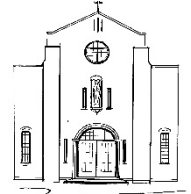
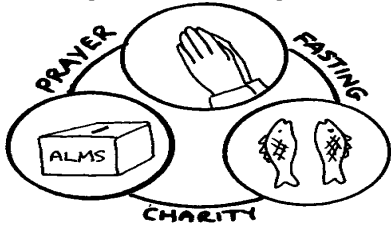


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024



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## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

As we continue our Lenten journey today, we hear stories of two significant journeys in the history of our faith. Abraham travels to a distant land with his precious son, Isaac, where his devotion and obedience to God will be put to their greatest test. Jesus leads his closest disciples up a high mountain where he will be transfigured in glory. May our practice of the Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving transform us into more loving and devoted disciples.

Old Testament meets New Testament in today's Gospel, which features Jesus, the centre of the New Testament, with two of the main figures from the Hebrew scriptures, Moses and Elijah. The two people who perhaps best represent the law and the prophets of old join with the Son of God, who himself said that he had come to fulfil the law and the prophets. In the company of Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured, giving his disciples a brief taste of his glory. May that glorious vision sustain us during this penitential season.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2023 World Library Publications*

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February		6.30pm Tim O'Connor RIP
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>The Second Sunday Of Lent</b>	8.30am Ben Duffy RIP 11.30am Salvatore & Anna Cicero RIP 6.30pm People of the Parish
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February		10.00am John Boyle RIP
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Gregory	10.00am Pat Molloy RIP
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February		10.00am Alf Ward RIP
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February		10.00am Anthonia Archibong RIP
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	David	10.00am Sauver Debono RIP
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		6.30pm Peter McKeown RIP



<b>TODAY'S READINGS:</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:</b>
Genesis 22:1-2.9-13	Exodus 20:1-17
Psalms 115	Psalms 18:8-11
Romans 8:31-34	1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Mark 9:2-10	John 2:13-25

### LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Lent we are asked to pray for: Europe; Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

**For those who are ill:** Nicola Harker, Lily Barber, Natasha Papet, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Iris Waters, Vera Argue, Lesley Cartwright, Patsy Joseph, Val McGuinness, Michael Verbruggen, Mary Fitzgerald, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce,

**For those who have died recently:** Pat Deaney, Amerigo Tufano, Anna Severino,

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Brendan Nelson, Salvatore & Anna Cicero, Pietro Castronovo,

### LENTEN PRAYER AND PRACTISES

There will be Stations of the Cross in the Church each Friday morning at 10.30am, after the morning Mass, and at 7.00pm in the evening. There will also be Faith Sharing Groups meeting during Lent. They will be used on the Resource ***We Dare to Say***, a series of reflections based on five lines from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. It is suitable for individual use as well as for groups. The booklets are available from the Parish Office, priced at £4 each. The Faith Sharing Group will meet on Thursday mornings at 11.00am in the Church.

### LENTEN ALMS

The Collection Box near the Statue of St Anthony will be used for the collection of your Lenten Alms Donations. You can also make donations on line, just put Lenten Alms as the reference. We will be using the donations to support the Broxbourne Food Bank.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024 –All Funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of its services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. There are also copies of the Lent 2024 edition of ***"Mosaic"***, the Diocese' publication which reports on the work of Caritas in the Diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £1,046.08; plus the Regular Standing Orders.**

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

On Saturday from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

### **BAPTISM THIS WEEK**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1.30pm – Amarachukwu Dike

### **COME TO TEA!**

The Parish Centre is open every Monday afternoon for Afternoon Tea and Biscuits and a chat from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome. We even have Orange Squash for those who are too young for tea or coffee! It is also open on a Wednesday from 1.30pm – 3.00pm for Soup and Toast as well as tea, coffee or orange squash. Again, everyone is welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up and enjoy the company.

### **200 CLUB 2024**

The Application Forms for 2024 are available as you exit the Church. The more people who join, the more is given in prizes. It's not too late to join! **Your New Numbers for this year are on the Noticeboards and also on our Website.**

### **RCIA**

The RCIA Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

### **FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The First Communion children will meet on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.00am in the Parish Centre.

### **HAVE YOU SIGNED A GIFT AID FORM?**

We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim asking the Inland Revenue to give us the Tax that you have paid on your donations. If you have stopped paying tax please would you contact the Parish Office on 01992 623156 so that we don't ask for the tax if you haven't paid it.

### **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**

We are preparing to issue the new sets of Offertory Envelopes. If you no longer use your Offertory Envelopes or wish to move from Envelopes to a Standing Order, can you please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

### **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. There will be a second collection after all the Masses this weekend.

### **FREE LEGAL ADVICE**

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering free legal advice surgery. The surgery sessions are in the Parish Office, just ring the doorbell at the Presbytery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights, wills & probate, lasting powers of attorney (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The next session is Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **THE DIVINE MERCY**

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday, 16 March 2024 from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St Scholastica, 17 Kenninghall Road, Clapton, London E5 8BS. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

### **RIGHT TO LIFE**

Support an amendment to reduce the abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in the abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!

### **CARITAS ST JOSEPH'S FAMILY FORUM**

This is for anyone interested in discussing issues relating to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities. Our next event is Monday 4 March when Bernice Hardy, Co-founder of Wave (we are all valued equally) will share the story of its work to encourage more inclusive worship and social places in the heart of our communities.

### **VOLUNTEERING FAIR**

Caritas Volunteer Service will hold a volunteering Fair on Saturday 9 March, 3pm – 5pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall. If you are considering volunteering and want to explore possible roles within the diocese, do come along. More details will follow here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/volunteering-fair-2/>

### **SUPPORT THE JRS UK LENT APPEAL**

As we fast this Lent, we remember all those who can struggle all year round to access food and warmth. Through your support, JRS UK can provide food, hardship grants and legal advice – and help restore dignity for refugee friends within a warm, loving community. Donate to the JRS UK Lent Appeal: <https://www.jrsuk.net/lent-appeal-2024/>

### **PRAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

JRS UK has prepared its own Way of the Cross, inviting you to reflect on the experiences of refugees and forcibly displaced people in the world today, in light of the suffering that Jesus endured. Join us on Zoom as we pray Stations of the Cross this Lent on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Find out more: [www.jrsuk.net/praying-with-refugees](http://www.jrsuk.net/praying-with-refugees)

### **FR JOHN**

Fr John is away on holiday until the evening of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Tom will be here to care for the Parish.