St. Erconwald's Parish Newsletter
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OFFICE: By appointment.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A — 19TH MARCH, 2023

THEME: Open Our Eyes, Lord



One of the most irritating things in life, in ourselves as well as in others, is when we and people seem blind to what is evident: Why don't they see? Why didn't I see this? We are Christians, people with faith, and in baptism Christ has given us eyes of faith. Yet too often we are blind to God, to people, to the things we should see about ourselves. We ask our Lord to touch and open our eyes to the deeper and beautiful realities of our faith.

MEDITATE: Like the people who challenged Jesus' actions and the man's belief, we, too, can choose to stay in our blindness or we can choose to receive the gift of sight.

ACT: Set aside time this week to think about your own blindness and where it might occur.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday **25th March at 10.30am**, the First Holy Communion children will be making their First Reconciliation [Confession].
Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP

A missionary from Bethlehem, the Holy Land, will visit us next **weekend 25th - 26th March** to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families.
Any help you could give them, will be greatly appreciated.

FUNERAL

With sadness we announce the death of William Gaynor. His funeral will take place on Monday 20th March at 10.00am. The Mass will be live-streamed and recorded. We offer our sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

COMING TO MASS: COVID-19 SAFE ENVIRONMENT

[Please do NOT attend Mass if you are unwell or have any Covid symptoms]

As we have many vulnerable parishioners we ask that you **continue to wear your mask and sanistise your hands** when you come to Church.
Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

DONATIONS AND COLLECTION OF MONEY
IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT GIVING ON-LINE

GIVING BY STANDING ORDER [Preferred Method]: If you would like to support the parish we would ask you to consider setting up a regular donation in this way.

Offertory Envelopes and other donations can be placed in the Collection Box at the entrance or at the exit of the Church.
There are also a number of cashless methods now available:

Make a donation via our website:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembleyprestonroad/donate/

Via Dona [the company who supply our card readers].
https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=268
Donations, Mass Intentions and Repository payments can also be made via the card readers in Church

NOW ACCEPTING CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. *You can also opt-in for **Gift Aid** to increase your donation by 25%. [If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.]*

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.

[If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation]

THANK YOU

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

There will be a retiring Offertory Collection at all weekend Masses. Cash only please, no "Planned Giving Envelopes", these should be placed into the boxes provided at the entrance/exit of the Church marked "Offertory" etc.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church itself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

REPOSITORY

Lenten books and Easter Cards are available from the Repository. We also have a new delivery of Graveyard Statues and Ornaments. St. Patrick's Day Cards, badges, candles and gifts.

If you do not see something you would like, please ask one of the Repository Team. You are welcome to browse.



A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers

SEASON OF LENT 2023



Lent is a time of grace, conversion, renewal and healing.
[Each Friday we recall the events of Good Friday by fasting in some way.]

Stations of the Cross: Weekdays [except Thursdays and Saturdays] at 9.00am. Friday evening at 6.30pm.

Rite of Penance: Every Saturday between 4.30pm and 5.00pm.
*Service of Reconciliation with Absolution on **Friday 31st March at 7.00pm**.*

CARDINAL'S LENTEN ALMS APPEAL



Funds raised this year will be shared between: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information please visit www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Fr. Anthony is at the moment visiting the sick and housebound. If you know of anyone who is in need of a visit please see Fr. Anthony or contact the Parish Office. [If in hospital, please contact the hospital chaplain].

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QUIZ NIGHT: Feast of St. Erconwald: 22nd April
First Holy Communion & Confirmation Faire: 15th-16th April

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on **Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm** for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you qualify, please contact the Parish Office by this weekend 18th/19th March.

EASTER REMEMBRANCE



The Easter Vigil and the Easter Sunday Masses are going to be offered for the repose of the souls of our deceased relatives and friends. If you would like to have your loved one, family members, and friends included in the intentions of these Masses, please complete the *Form* provided, and place it, together with a donation, in the box marked "Easter Remembrance". Donations go towards the decoration of the Church at Easter.

CHURCH CLEANING

The Church closes for cleaning after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesdays.
If you have any spare time please come along and join us.

LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

[All services can be followed online: https://www.churchservices.tv/wembley3
[Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.00am/11.30am Masses are recorded]

Sunday 19th March: Fourth of Lent, Year A: [10.00am/11.30am] Readings: 1Samuel 16.1,6-7,10-13; Psalm: 22; 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5.8-14; Gospel: John 9.1-41. **Intention:** 10.00am: People of the Parish
11.30am: Ellen and Edward Thompson [RIP, A]

Monday 20th March: 10.00am Funeral Mass for William Gaynor RIP. [The Mass will be live-streamed and recorded]

Tuesday 21st March: Lent Feria [9.30am] Readings: 1st Reading: Ezekiel 47.1-9,12; Psalm: 45; Gospel: John 5.1-3,5-16. **Intention:** Wilson Family [Intention]

Wednesday 22nd March: Feria: [9.30am] Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 49.8-15; Psalm: 144; Gospel: John 5.17-30. **Intention:** Sean Hallam [RIP] **followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 11.00am.**

Thursday 23rd March: NO SERVICE

Friday 24th March: Lent Feria: [9.30am and 7.00pm] Readings: 1st Reading: Wisdom 2.1,12-22; Psalm: 33; Gospel: John 7.1-2,10,25-30.
Intentions: 9.30am: Mary Christian [RIP]
7.oopm: Joao Nicklau Dias [Santan] [RIP]
6.30pm: Meditative Stations of the Cross.

Saturday 25th March: Annunciation of the Lord: [10.00am Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm: 39; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10.4-10; Gospel: Luke 1. 26-38. **Intention:** Breda Walsh [RIP]

Saturday 25th March: Fifth of Lent, Year A: [5.30pm] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37.12-14; Psalm: 129; 2nd Reading: Romans 8.8-11; Gospel: John 11.1-45. **Intention:** Robert Phelan [RIP]

Sunday 26th March: Fifth of Lent, Year A: [10.00am/11.30am] Readings: Ezekiel 37.12-14; Psalm: 129; 2nd Reading: Romans 8.8-11; Gospel: John 11.1-45. **Intention:** 10.00am: Govan Family Intentions
11.30am: People of the Parish

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK



We keep in our thoughts and prayers: Margaret Beeby, Yves Remedios, Denton Allen, Radwan Naffa, and Magdalene Davis.
We remember also those in Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and -Brook House.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.
[*based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori]*