

This week at St Lawrence's



14th/15th February 2015

Sixth Sunday of the Year
(Missal Page 137 – YEAR B Vol. 1)

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalm 311 Corinthians 10:31, 11:1; Mark 1: 40-45
Ash Wednesday (Missal Page 144); Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
First Sunday of Lent (Missal Page 148); Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Falling out of love can be a very painful experience. Not only for the one who does the falling. But also for the one with whom you have fallen out. But to fall out means that you first fell in! Why do we speak of love as something you fall in, or you fall out? Why don't we jump, or skip, or hop, or slide, or crawl, or simply walk into or out of love? Why do we always have to fall? Many other languages, besides English, have similar expressions that include the notion of "falling", or being "bowed over" by love. Now if human love can bowl you over, what will divine love do?

All the saints fell in love with God. Some fell madly! We also need to fall in love with God. And when we do fall in love with God, it may well have an effect on our body. Be prepared!

Some people, under the influence of God's love, fall down quite literally. Over they go. Flat out. They are "slain in the Spirit". And when they fall, they never seem to get hurt or harmed. Others, deeply touched by God's love, experience a great release of laughter, or are filled with joy, like Saint Philip Neri. Others, like Saint Francis or Saint Ignatius, are frequently moved to tears. Others, like Saint Dominic, groan and sigh. Many great saints, like Saint Teresa of Avila, or Saint Joseph of Cupertino, were forever taking off! Up they would go. Unable to keep their feet on the ground, they levitated all over the shop! BUT, and it is a very big BUT, it is not only love that produces such manifestations. Hysteria can too. Plenty of religious cranks, plenty of holy charlatans and sham saints, go into apparent ecstasy, prophesy, speak in tongues, heal, see visions and hear voices. So how can we tell the difference? How can we discern the manifestations of true holiness and love, from the hysterical, the crazy, the fake? How do we know what is genuine, and what is bogus? How?

Easy! Our all-caring Mother Church guided by the Holy Spirit gives us the *Season of Lent*. Not just one day but forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday. This is the time for us all to fall in love with God. Lent is the perfect time to do this. Lent is a **time of grace**. A time to be set free from all illusions and fantasies about us, and where the Lenten discipline of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** will help us to discern if our love for God and holiness are authentic so to make us swoon, faint, levitate. Let's then "fall in" this Lent to experience Christ's transfiguring love and mercy. May God bless you.

Fr Fortunato.

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 1pm (Polish) & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

PARISH NOTICES

ASH WEDNESDAY

If your child would normally receive their ashes on Ash Wednesday at a Mass organised by one of our Catholic Schools, you will be aware that this year Ash Wednesday falls in half term. Please take this opportunity to bring your child to one of our four Masses on Wednesday (Mass Times: 9.30am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (Polish) and 7.30pm). This is a great way of sharing the start of your Lenten journey with your child. Enjoy your pancakes and the half term break!!

LENT AT ST LAWRENCE'S

Please see insert which gives details on the Lenten activities in the parish.

LENTEN ALMS

"A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being." (Pope Francis)

Pope Francis's commitment to the fight against poverty and injustice in all its forms has inspired the Diocese to increase still further the work that it undertakes to support projects which provide practical help to the poor, the hungry, the lonely and the marginalised in our diocese. For this reason, the decision has been taken by Cardinal Vincent and the Archbishop's Council to ask parishioner in every parish in our diocese to consider giving Lenten Alms to Caritas. You will find a leaflet about Caritas and a donation envelope in this newsletter. You are asked to put any money you feel able to give to Caritas – a part of your Lenten alms – into the envelope and return on Holy Thursday or Easter Sunday (completing the Gift Aid Declaration on the back of the envelopes if you are a taxpayer).

READERS TRAINING DAY

A Training Day has been organised for **Saturday 28th February** from 12noon to 4pm in the Parish Centre. This Training Day is for **ALL** current readers and for anyone interested in reading at Mass. We will start with a "bring and share" lunch.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the parish Social Group for organising the Barn Dance last weekend. A total of £641.70 was raised which will go towards the new parish centre. A big thanks also to those who supported this event, it was indeed a great evening.

The next Social Group meeting will take place on the **17th March** at 6.15 pm in the presbytery. If you are interested in being part of the social group team please do join us.

"SACRISTY PARENTS"

We are seeking to start a system of "Sacristy Parents" to assist in getting our altar servers ready before and after Mass. Please contact Florie in the Parish Office or Bridget with your names: Safeguarding checks will be required for anyone who works with children or elderly in the parish. Please also state the time of Mass you attend.

SIGNING OF OFFICIAL FORMS

A donation of £20.00 towards the new Parish Centre Appeal will apply for Passport and Driving Licence Applications and any other documents to verify identity that require signing by the priest.

NURSERY SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available to sign Nursery School Forms on the following Tuesdays from 3.45pm to 5.00pm: **February 24th, March 3rd, 17th, 24th, April 21st, 28th**. Please come with your child and wait in Church and bring all the necessary paperwork with you.

