

# St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Yeading

St Raphael's House, Morrison Road, Yeading, UB4 9JP

**Masses:** Sat 7pm, Sun 9am, 10:30am, 12pm  
 Mon-Thu 9:30am, Fri & Sat 12pm  
**Confessions:** Saturday 11:30-11:45am & 6:30-6:45pm  
**Rosary:** 30mins before daily Mass - Mon - Sat  
**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr. John Welsh  
**Parish Administrator:** Paulina Louison - paulinalouison@rcdow.org.uk  
**Catechetical Coordinator:** Jane Foskett - janefoskett@rcdow.org.uk  
**Tel:** 020 8845 1919 Email: yeading@rcdow.org.uk



## 17th March 2019 - Second Sunday of Lent - Cycle C

**First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18**

God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising him many descendants.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14**

A prayer to God who is our salvation.

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Paul encourages the Philippians to remain firm in their faith that Christ will subject all things to himself.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28b-36**

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, John, and James.

**REFLECT**

*"Lord Jesus, keep me always alert to you, to your presence in my life, and to your life-giving word that nourishes me daily. Let me see your glory."*

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples - Peter, James and John. These are

among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and

seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

### St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast Day 19th March

A few verses in Matthew and Luke tell us all we know about St. Joseph. They provide just enough information to demonstrate why he was the divine choice to become the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Joseph was genealogically perfect for these roles. A distant descendant of King David, he gave Christ the King his royal lineage. Joseph also came from the right hometown. He was from Bethlehem, the city that Scripture predicted would produce the messiah (see *Micah 5:1*). And as a carpenter (see *Matthew 13:55*), Joseph was poor - Christ's condition of preference. Scripture portrays Joseph as open to God, obedient, upright, and, above all, kind. The saint displayed all of these qualities in his handling of Mary's surprise pregnancy. Imagine the confusion of emotions that must have flooded him when Mary confided that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit! As a devout observer of the law, Joseph knew that he might have to repudiate his betrothal. But his kindness and confidence in Mary prevented his taking such a harsh step, which would have shamed her. It may have even put her in danger of capital punishment (see *Deuteronomy 22:20-21*). Joseph must have agonized over his decision, praying intently about it. Finally he decided to divorce Mary quietly. But Joseph was open to God, and in a dream a divine messenger told him to take Mary home as his wife. Joseph did exactly as he was told. Joseph's wise dealing with Mary is a model for us when we face complex moral and personal issues. He subordinated his feelings to do what God required. He was open to whatever God wanted, and when he sensed the divine will, he obeyed.

# Parish and Sacramental Programme News

## Planned Giving envelopes (Gift Aid)

Your planned giving envelopes is ready for collection. You can collect from the Presbytery immediately after mass **this weekend**, or between Parish Administrator office hours **10-2pm, Mon -Thu only**. Due to GDPR we are no longer permitted to leave them at the back of the church. Your 200+ Club envelopes are also ready for collection. Please have your number available.

## Good Shepherd Company the Holy Land (Bethlehem) Parish Visit weekend 30/31st March 2019

We are The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy land (Bethlehem) and have a branch based in Nottingham. We work alongside with the St. Vincent De Paul society for orphans and elderly in the Holy land.

Our goal is to support and help the Christian families in the Holy Land, to have opportunities to work. Olive Wood carving is one of the most important source of income for them, as 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. So by selling their produce here from the olive wood (rosaries, crosses, cribs and religious statues) on their behalf, this will provide job opportunities for the Christians in the Holy Land and will prevent them from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities. At a recent National Gathering Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate, revealed the dramatic decline of Christians living in Bethlehem over the past 70 years. In 1947 Christians in Bethlehem represented 85% of the community, by 1998 that figure had shrunk to 40%, and now they account for just 18% of the total population. Many Christians have chosen to emigrate rather than face a life of water shortages, travel restrictions, employment discrimination and little or no welfare care. For those who remain we pray that their faith will give them strength and bring them peace, hope and reconciliation. A recent survey from the bishops of Jerusalem there is only forty one thousands Christians left in the area, and this number is falling. Please come and support this cause for your Christian brethren in the Holy Land.



Lucky 200+  
Draw  
Winners



10th March

Melvin Coelho  
Envelope 133



Last Weekend

£1366.59

+

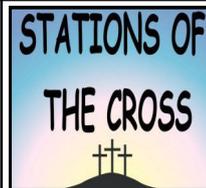
SO's

May the Lord  
reward your  
generosity.



The Rosary is  
recited every day  
30mins before  
daily Mass.

All are welcome!



Every Friday  
during Lent in  
church at 7pm.

## Examinations Invigilator - £9.00 per hour – No experience necessary

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School is looking to recruit a pool of enthusiastic and well organised individuals to join our Examination Invigilation Team.

You will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking both internal and external examinations throughout the school year. The hours are variable depending upon the exam timetable. Most of the exams are held in May and June therefore, you need to be able to commit to being available during this period.

This role is essential to the smooth running of the examination process. Successful candidates will work as part of a team of invigilators who will be responsible for the setting out and collecting of exam papers and materials, admitting students to the exam hall/room, invigilating during the exams and collating the exam papers to be sent off to the Exam boards, ensuring correct exam procedures are followed to allow each student to achieve their full potential during an examination, occasionally invigilators may be called upon to scribe for individual students. You should possess good interpersonal skills, have an ability to deal with matters calmly, swiftly and firmly without being confrontational. Applicants must also be reliable, punctual, flexible, vigilant and have the ability to remain calm under pressure. Full training will be given to successful applicants.

All enquiries to Mrs Gill Johnston PA to the Headteacher, [gjohnston@douaymartyrs.co.uk](mailto:gjohnston@douaymartyrs.co.uk) or apply at [www.tes.com](http://www.tes.com)

## Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2019

The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal funds initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in the three mission areas of: **Marriage and Family Life**, enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church; **Youth and Evangelisation**, supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith; and the **Church's Service in Society**, putting our faith into action by serving the poor, the lonely and the marginalised. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about the last of these in particular, and he has launched a new programme focusing on the food poverty that effects so many across the Diocese. Much of this poverty remains hidden. Many use foodbanks even though there is a wage earner in the family. Please take a donation leaflet as you leave Mass today. In addition, to find out about volunteering opportunities visit [CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk](http://CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk). In the words of Cardinal Nichols: "I hope this Appeal offers you and your family one way in which to observe Lent and to grow in the richness of our response to God's blessings of life and faith."

## St. Patrick's Day - March 17th



St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and today we remember this Saint.

We wish all our Irish parishioners a happy St. Patrick's Day today.



## St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Sunday 17th March 3-9pm, Hayes Working Mens Club,  
Pump Lane, Hayes UB3 3NB. 020 8573 1721

ADMISSION Free. Dancing & Food available.