

This week at St Lawrence's



15th/16th February 2014

Sixth Sunday of the Year
(Missal Page 136 – YEAR A)



Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37
Seventh Sunday of the Year (Missal Page 139): Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102;
1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Dear Friends,

A young French doctor fell deeply in love with her, and made her several proposals of marriage. But it was not to be. No wedding took place. She always declined. She had her heart and mind set on a life of complete service to the sick, suffering and dying. But that was not to be either. Why? Because she was far too sick herself. She suffered from chronic asthma, frequent chest pains, an aneurism, cancer of the knee, bone decay, and abscesses in both her ears that inflicted partial deafness. In this terrible state she died, at the early age of 35. She had become a nun, a Sister of Charity. Today we know her as **Bernadette Soubirous** - *Saint Bernadette of Lourdes*. No miracle of healing was worked for Bernadette. She lived with much suffering and pain, and she died with much suffering and pain. Our Lady of Lourdes did not heal her.

Lourdes is among the greatest places of pilgrimage in the world. Perhaps you have been there. Millions of people, many of them very sick, make the pilgrimage there every year. Very few of these sick pilgrims are healed physically. The cancerous return home with cancer. The paralysed return paralysed. The blind return without sight. Those with AIDS remain infected. The true miracle of Lourdes is not the healing of bodies, but the healing that takes place within, true inner healing: *the healing of the heart, the mind, the soul*. It is the mystery of the Cross. True healing removes every obstacle that prevents us from accepting and embracing our cross. And this, ultimately, is the only healing that matters. True healing does not replace the cross. True healing gives the sick person a peace that cannot be destroyed by the ravages of cancer. It gives an experience of the love and compassion of God that no illness can shatter. True healing is the fruit of true faith, a faith that learns to trust **all** God's purposes.

True faith can believe and trust beyond understanding. It can enter suffering without anger. True faith can face pain without cursing God. It can bless God from a wounded, hurt or broken heart. This kind of faith confounds human wisdom. Human wisdom demands health and success. Human wisdom demands wealth and prosperity for its happiness. This false wisdom is scandalised by suffering. It turns away its face in front of old age. And it is struck dumb in the face of death and the grave. True faith instead is the real miracle of Lourdes. It is a moral miracle. Bernadette had this faith. And each one of us, need it. You need it, and I need it, in order to make sense of our lives. We need it at times of great suffering or crisis, in our families, our relationships. We need it when injustice fills us with anger and when our problems seem insoluble. We need it when people we love suffer in body or mind, and we do not seem able to help them.

On Tuesday 11th of February was the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes** and normally is *World Day of Prayer and Intercession for the sick* – we celebrated it on Saturday 15th of February, for all the sick who are very close to us, and the sick who are far away. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, may we, together with all the sick in our parish and beyond, receive the grace of true FAITH, and true HEALING, that leads to true PEACE.

Fr Fortunato.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Anjana Joyce Sam Pratheepan who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to her family.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are an adult who, for whatever reason, has not received the sacrament of Confirmation please contact Bridget regarding our Lenten preparation programme.

PARISH NOTICES

UCM

The UCM Meet on **Monday 17th February at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre for a talk by Tony Sheen from CAFOD, who will give an insight into the work of CAFOD around the world. The talk is open to all parishioners and a charge of £1.00 will be made.

FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

There will be a Filipino (Tagalog) Mass celebrated by Rev. Cirino Potrido on **Saturday 22nd February at 3pm** at St Lawrence's. If you would like to participate as an altar server, reader, etc.) please contact Jasmin or Carmelle.

CAFOD CAKE SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Cake Sale and Coffee morning on **Sunday 23rd February** after the 9am and 11am Masses in aid of CAFOD. Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

Bernardine and Theresa would like to thank all parishioners for their support especially with the First Friday Coffee mornings. Last week £22 was raised from the coffee morning. It is now five years since the First Friday coffee mornings started, raising a grand total of £1,634.83 for CAFOD!

MASS LED BY THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Mass led by the African Community will take place here on **Sunday 23rd February at 2.30pm**. All welcome.

BARN DANCE

The Social Committee will be hosting a Barn Dance in St Lawrence's School Hall on **Saturday 1st March at 7pm**. Tickets on sale in the repository at £6.00 for Adults and children over 11 years and £3.00 for children under 11 years.

NATIONAL MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

We will be taking a group of Altar Servers from the Parish to a special Mass for Altar Servers to be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols on **Saturday 15th March at 2pm** in Westminster Cathedral. We plan to leave the Church at 11am and return by 5pm. Altar Servers please pick up a letter from the sacristy if you would like to attend.

LOST PROPERTY

Are you missing a set of keys? a ladies wristwatch? a coin purse? If so, please contact the Parish Office.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Mary Coyne RIP, John Leonard Kabuye RIP, Wendy Bigg-Wither RIP, Christina Power RIP, Michael Blythe RIP and John Francis Hendley RIP**.

The Funeral of **Christina Power RIP** will take place here on **Monday 17th February at 9.30am**.

