

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

R/. A pure heart create for me, O God.

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

2. 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/.*

3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. *R/.*

Second reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 12:26

*Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
Whoever serves me must follow me,
says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!*

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the
ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be
there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed
on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the
kind of death he would die.

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

Amen, Amen I say to you:
Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies,
it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 17th March 2024

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 B

Weekday Mass Readings
Lent week 5

Divine Office
Week 5/1(Lent)

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 17 March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
6.15pm (vigil)	Michael O'Malley RIP
8.30am	Bertram Jacob RIP
9.45am	Bobby Duane RIP
11.15am	Private intentions
5.30pm	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 18 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Molly Fabron RIP
Tues 19 March	Lent feria
9.30am	John & Anton Isaacs RIP
Weds 20 March	S. JOSEPH
9.30am	Mary Kathleen Swarbrick RIP
Thurs 21 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Elizabeth Watson Ints.
Fri 22 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Sr Gertrude Tirant RIP
Sat 23 March	Lent feria
9.30am	Derek Isak

Beginning of HOLY WEEK

Sun 24 March	PALM SUNDAY
6.15pm (vigil)	William Patrick Johns RIP
8.30am	(2nd) Katleen O'Connor RIP & Patrick Hannon RIP (8th)
9.45am	Baptiste Fernandes Ints.
11.15am	Louis Pais RIP
5.30pm	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



FATHER GLORIFY*
YOUR NAME
JN 12:28

Christ, like the grain of wheat which dies in order to produce new life, dies for us. Following his example we must realise that if we want eternal life we must be prepared to give our lives to God. He writes his law on our hearts and we submit humbly to his will even when it causes us pain. We learn to obey through suffering. There is no greater school in which to grow through holiness.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah tells the people that the Lord will make a new covenant with them, planting the law within their hearts.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Through his sufferings, Jesus gained salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let our praise be with God, and not from ourselves, for God hates those who praise themselves"
Pope St. Clement I

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Mike Guthrie michaelguthrie@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, Aaran Thayaparan, John, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Jean Lurshay, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Chris Sweeney, Marjorie Hoareau, Catherine Corcoran, Barbara Gill, Dan O'Connor, Ciara I.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Jesse Francis Masterson*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Anthony George, Pauline Brennan, Rose Lally, Bridget Canning.*

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Bertram Jacob, Kathleen Egan (8th).*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
In memory of Francina Yap RIP


LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
In memory of Kevin Durcan RIP

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for March 2024
For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

LENTEN FEATURE

VEILING OF STATUES AND ICONS DURING PASSIONTIDE



This ancient Catholic practice stems from the former liturgical calendar in which the old Gospel reading for the 5th Sunday of Lent (i.e., the start of Passiontide) tells us on how Jesus hid Himself away from the Jews when they attempted to stone Him. According to St. Augustine, at this moment when Jesus "hid Himself" from the Jews, Christ in fact became invisible by virtue of His Divine nature. To help signify this mystery, crucifixes and images of Christ are veiled with purple cloth on the evening before the start of the Passiontide. The same goes with the images of the saints, as it is befitting that if the glory of the Master is hidden, then His servants should not appear.

facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

If we want to receive the abundant new life and the fruit of the Spirit which Jesus freely offers us, then the "outer shell" of our fallen sinful nature must first be broken and be put to death. In baptism our "old nature" which was enslaved by sin is buried with Christ so we may rise to new life with Christ through the cleansing waters of baptism. St. Paul describes this death and rebirth in Christ as a "new creation" which Christ accomplishes in us through the power of his saving death and resurrection (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This process of death to the "old fallen self" is both a one-time event which occurs in our baptism, and it is also a daily, on-going cycle of growth in which the Holy Spirit buries us more deeply into Jesus' death to sin so we might rise anew in the power of God's love, righteousness (moral goodness), and holiness. There is a great paradox here. Death leads to life. When we "die" to ourselves - to our rebellious sinful nature and wilful rejection of God's commandments - we receive God's forgiveness and the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit which frees us to love and serve others, and follow God faithfully. It is God's free gift of grace (his blessing and favour towards us) and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to live and serve joyfully as sons and daughters of God.

How can I practically "die" to myself so that the Lord Jesus can live in me and transform me into his likeness and holiness? It certainly means that what is contrary to God's will must be "put to death" within me. God gives us grace to say "yes" to his will and the strength we need to reject whatever is contrary to his commands and plan for our lives. Jesus promises that we will bear much "fruit" for him, if we choose to deny ourselves for his sake and embrace his will for our lives.

Jesus used strong language to describe the kind of self-denial he had in mind for his disciples. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25). What did Jesus mean when he said that a follower of Christ must hate himself or herself? The expression to hate something often meant to prefer less. Jesus says that nothing should get in the way of our preferring him and the will of our heavenly Father above all else. St. Paul reminds us that "what is sown in the earth is subject to decay, what rises is incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 15:42). Do you believe in the power and victory of Christ's saving cross and resurrection? And are you ready to reject whatever is contrary to God's commands and to trust him for the strength and joy to embrace his will for your life?



THE MENS BREAKFAST
SATURDAY 23rd March in the Café Bar
9.00am onwards
Fathers, why not bring your sons with you!

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

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? It always helps us to get to know you and also your family if you register with us. We can then send you information about the parish and opportunities. Registration forms can be found at the back of Church (underneath the picture of Pope Francis).

FLOWERS FOR EASTER—there will be a second collection as you leave today for Easter flowers. There are really expensive at this time of year so whatever you can give is much appreciated. Also there are envelopes at the back if you wish to buy an Easter Lily in memory of loved ones. Just fill it in and put it with the collection or though the letterbox of the presbytery. Names will be inscribed in a book. We have a marvellous team who do our flowers but they can always do with more help. Is that you? They are looking for help all morning on Thursday 28th March. Just speak to one of the parish team and we can connect you in the right direct. Thanks, as always, in advance.

THE LENT GROUP studying the Lord's Prayer is EVERY WEDNESDAY in the Café bar from 10.30am. Just come along even if this is your first time.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this week on Friday after the 9.30am (around 10.00am).

HOLY WEEK begins NEXT WEEK with Palm Sunday. Please take a Holy Week leaflet which is available from today. Please note that the 11.15am Mass begins at 11.30am in order for the car park to be cleared.

NEXT SUNDAY please make every effort to come to Mass on time otherwise your palms will not be blessed.

THIS SUNDAY is the 17th March—St. Patrick's Day. Happy St Patrick's Day to all! Unfortunately it falls on a Sunday and the Sunday celebration takes precedence so sadly there will be no formal celebration of St Patrick in church in the UK. Of course, for those of you who wish to, you can celebrate it in any way you wish elsewhere...Have a good time...Cheers!

GIVING ENVELOPES. For next year have not yet arrived. We'll have them out for you as soon as possible.

SADLY we had a break-in to the church last Sunday evening. It achieved nothing as the money boxes had all been emptied earlier. So all that is left is wasteful damage and to one of the stained glass window (near to Our Lady of Walsingham) where they made entry. We can claim on insurance but we all need to be vigilant.

NEWS UPDATE



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At Session 7 of Part 2 of the FHC Programme, on Tuesday 19th March, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about how 'Jesus celebrates the Last Supper'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at your child's unique Catechist Small Group entry/exit point at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION 2024 - At Session 4, on Monday 18th March, the Confirmation Candidates will be reflecting on 'Prayer, Praise & Adoration'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Please remember that on Saturday 23rd March at 6.15pm there is a Confirmation Group Mass in anticipation of the Confirmation Sponsored Walk for ACN on Sunday 24th March.

MINIBUS TO MASS - The Parish is hoping to set up a new Minibus service in the coming year to safely accompany vulnerable adults, living in the Parish, to Mass at St. George's. Might you consider helping as a Driver or Escort? Those generously offering to help will be required to complete a DBS for Vulnerable Adults with the Parish and a little online training supporting them in this new ministry with vulnerable adults. We are hugely grateful to Stefan Scielinski who has generously offered to coordinate this new initiative. If you might consider helping, please contact Stefan at stefanscielinski@gmail.com.

SPONSOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES - Our Confirmation Candidates are making a 5km Sponsored Walk on Sunday 24th March in aid of Aid to the Church in Need, our Lenten Charity. To sponsor our Candidates please visit the Sponsored Walk Page on our Website (under News and Events) or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sponsoredwalkforaidtothechurchinneed/>. Thank you.

SVP ACTIVITIES—looking ahead: Collection of food for local food banks - Collection 27/28th April. Any cash donated would be used to buy food for our beneficiaries. **Bingo fundraiser.** May 11th, after the Saturday vigil. **Bacon butty morning fundraiser.** Sunday 23rd June.

CHILDREN READING AT 9.45 FAMILY MASS - If your child has made their First Holy Communion, they are welcome to read at the 9.45 Family Mass. If your child might be interested in reading, or your family might like to take responsibility for the readings once a month, please contact our 9.45am Family Mass Readers Coordinator, Stephanie Brennan, at sbrennan@ntiworld.com.

REFERENCES - If you require a formal reference, for a job or voluntary work, or a passport signed from one of the Parish Team please ensure you contact them personally before providing their contact details to those requesting the reference.

SUPPORTING YOU WHILST IN HOSPITAL - If you, or a loved one, are heading to hospital and would like a little pastoral & sacramental support whilst you are there, please let us know so we can ensure this is provided. There is a Catholic Chaplain resident at Northwick Park Hospital.

CALLING NEW CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Might you consider helping with our Confirmation Preparation Programme in 2025? This ministry offers an opportunity to serve the young people of the Parish, in Year 10 and above, as they prepare for this important moment in their life of faith. For those wishing to receive it, this also offers invaluable teaching experience. You would be helping to facilitate a Small Group with experienced Catechists. If you might consider helping next year please

contact Peter, our Catechetical Coordinator, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

GIFT AID/PLANNED GIVING: If you are a standard tax payer and do not already have a gift aid in place, PLEASE consider completing a gift aid declaration. By gift aiding your donation, which must be made by planned giving envelope, bankers' order or cheque, you are increasing your donation by 25%. That means every £1 donated become £1.25. At the end of the financial year we can claim this 25% tax back from the Inland Revenue. This does not cost you anything extra because as a standard tax payer you have already paid this tax. 'Gift Aid/ Standing Order forms are available at the back of the church or please apply to the parish office'.

OVER 60'S GROUP: Meet every Tuesday at 1pm in the Bar/Café in the parish centre. Every Tuesday, apart from tea/coffee and cake and a friendly social gathering, they have a speaker on very useful informative topics. More details to follow on this every first Tuesday of the month they will be holding a Keep Fit session in the hall. ALL are welcome (you don't have to be Catholic).

THE REPOSITORY now has items for sale: St Patrick's Day, Mothering Sunday, Easter. Why not take a look.

CHILDRENS LITURGY at the 9.45am Mass. If you have young children this is for them!

MUSIC at the 9.45am Mass and the 11.15am. Could you help with the singing or even playing a musical instrument at 9.45am We need your help...don't sit or stand on the side-lines in 2024!

ROSARY AT HOME If you'd like to be part of our prayer network, or know more please simply contact Cheryl on 07941002161.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES in various parishes and jobs working centrally for the Diocese are advertised weekly. You can view the current vacancies via this link: For further details: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

WE ARE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT for anyone who might be a good counter of money. Each week our collection needs counting and bagging up. It takes time and a good deal of attention to make sure there are no discrepancies. Could you help? Let us know. The best way to do this is to drop us an email with all your details and which days you might be free. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY OFFERED THEIR TIME ETC.

RETRouvaille - Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

FOR RENT: One double bedroom available with access to all amenities, including transport and this church. Please telephone 07717124517.

DRIVING OUT OF THE CAR PARK. It would seem some people are cutting the corner on right (where once there was a tree, but no longer) over the verge which has now become a muddy mess. Please try to keep on the road!