PARISH CENTRE BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Total amount banked as at 10th February

£21,793.00

REST IN PEACE

COLIN STEVEN SHRUBB RIP

We pray for the soul of **Colin Steven Shrubbs RIP**, son of June Dodsworth, who died recently. His Funeral will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Wednesday 18th February** at 11.20am. Please keep in your prayers his wife Maureen, his mum June and all the family who mourn him.

JOHN CHARLES SYLVESTER SCANLON RIP

We pray for the soul of **John Charles Sylvester Scanlon RIP** who died recently. His Funeral Service will take place here on **Wednesday 18th February** at 1.30pm. Please also keep in your prayers all the family who mourn him.

DAVID NISBET RIP

We pray for the soul of **David Nisbet RIP** who died recently. His funeral will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Monday 23rd February** at 4pm. Please keep in your prayers his wife Bernadette and all the family who mourn him.

PILGRIMAGES 2015

LANCIANO, LORETO AND SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

A, six day, pilgrimage from the **8th to 13th September**. The cost will be £735 on a half board basis plus insurance. If you would like join this pilgrimage please collect a booking form from the Parish Office and return as soon as possible with your deposit.

LOURDES 2015

Once again we will be travelling by coach to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, **25th July to 2nd August**. On the way to Lourdes we will be visiting the shrine of St Martin of Tours and on the return journey we will be stopping in Rocamadour and St Bernadette's shrine in Nevers. Price £699 per person plus insurance. Single supplement £186. Price includes full board whilst in Lourdes and half board at stops on route. If you are interested, please enter your name on the sheet at the back of Church to reserve your place. Booking forms are available from the Parish Office. There will be a meeting for all those interested on **Sunday 22nd February** at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

OTHER

A "COME AND SEE" WEEKEND...

....with a difference for men (aged 18+) who are discerning a calling to the priesthood will take place at Allen Hall seminary in Chelsea for 24 hours from the evening of **Friday 20th February**. To reserve one of only 12 places, please contact Fr Richard asap at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

FAITH MATTERS TALKS: LENT 2015.

This is a joint project of the Agency for Evangelisation and the Dominican Priory.

24th February Fr. Richard Ounsworth OP on Jesus. **When:** 7.00pm to 8.30pm. **Where:** Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN Bookings are required as places are limited. Register at rcdow.org.uk/events/ or livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 020 7931 6078 to leave your details. Suggested donation is £3 per talk.

AMAZING GRACE

Notre Dame de France Church, Leicester Square, welcomes Saltmine Theatre's production of AMAZING GRACE - a play in two parts, for its London premiere, on **Tuesday 10th March 2015** at 7.30 pm. Amazing Grace tells the inspiring story of John Newton: from slave ship captain to church leader and author of the famous hymn. A powerfully moving performance about slavery, freedom and the remarkable power of love and grace to transform a life. An evening not to be missed! Tickets: £10.00-£12.00* book online: www.bit.ly/agtickets or T: 020 7440 2663, email: info@spiritinthecity.org

FAMILIAS 2015

The Familias 2015 event is to be hosted at Vaughan House on the **19th March**, in conjunction with **Papyrus**, the national charity which aims to spread awareness of the problem of young suicide and work towards preventing it. Please see flyer on notice board and booking forms at the back of the church, if you wish to go

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 14th STS CYRIL & METHODIUS	10.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Esmeralda Rosario in Thanksgiving
	14.00	Mass and Blessing of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima – Filipino Community
+ First Mass of Sunday	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ Sunday 15th Sixth Sunday of the Year	09.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Cristovao & Lourdes Dias in Thanksgiving (27th Wedding Anniversary)
	13.00 18.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Rosalie Keats (Intention)
Monday 16th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Helga Gleeson RIP
Tuesday 17th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Savarimuthu Annammah RIP
	10.00	Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 18th ASH WEDNESDAY	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Carmina Do Rego RIP
	12.15	Christine & Augustus Stackpoole RIP
	13.30	FUNERAL SERVICE – JOHN CHARLES SYLVESTER SCANLON RIP
	18.00 19.30	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Margaret O'Sullivan RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday 19th Lent Feria	08.30	Eucharistic Adoration
	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Celebrant's Intention
Friday 20th Lent Feria	06.45	Peace in the Middle East
	08.30	Eucharistic Adoration
	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Bridget Kynes (Intention)
	10.00 14.30	Stations of the Cross Memorial Mass – MARGARET PORTER RIP
Saturday 21st Lent Feria	10.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Eileen Galligan (Intention)
	12.30	Stations of the Cross
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	18.00	Bertha McDonagh RIP (3rd Anniversary)
+ Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent	09.00	Ted Chapple RIP
	11.00	People of the Parish
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	14.30	Mass led by the African Community
	18.00	Tony Doherty (Intention)

Sanctuary Lamp: Janet Danladi (Intention)

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

7th/8th February: Envelopes £1169.48 Loose £1018.02 Standing Orders £480.92 Total: £2668.42
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Contact us:

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Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano **Parish**

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes