

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

## Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 43 (42): 1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

## Collect

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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: Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

## Responsorial Psalm: 94

*R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

1. Out of the depths I cry to you,  
O Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. *R./*

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness;  
for this we revere you. *R./*

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than a watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) *R./*

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. *R./*

## Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, Christ, King of eternal glory!*

## Gospel: John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in

death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 11: 26

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood  
we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

## Prayer over the People

Bless, O Lord, your people,  
who long for the gift of your mercy,  
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire  
they may receive by your generous gift.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUBBURY

Sunday 26th March 2023

# THE FIFTH 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 5

Divine Office  
Lent week 5 / 1

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

## THIS WEEK

<b>Sun 26 March</b> 6.15pm 8.30am	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Tara Kenny (nee Healy) RIP Kathleen O'Connor RIP & Patrick Hannon RIP J & N Fernandes & Family (Thanksgiving) Michael O'Connell RIP (9th) THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
<b>Mon 27 March</b> 9.30am	<b>Lent feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Tues 28 March</b> 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Lent feria</b> Doogue Family Intentions. FUNERAL MASS John Maxwell Isaacs RIP
<b>Weds 29 March</b> 9.30am	<b>Lent feria</b> Joseph Eakins RIP
<b>Thurs 30 March</b> 9.30am	<b>Lent feria</b> Ann Coggins RIP Mrs Mary Andrews (70th Birthday)
<b>Fri 31 March</b> 9.30am	<b>Lent feria</b> Gerald Doody RIP
<b>Sat 1 April</b> 9.30am	<b>Lent feria</b> Bridie Ryan RIP
<b>Sun 2 April</b> 6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> George Hillier RIP Gareth Hughes RIP Sean Kelly Intentions THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Isobel Scannell RIP

## TODAY'S MASS

*"Christ is our resurrection and our life"*



*When we are dead through sin Christ brings us his spirit so that we may truly live the new life of grace. We are the spiritual brothers and sisters of Christ through God's Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.*

## First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130:1-8

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

## Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

## Gospel Reading: John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

## SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"We must wait for God, long and meekly, in wind and wet, in the thunder and lightning, in the cold and dark. Wait and he will come. He never comes to those who do not wait."*

Fr Frederick Faber

## MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

**Parish Priest:** Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead [jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Mike Guthrie [michaelguthrie@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaelguthrie@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Catechetical Coordinator:** Mr. Peter Kingsley [peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk)  
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**Director of Music:** Mr. Scott Price [scottprice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:scottprice@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Hall Bookings:** via the office or [sudbury@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk)  
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 Tel 07751804978  
**Address:** The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE  
**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](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk) **Website:** [parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury](http://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:** Maria Magdalena Dembek, Rafe George Hassania

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Susan Scannell, John Flynn, John 'Max' Issacs, Teresa Anne O'Sullivan

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** Kathleen O'Connor, Patrick Hannon, Michael O'Connell (9th), Louis Pais

### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*In memory of Kaithampillai Santhapillai RIP*

### LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

*In memory of Lourthunakai Kaithampillai*

### 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



Do not be afraid to be saints.  
Follow Jesus Christ who is the source  
of freedom and light.  
Be open to the Lord  
so that He may lighten  
all your ways.

Pope John Paul II

Why did Jesus delay in coming to Lazarus' home when he knew that his friend was gravely ill? Jesus certainly loved Lazarus and his two sisters and he often stayed in their home at Bethany. But to the surprise of his friends and disciples, Jesus did not go right away to Bethany when he was called. Jesus explained that Lazarus' sickness would bring glory to God. The glory which Jesus had in mind, however, was connected with suffering and the cross. He saw the cross as his supreme glory and the way to glory in the kingdom of God. For Jesus there was no other way to glory except through the cross.

Jesus also knew that it was dangerous for him to travel anywhere near Jerusalem at this time, since the religious authorities in Jerusalem were plotting his destruction. Jesus, however, was willing to pay the price to help his friend. For Jesus to come to Jerusalem at Passover time was an act of courage. In the longer version of this gospel (not printed here) the explanation which Jesus gave to his disciples was simple and challenging at the same time. "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" In so many words he said: "There are enough hours in the day to do what one must do." A day can neither be rushed nor extended. Its period is fixed.

In God's economy we each have our "day" whether it be short or long. While time is limited, there is enough for us to accomplish what God intends. God gives each of us our allotted portion in life. We can either waste it or use it to the utmost for God's glory. Jesus did not let circumstances or pressure dictate what he would do. Nor did he permit others to dictate his actions or timetable. He took action of his own initiative and in his good time. Don't we often try to get God to do things in our way and on our timetable?

Both the Romans and the Jews divided the day into twelve equal hours from sunrise to sunset. The day's work and travel, however, ceased when the daylight was gone. If someone wanted to get their day's work done, he had to do it before it got dark. Jesus made a spiritual analogy with our relationship with God. While the light of Christ is with us, we must live and walk in the truth and grace of his light. There's a right time to make peace with God, and that time is now. When darkness comes, then judgment follows for those who refuse God and spurn his love.

When Jesus announced that Lazarus was dead and that he was going to Jerusalem, Thomas showed both his courage and pessimism. "Let us go, that we may die with him." This courage, however, was not tempered with faith and hope in God's promise to bring victory out of defeat. Even though Thomas was a witness to Lazarus' resurrection, he betrayed his master when arrest and death stared him in the face. He doubted his master's resurrection until Jesus showed him the wounds of his passion. God gives us faith, courage, and the strength we need to persevere through any trial and suffering we must face in this life. If we embrace our cross with faith and trust in God, then we, too, will see victory and glory in the end.



# 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.

### WHY IS EVERYTHING VEILED IN PURPLE CLOTHS TODAY?

This is a development of the ancient part of this Lenten Season known as "Passiontide", which used similar Johannine readings describing the hostility towards Jesus. This emphasis, or concentration, was marked by an increase in the austerity and atmosphere of Lent, as familiar statues and images were hidden from sight by means of violet veils. Even the crosses in church were veiled, leaving only the Stations of the Cross for devotion. This gave a special importance to a part of the Solemn Good Friday, when the cross that was to be venerated was solemnly unveiled.

Lent is our annual wilderness, our forty day journey with the Lord through the desert. Fasting and Abstinence, as well as other acts of prayer or penance, are to create that wilderness in our lives - a freedom from distraction, from the busyness of material things and the preoccupations of this world - so that we may discover God's closeness more vividly, more strongly, more perfectly. As statues and images are veiled in Church in these last days of Lent, we feel a sense of emptiness. We have already been without flowers for more than four weeks - now even our statues of Saint Patrick and Saint Teresa and Saint Anthony of Padua are veiled, and we walk into Church and feel a desolation.

But this is an emptiness and desolation that Christ waits to fill: even if our images and crosses are veiled, we do not veil his presence in our midst. Indeed, we are invited to focus more and more on that heavenly gift which is the presence of Christ in our world. We empty ourselves of distractions, so that we can focus all on Christ, who gives all for us. All this makes us stop and ask - Why this emptiness? Why all this sombre purple? What are we celebrating?

**WELCOME** this weekend to Max Elgot from the **Passage Centre for the Homeless** which is our Lent Charity. There will be a collection for this work after Mass. For those of you who collecting boxes at home, please bring them back in Holy Week.

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

**FUNERAL MASS of Teresa Anne O'Sullivan** on Tuesday 4th April at 11.00am followed by burial in Alperton Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**DETAILS FOR HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARISH** are available. Please take one today.

**NEXT SUNDAY is PALM SUNDAY.** Please make sure you arrive on time (especially if you are habitually late!) as you will miss the blessing of palms and the processions.

**CHILDREN 4-9 YEARS OLD** please take one of our new sheets called "LOOK" to help you understand the Gospel message of the day.

**FLOWERS AT EASTER:** If you'd like to sponsor a lily in memory of loved ones there are envelopes at the back of church for you to make this contribution. The names of the departed will be enrolled in a special book for the season. There will be a special collection towards the general Easter flowers after all the Palm Sunday Masses.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - At Session 9, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about how 'Jesus is the Bread of Life'. Thank you for ensuring your children arrive promptly for the start of the session at 7pm.

**CONFIRMATION 2023** - At Session 6, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Fr. Jeremy will be helping us reflect on the importance of **Holy Week** as we look forward to Easter. Thank you for continuing to arrive promptly for the start of the session at 7.30pm. Thank you, also, for your continuing efforts, using your Sponsor Cards to help raise as much as possible for **The Passage** through this Sunday's **Sponsored Walk**.

**SPONSOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES** - Our Confirmation Candidates are making a 5km **Sponsored Walk** this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FILM NIGHT** this Friday with the showing of the great film "A Man For All Seasons". Dors open at 7.00pm for the café/Bar.

**LENT DISCUSSION GROUP CONTINUES 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](mailto: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.

**GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS & WORKSHOP** - As last year, the Children's Workshop and Stations of the Cross will be taking place on Good Friday at 11.30am. If you would like to help in any way please speak to Candy White or contact, Peter Kingsley, at [peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk) Thank you!

**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](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk) or 020 8904 2552 (option 2).

IF YOU HAVE ASKED FOR A SET OF GIVING ENVELOPES THESE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO YOU THIS WEEKEND.

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.