent. It is also traditionally **MOTHERING SUNDAY** when we remember our Mothers, our Mother the Church and Our Blessed Lady. We traditionally give flowers out for our children to give their to their mothers and/or guardians and carers. We will do this at 9.45am and 11.15am Masses.

SOLEMNITY OF St. JOSEPH will take place this year on Monday 20th March (as the traditional date is always 19th and this for us is a Sunday this year). He is traditionally patron of of the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, travellers, immigrants, and a happy death, so there's plenty to not only for which we should pray but also give thanks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At **Session 7**, on **Tuesday 14th March**, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about the most precious gift of receiving 'Jesus In Holy Communion'. Also, during Sessions 7 & 8, each week two groups will be making a visit to the church with their Catechists to complete an Activity Sheet. Details will be provided by email to those groups affected each week. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session with your son/daughter at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION 2023 - Thank you, with the help of the **Information Sheet** provided by email to Parents/Carers on Tuesday, for completing the **Letter to the Bishop** in time for Monday's session. At **Session 4**, on **Monday 13th March**, the Candidates will be learning a little more about our **Lenten Charity** and the **Sponsored Walk** raising money for **The Passage**. Thank you for continuing to arrive promptly for the start of the session at 7.30pm.

CAN YOU SING? We really need you to help with our music at the 9.45am & 11.15am Masses on Sunday. Please do think about this carefully. St Augustine reminds us that *the one who sings prays twice!* Please don't leave this important ministry to others...

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES—A PARISH CELEBRATION. We are beginning to plan a grand lunch and tea on the Sunday 6th May (the day after the coronation). In the next few weeks we'll need to get a team together of helps and so forth, so please think if you can help or have a good ideas. Watch this space for more news!

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

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

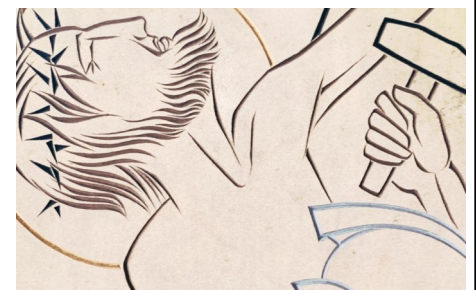
THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA were pleased to hear that 2 of their entries of the Nativity Painting Competition from pupils at St George's School have been chosen by the KSC Province 30 (Westminster West) for submission for natural judging. Entries were received from Councils including Harrow, Hanwell,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

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ex 36: 23-26

When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

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 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. Why did you bring us out of Egypt? they said. Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle? Moses appealed to the Lord. How am I to deal with this people? he said. A little more and they will stone me! The Lord said to Moses, Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink. This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, Is the Lord with us, or not? The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: 94

R/. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R./*

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God
and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. *R./*

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work." *R./*

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
*Lord, you are really the Saviour of the world: give me the living water,
so that I may never get thirsty.*
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by

the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again:
but anyone who drinks the water that
I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in
Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come - in fact it is here already -
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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 Jn 4: 13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

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.