The Funeral of **Michael Blythe RIP** will take place here on **Thursday 20th February at 2pm**

The Funeral of **Wendy Bigg-Wither RIP** will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Wednesday, 26th February at 12.40pm**.

The Funeral of **John Francis Hendley RIP** will take place here on **Thursday 27th February at 12.30pm**.

Please also remember in your prayers their families and all who mourn them.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2014 - FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available Nursery Form signing at the following times for St Lawrence's School:

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm; March 4th, 11th; April 1st, 22nd

Please come with your child and wait in Church.

OTHER

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Each year, the Catholic Church in England & Wales celebrates Education Sunday, when we give thanks to Almighty God for the work of our Catholic schools and ask for His blessing on them for the coming year. This year, the theme is 'Going above and beyond'. There will be a retiring collection at the end of all Masses this weekend in support of the work of the Catholic Education Service.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP

Vocations Discernment Group for young adults with Martin O'Brien, Director of Ten Ten Theatre, reflecting on Chapter 1 of *Evangelii Gaudium* - The Church's Missionary Transformation: **Friday 2 February, 7-9pm** at the Centre for Youth Ministry, Somers Town. Contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk for more info

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

Following his return from Rome, there will be an opportunity for parishioners to attend one of two celebratory Masses in Westminster Cathedral. The first is a Mass with Solemn Rite of Welcome on **Friday, 28 February at 5:30 pm** and the second a Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday, 2 March at 10:30 am**. On both days there will be reserved seating for guests with tickets, and it is recommended that anyone wishing to attend arrive early to get a seat.

MISSIO

Monsignor Canon James Cronin, National Director of Missio has recently returned from Cambodia where the Church is in much need of our prayers. This Lent, he would like parishes to consider supporting a future priest in a mission country like Cambodia. It costs over £700 to train a seminarian for one year with £200 raised locally by the seminarian's family, parish and diocese, however in reality it is almost impossible for them to raise the remaining £500. There will be a special collection the weekend of **1st/2nd March** for this special appeal from Missio.

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This programme has helped many thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the programme beginning with a weekend on the **28th-30th March 2014**, call or text 07973 380443; email infor@retrouvaille.org.uk; or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIPS

Please read the notice in the porch regarding internships with the Catholic Bishops Conference and details on how to apply.

GROWING IN FAITH

Please take a copy of the *Growing in Faith* newsletter giving an update on what's happening across the Diocese, particularly areas supported by *Growing in Faith* funds.

PILGRIMAGES 2014

PARISH PILGRIMAGE - MALTA

All those booked to go to Malta, please note your final payment is due to Tangney Tours by **Monday 3rd March**. There will be no reminder sent by Tangney so please make a note of this date.

LOURDES 2014

Fr Chris will be leading a pilgrimage to France by coach for the parishes of Feltham, Heston and Cranford from **19th July to 27th July**. The price is £699 per person based on two people sharing and includes overnight stays in Paray Le Monial (Shrine of the Sacred Heart), Poitiers and Lisieux (Shrine of St Therese) including half board accommodation and visits to local Shrines/Cathedrals. 5 Nights stay in Lourdes on a full board basis, joining the Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage. *Supplementary charges: Single supplement £230.00 per person, Travel Insurance: £34.00 per person*. Booking forms available from the Parish Office. Completed booking forms with deposit should be returned as soon as possible to the Parish Office. Early booking essential. **We especially need young people (16+) to help care for our sick, disabled and elderly pilgrims, and a nurse to accompany us on the pilgrimage.**

There will be a meeting to go through the itinerary on **Sunday 16th February** in the Parish Centre after the 6pm Mass.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 15th Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Mass of Healing
	15.00	Baptism of Anjana Joyce Sam Pratheepan
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Deceased members of the Hanlon Family RIP
+ Sunday 16th 6 th Sunday of the Year	09.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Patrick & Kenneth Obodoako (Birthday Intention)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	Kanzeenz & Maboob Massy RIP (Anniversary)
Monday 17th Feria	09.30	No Morning Prayer FUNERAL MASS – CHRISTINA POWER RIP
Tuesday 18th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Mary-Jo Fitzgerald RIP
	10.00	Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 19th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Ellen Hunt RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday 20th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Sabina Alvarez RIP
	14.00	FUNERAL MASS – MICHAEL BLYTHE RIP
Friday 21st Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Gemma Slattery RIP
Saturday 22nd THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Christina & Augustus Stackpoole RIP
	12.45	Baptisms of Jack James Rodgers, Karen Boateng and Justin Dias
	15.00	Mass in Tagalog for the Filipino Community
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Joseph Guy Laval RIP
+ Sunday 23rd 7 th Sunday of the Year	09.00	For the intentions of the staff and patients at Derwent Lodge Care Home
	11.00	People of the Parish
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	14.30	Mass led by the African Community
	18.00	Antonia & Saverio Moné RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: Ruvet Abreu in Thanksgiving

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

8 – 9 February: Envelopes £951.43, Loose £758.99, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2130.42

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

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Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes