

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

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, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons. When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him, but the Lord said to Samuel, Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart. Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, The Lord has not chosen these. He then asked Jesse, Are these all the sons you have? He answered, There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep. Then Samuel said to Jesse, Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes. Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said Come, anoint him, for this is the one. At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: 94

R/. The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. *R./*

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. *R./*

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. *R./*

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, in the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. *R./*

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness

and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

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

Gospel: John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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 Cf. Jn 9: 11, 38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 19th March 2023

THE FOURTH 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 4

Divine Office
Lent week 4

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 19 March 6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT John Hernon RIP Michael & Tom Haugh RIP Private intention Hazel Elma Peter RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 20 March 9.30am	SOLEMNITY OF SJOSEPH Conversion of sinners
Tues 21 March 9.30am 11.00am	Lent feria Patrick O'Connor RIP (10th Anniversary) FUNERAL MASS John Flynn RIP
Weds 22 March 9.30am	Lent feria Christina O'Halloran (Birthday Intentions)
Thurs 23 March 9.30am	Lent feria William Patrick Johns RIP (1st)
Fri 24 March 9.30am 12 noon	Lent feria Deceased Members of the Ladies Social Guild HOLY MATRIMONY Joe Anderson & Sarah Evans
Sat 25 March 9.30am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Louis Pais RIP
Sun 26 March 6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Tara Kenny (nee Healy) RIP Kathleen O'Connor RIP & Patrick Hannon RIP J & N Ferandes & Family (Thanksgiving) Michael O'Connell RIP (9th) THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability,

God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-6
The Lord is our shepherd.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41
Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Jesus reveals to the blind man whom he had healed that he had come into the world for judgement, to separate the blind who can be healed from those who do not allow themselves to be healed because they consider themselves healthy." (Pope Benedict XVI)

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
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Telephone: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office/ SVP Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.
Charity No: 233699
Email: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk **Website:** parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

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, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Kairo Ricardo Vitharane, Eva Lila Eloise Villa Verde, Eilish Oliveira

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Susan Scannell, John Flynn, John 'Max' Issacs

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: William Patrick Johns, Lenny Candappa, Louis Pais

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Intentions of Baptiste Fernandes

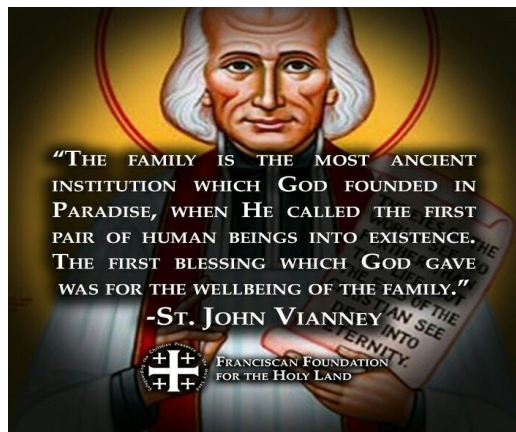
LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Intentions of Baptiste Fernandes

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.



In today's gospel, when Jesus meets a man who was blind from birth, he awakened hope in him by proclaiming that he was the light of the world. Jesus then did something quite remarkable, both to identify with this man's misery and to draw faith and confidence in him as well. He touched the man's eyes with his own spittle mixed with dirt and bid him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. Jesus not only gave physical sight to the blind man, but spiritual vision as well. That is why Jesus proclaimed himself the "light of the world" (John 9:4).

So what is the significance of this miracle at the Pool of Siloam? It is certainly more than just a miraculous event. It is a "sign" that points to the source of the miraculous life-giving water and light which Jesus offers through the gift and work of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38). The Pharisees were upset with Jesus' miracle on two counts. First, he healed the blind man on the Sabbath, which they considered a serious violation of the command to rest on the Sabbath.

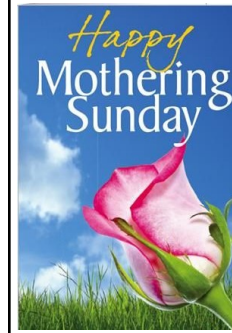
Second, how could a sinner and a Sabbath-breaker do such a marvellous work of God! The cured man must not have really been blind at all! This blind man was well known to many people and his parents testified under oath that he had indeed been blind since birth. Their prejudice made them blind to God's intention for the Sabbath and to Jesus' claim to be the One sent from the Father in heaven to bring freedom and light to his people. They tried to intimidate both this cured man and his parents by threatening to exclude them from membership in the synagogue. This man was shunned by the religious authorities because he believed that Jesus was the Messiah. There is no sickness, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual that the Lord Jesus does not identify with. In fact there is no place of suffering the Lord has not shared with us. This is good news!!! But do we believe it?

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.



THIS 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 mothers and/or guardians and carers. We will do this at 9.45am and 11.15am Masses.

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

FUNERAL MASS of John 'Max' Issacs on Tuesday 28th March at 11.00am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

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 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.

DETAILS FOR HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARISH will be available from Next week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At Session 8, on Tuesday 21st March, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about how 'Jesus' love unites us'. Also, during Session 8, 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 the Parents/Carers of those groups affected. Thank you for ensuring your children arrive promptly for the start of the session at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION 2023 - We are delighted that, at Session 5 of our Programme on Monday 20th March, Westminster Youth Ministry are coming to help facilitate our 'Prayer, Praise & Adoration' session. Thank you for your continuing efforts, using your Sponsor Cards, to help raise as much as possible for **The Passage** through next week's **Sponsored Walk**. Please also remember the next **Confirmation Group Mass** is next **Saturday 25th March** at 6.15pm.

SPONSOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES - Our Confirmation Candidates are making a 5km **Sponsored Walk** on **Sunday 26th March** in aid of **The Passage**, our **Lenten Charity**. Please consider sponsoring our Candidates by visiting the **Fundraising Page on our Website** (under **News and Events**) that can also be accessed at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury/sponsored-walk/>. Thank you.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP ON WEDNESDAY: 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.

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 helpers 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 ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND. 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: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk or 020 8904 2552 (option 2).

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE WEEKLY is an on line newspaper. Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order your Digital 2 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk. We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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!

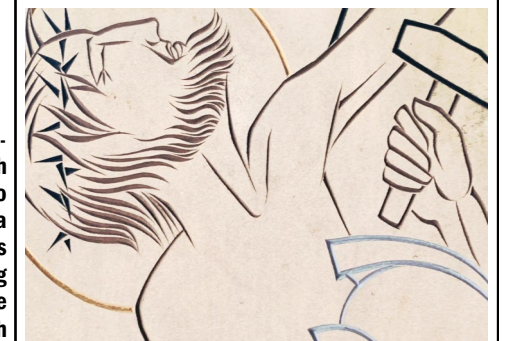
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 21-28 JULY: Bookings are not open yet, but 'Expressions of Interest' are sought from all who intend to participate in the Pilgrimage, whether as Praying Pilgrims, Clergy etc. An expression of interest can be made at the website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

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.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA are offering an **EASTER SCENE PAINTING COMPETITION**. Would you like to be recognised in the School/Parish/ youth Club. See the poster in the porch.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday in Lent after
the 9.30am Mass