

This week at St Lawrence's



17th/18th January 2015

Second Sunday of the Year
(Missal Page 127 – YEAR B Vol. 1)



1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42
Third Sunday of the Year (Missal Page 129): Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 24;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a young seminarian, *Maurice Belliere* was finding life hard. He had some serious moral struggles. Trying to live a chaste life, preparing for the celibate missionary priesthood, he found very difficult. When his studies were interrupted and he was called to do Military Service, things got even worse. His vocation was perturbed by many anxieties. Was he really able to lead a celibate life? Was his desire to be a missionary priest really from God?

Back in the seminary, he wrote to the Prioress of a local community of enclosed Carmelite nuns. Would one of the sisters “adopt” him, pray for him, and help him to protect his vocation? The Prioress passed his request to a young Sister. She was delighted. They began to correspond. In her beautiful letters she calls him “*my beloved little brother*”, and comes to love him deeply.

At first, writing to this Sister, Maurice would never mention his sexual struggles, sins and failings. He wrote only about his health, his studies, and his difficulties in prayer! Nothing else. He was obviously afraid that if he told her his real situation, she might be shocked and reject him. It was only later that he had the courage to be more open about his fears and when he told her how much he dreaded her judgment or that she might be scandalized, this young Carmelite nun’s response to his “confession” was very revealing. She wrote: “*This means YOU CERTAINLY DO NOT KNOW ME WELL AT ALL, if you are afraid that a detailed account of your faults would somehow lessen the tenderness I feel for your soul.*”

The fear of this young seminarian in front of this nun, is the very same fear that many of us have in front of God - “or a priest”, whatever our age and whatever our vocation happens to be. It is the fear that if our darkest secrets and sins were laid bare, then the love of God, so often preached among us, would turn to judgment and condemnation. It is the fear that in the sight of God, our many sins will call down his wrath and punishment, and not his mercy, compassion and forgiveness. But hiding from God, dear friends, only leads to more guilt and shame, and to an even bigger cover-up and hypocrisy.

What this Carmelite nun said to her “*beloved little brother*” is what God could well say to us, when we fear his judgment: “*YOU CERTAINLY DO NOT KNOW ME WELL AT ALL*”. Because nothing we do, nothing we have done in the past, not even our most shameful sins, can ever lessen the tenderness, compassion and mercy of God toward us. Who was this young Carmelite nun? We know her today as *Saint Therese of Lisieux*. She died on the very day that this seminarian, now a newly ordained priest, sailed for Africa, the 30th of September 1897. After only a short time in Africa, he contracted Sleeping Sickness - *maladie du sommeil*. It destroyed his health and brought on a terrible mental breakdown. He returned to France. He died in a mental hospital in Normandy, at the early age of 33. But not before he had experienced the fullness of the mercy, compassion and love of God. May this same experience be yours and mine.

Fr Fortunato.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We extend a warm welcome to Joseph Anthony Lainton and Emily Isabela Lazo Przechrzta who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

CONFIRMATION

The second Group preparing for Confirmation in July will have their next meeting on **Thursday 22nd January** at 7pm

PARISH NOTICES

SENIOR CITIZEN'S PARTY

A big thank you to Philomena, Patti and the army of helpers for a wonderful party again this year – and to Father Christmas and his little helpers for positively their last appearance this season! On behalf of all the guests, thank you!

ST LAWRENCE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Prayer Room. All are welcome to attend.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council in this new year is this **coming Tuesday, 20th at 7.30pm**. If you have any matters to raise with the Parish Pastoral Council please deliver them to the Presbytery by 12 noon on Tuesday.

ANNUAL MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This takes place here on **Saturday 7th February at 12noon** and will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. Please sign the lists in the church porch if you need transport to church for this celebration, if you can help with driving or if you can help Bidget with catering and hospitality.

BARN DANCE

The ever popular Barn Dance will take place in St Lawrence's School Hall on **Saturday 7th February from 7.00pm**. Tickets on sale after Mass this weekend.

FREE NHS HEALTH CHECK

An NHS health team in partnership with St Lawrence's Church will be doing free NHS health checks and giving free advice on how to stay healthy. **Date: Saturday, 31st January from 9am to 12 noon** at St Lawrence's School Hall, Victoria Road, Feltham. The Health check includes Cholesterol and Blood Glucose tests, Blood Pressure, Weight, waist and Body Mass Index, Advice on healthy eating and getting active. The service is available to local residents aged 40 - 74 years, registered with a Hounslow GP and with no pre-existing medical conditions. See poster on notice board.

PARISH CENTRE BUILDING FUND UPDATE

An update will be available next week.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEDFONT, FELTHAM AND HANWORTH

There will be an Ecumenical Service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **Sunday 18th January** at 3pm at the Salvation Army in Bedfont Lane, Feltham TW14 9BH. All are welcome to attend.

NEXT WEEKEND...

We welcome Mary McGhee from the *Explore Trust* who will be speaking at the end of all Masses on the work of the Trust and the support they offer for marriage preparation, family life and healthy relationships in today's society.

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. We have now been allocated extra seats, so if you are interested in going please collect a booking form from the office and return with your deposit as soon as possible. There will be a meeting on **Saturday 24th January at 10.30am** in the Parish Centre. All booking forms with deposits must be returned at the latest by this date.

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. Price includes full board whilst in Lourdes and half board at stops on route. Booking forms will be available from the Parish Office in a couple of weeks.

OTHER

CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT IN FELTHAM (CSCA)

CSCA in partnership with St Lawrence's Church hold bi-monthly interfaith gatherings. The next gathering on "Commemorating the Life of Prophet Muhammad" was planned two months ago. However due to the unfortunate recent incidents it is imperative that such gatherings occur more often. On **Saturday 24th January** from 1pm-4pm, CSCA would like to invite our friends from all faiths to join us for a discussion on the life of Prophet Muhammad to hear about his life, to look at how he conducted his affairs and how he lived by the Principles of Peace and Unity with all. The programme will consist of a short discussion, nasheeds (Islamic religious songs) and food will be served! We really hope you can join us; the event is open to all. It is important more than ever before that we unite together and strengthen the communities we live in. Intolerance, misunderstandings and hatred is destroying the fabric of our societies, we need to work together to stop this. We have hope that this is a step in the right direction. Venue: Islamic Cultural Centre, Manor Road, Feltham TW13 4JQ. Fr Chris will lead the group to the Centre after the 12 noon Mass.

LEARNING 4 EVERYONE

1. *This is my Body* - A study evening for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and anyone interested. **Thursday 5th February from 7pm-8.30pm**
 2. *The Privilege of Proclaiming the Word* - A study evening for Parish Readers and anyone interested. **Thursday 12th February from 7pm-8.30pm.**
- Venue for both: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2015 AT 3PM.

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 17th St Anthony Abbot	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Margaret Reardon RIP
	12.45	Baptisms of Joseph Anthony Lainton and Emily Isabela Lazo Przechrzta
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Steve Walsh RIP (Second Anniversary)
+ Sunday 18th Second Sunday of the Year	09.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Timothy Cahalane (Birthday Thanksgiving)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	Ivanka & Matija Poldrugac RIP (Anniversary)
Monday 19th St Wulstan	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Peter Becque RIP
Tuesday 20th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Josephine Belfrage RIP
	10.00	Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 21st St Agnes	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Ray Palmer RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday 22nd Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Celebrant's Intention
Friday 23rd Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Shannon Hanlon (Intention)
Saturday 24th St Francis de Sales	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Susanna Angela Solis RIP
	15.00	Mass in Tagalog for the Filipino Community
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	People of the Parish
+ Sunday 25th Third Sunday of the Year	09.00	For World Peace
	11.00	Siobhan Field (Intention)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	14.30	Mass led by the African Community
	18.00	Julie Pichler RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa RIP

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

10th/11th January: Envelopes £1102.84 Loose £755.02 Standing Orders £607.00 Total: £2464.86
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

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

Contact us:

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