SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: ***Cf. Ezk 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,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading: ***Exodus 17:3-7***

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. ℟7c, 8a

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

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

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 forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second reading: ***Romans 5:1-2, 5-8***

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Gospel Acclamation: ***Cf. John 4:42, 15***

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel: ***John 4:5-42***

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed 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
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.

Copyright © 1996-2024 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. The English translation of the Psalm Responses from "Lectionary for Mass" © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). Excerpts from the English translation of "The Roman Missal" © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 8th March 2026

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
Weekay Mass Readings
Lent, week 3,
Divine Office
Psalter Week 3

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

Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

Sun 8 March	**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Patrick Joseph O'Sullivan RIP
8.30am	Patricia Holland RIP
9.45am	Remediana P Fernandes Good Health
11.15am	Pascal Duffy RIP & PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
5.30pm	Kathleen Lynchehan RIP
Mon 9 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9:30am	Melinda Peter RIP
11:00am	**FUNERAL MASS** John Scullion RIP
Tues 10 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9.30am	Bertram Jacob RIP
Weds 11 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9.30am	Bridget O'Donoghue RIP
Thurs 12 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9.30am	Personal Intention
Fri 13 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9.30am	Joe, Michael & Tom Haugh RIP
Sat 14 Mar	**Lent Ferla**
9:30am	Vincent Tunney RIP
Sun 15 March	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Bridie O'Donoghue RIP
8.30am	Bosco Fernandes Intentions
9.45am	Paixao Cardoso RIP & Jose Soares De Almeida RIP
11.15am	Begonia Petridies Get Well Intention
5.30pm	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

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Ogaga
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs. Mary Walsh sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Hanna Gorgis sudburysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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 Jude; 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.
EUCHARISTIC 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, Noel Gill, Christopher Browne, Dee Auriol, Fiona Power, John, Aaran Thayaparan, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Ciara I, Mary O'Connell, Leslie De Lima, Paul Pereira, Nora Hunt, Mario, Maureen Chick, Ramzan, Larry Sicat, Andras Nagy, Sheena Chambers*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Emily Swapnil Pateliya, Ezra Obiekwu-Nkwo*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Tony (Attilio) Pucci, John Scullion, Frederick Lowe*

RECENTLY MARRIED:-

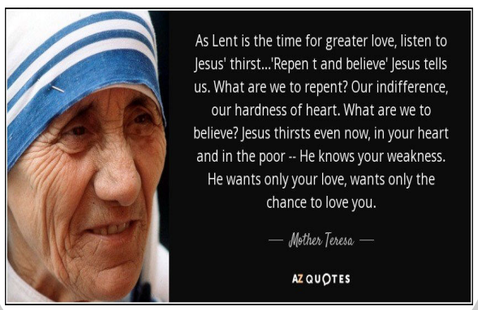
RECENTLY CONFIRMED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: - *Kathleen Egan*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
In Memory of Kathleen Egan

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
Baptist Fernandes Intentions

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for March
For disarmament and peace
Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



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

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 photo of Pope Leo.

THE PARISH OFFICE HOURS will now be Monday—Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. Outside these hours, **urgent** matters can be directed to the Presbytery.

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

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP "WE DARE TO ASK" ON WEDNESDAY DURING LENT: SESSION 3 a discussion for all who would like to rediscover the value of one's Baptismal Vocation. 10.30am in the Café/Bar. All welcome. By the way you don't need to have come last week to attend.

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE RISE THEATRE COMPANY coming to St George's on Friday 13th March to perform their 'Passion Play' at 7:30pm. A fast-paced, emotionally impacting & "spine tingling" performance. Tickets are limited and are on sale from the Parish Office and after all Masses today at £10 per Adult and £6 per Child, 11-16 years. The performance is not suitable for children under 11 years old.

FUNERAL MASS of **John Scullion** on Monday 9th March at 11.00am followed by repatriation for burial in Glasgow. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of **Tony (Attilio) Pucci** on Tuesday 17th March at 11.00am followed by burial at Northwood Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of **Frederick Lowe** on Thursday 26th March at 11.00am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

GOOD NEWS WITH THE CHURCH ROOF For many years there has been a persistent leak over the pews (4th row back from of the statue of St Joseph). Well, it is now mended.

GOOD NEWS AGAIN. We have had it confirmed that a new assistant priest will be coming to St George's. He is called Fr Jude. Please pray for him as he prepares to come and be with us. He's arriving very early Friday morning so there will be a chance to welcome and meet him next weekend.

THIS EASTER we have 4 adults being baptised and Confirmed at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for them as they continue this last stage. How about saying a rosary for their intentions?

HOLY WEEK 2026 Details of all our Holy Week and Easter services will be available from next weekend.

SERVERS for HOLY WEEK Lists will be out for you to sign up next week. The Thursday and Saturday Masses starting at 8.00pm will be for servers 12 years and older.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT on 15th March is also in this country traditionally "Mothering Sunday" when we give thanks for Our Holy Mother the Church, The Blessed Virgin and our earthly mothers. There will be flowers blessed for children to give their mothers but only at the 9.45am and the 11.15am Masses.

NEW ALTAR CLOTH Would anyone like to sponsor a new altar cloth for the church? It would be embroidered with special symbols of the Eucharist. The cost is £780. Please speak with Mgr Jeremy if this is something you would like to do.

MEET ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH On Tuesday 10th March at 6:30pm – at St Joseph's, Wembley when the new Archbishop will say Mass for the Brent and Harrow deaneries to which everyone is invited. No tickets required.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
St Patrick -17th March
St Joseph -19th March
The Annunciation of the Lord 25th March
Palm Sunday – Holy Week commences 29th March
Maundy Thursday - 2nd April
Good Friday - 3rd April
Holy Saturday - 4th April
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 5th April
St George - 23rd April

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

PLANNED GIVING—envelopes for 2026/2027 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** do 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 (i.e. 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 you).
- You need a supply of "paid by Bankers' order" cards.

Please note if you have a Gift Aid in place and your circumstances have changed (i.e. you are no longer paying tax), it is your responsibility to inform the Parish Office. Please address all queries to:- sudbury@rcdow.org.uk. Planned Giving Envelopes not used or collected last year will not be printed this year.

CONFIRMATION 2026 - At **Session 3**, on **Monday 9th March**, a representative from **Let the Children Live** will be helping the Confirmation Candidates reflect on this year's Lenten **'Charity Project'.** Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at **7.30pm.** Further details, relating to the **Confirmation Retreat Day** taking place at **SPEC (Pinner)** on **Saturday 14th March from 9.45-4pm,** will be provided at Monday's session.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At **Session 6** of Part 2 of the FHC Communion Programme, on **Tuesday 10th March,** we will be reflecting on how **We remember Jesus at Mass.** This session is for the **children accompanied by a Parent/Carer.** Thank you for making **child-care arrangements well in advance** for any other children, so a Parent/Carer is able to attend the session with their son/daughter. Thank you for arriving in **good time** for the start of the session, at your child's unique **Catechist Group Entry/Exit point,** so the Catechists can **begin at 7pm.**

SYCAMORE is an informal course about the Catholic faith and its relevance to life today. All are welcome to join us in the Café Bar on **Thursday 12th March** at **7.30pm** when we will be reflecting on **How to Pray.**

ST. GEORGE'S OVER 60'S CLUB Lots of people and great fun too! Why not join them? All over 60's welcome—just turn up on Tuesday in the Café Bar in the Parish Centre at 1pm. Come along and bring a friend. You don't need to be Catholic!

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 17th – 24th July 2026. Registration is now open **https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/registration-form/** or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173. If you would like to sponsor or fundraise for an Assisted Pilgrim, member of the medical team or volunteer, then please also contact the Pilgrimage Office for further details.

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP & THE LAMP AT OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM is a lovely thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are some possibilities in the month of April. Please contact the Parish Office.

BAPTISM PREPARATION - Baptism Preparation sessions at the Parish provide **essential** formation for Parents/Carers as they prepare for this important Sacrament. If you are expecting a baby, or would like your baby baptised, please **pick up a Baptism Pack** from the **Parish Office.** To attend **March's Baptism Preparation** you will need to **complete** the **Baptism Application Form** (in the Pack) & **return it to the Parish Office by Monday 16th March 2026.**

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm. The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the Parish Office on sudbury@rcdow.org.uk giving the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email). Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every FRIDAY in Lent after the 9.30am Mass