

This week at St Lawrence's



1st/2nd March 2014

Eighth Sunday of the Year
(Missal Page 142 – YEAR A)

Isaiah 49:14-15; Psalm 61; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34
Ash Wednesday (Missal Page 147) Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
First Sunday of Lent (Missal Page 151): Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Dear Friends,

I have just come back from the beautiful land of our Saviour Jesus Christ, where I spent a week on a spiritual pilgrimage together with other priests of our diocese. Being in the Holy Land is always a mystical experience for me, which I find really difficult to put into words. In the Holy Land, and especially in the Holy City: *Jerusalem*, I am always overwhelmed by the fact of how everything even the smallest stone or olive branch brings alive Sacred Scripture and has the power to fascinate those who listen to it. Anyway ... now the word that I would like to share with you this weekend may sound not powerful and perhaps even less captivating, I hope however that it can encourage all of us to take more care of our spiritual being without neglecting it, in the same way we constantly fret about what to eat and what to wear every day.

Nature has given us the ability to experience five different tastes: *sour, salty, sweet, savoury and bitter*. But we have almost completely eliminated all bitter taste from our diet, and we have substituted it with sweets. Our entire digestive system however needs the stimulation of bitter substances in order to function properly. Excess sugar, and lots of sweet food, plays havoc with our liver and the lack of bitter substances in our liver results in a lack of vitality, and very poor digestion. Therefore, *get a taste for bitter things*.

Of course, what is true for the body is also true for the soul. The soul needs bitter things, in order to eliminate the poison of sin. Some of us feed our soul only on sweet things, and 'nice' things. We want only nice liturgies, nice readings, nice homilies, nice hymns, and we want a nice priest too! Like the people of Israel, we want signs, in other words, securities, **certainties that God will not cheat on us**. Because the devil constantly tells us that we deserve better; that God is not fair; he doesn't care about you. So we want to touch, to see, to hear. We are unable to simply obey and believe. All this ruins our spiritual metabolism. We end up slack and comfy Christians. Very nice, but very unbalanced.

The soul, like the liver, needs the bitter as well as the sweet. **But do you really have the taste for it?** Well if you don't have such taste, on Wednesday the season of Lent will commence; the opportunity that God gives to us all to restore the balance and to regain our health. Lent is the time to taste some of the more *bitter* words of Holy Scripture; words that are anything but sweet and nice; words calling us to repent; to a sincere conversion of heart; words that can disturb our self-righteousness. These bitter words, these hard sayings, are a gift from God, restoring us to wholeness, to sanity and to sanctity. Therefore, brothers and sisters as Lent gets closer and closer, let us prepare our hearts so to embrace with our life the great practices of Lent, the practices of PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING. With my prayers and blessings for each one of you.

Fr Fortunato.

Sunday Mass Times

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

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Nathan Zek Gomes, Henry William Nodwell and Irene Elefante who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

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.

RITE OF CATHOLIC INITIATION IN ADULTS (RCIA)

Please keep in your prayers our catechumens and candidates preparing to be received into the Church at Easter. They will be attending a Rite of Election service at the Cathedral on **Saturday 8th March**.

PARISH NOTICES

FANTASTIC NEWS!!

We have just heard we have been granted Planning Permission by Hounslow Borough Council for the rebuild of the Parish Centre. We are working with the architect on a timetable for this project and a plan of action for all those who use the Parish Centre. Look out for further details and for the launch of a Building Fund.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 3rd March** at 7.30pm. Members will enjoy a talk by Sister Nora on 'Lenten Thoughts'. A charge of £1.00 for the evening will be made.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

There will be the usual First Friday Coffee Morning after the 10am Stations of the Cross on **7th March**. The early bird Mass will take place at 06.45am.

PLANNED GIVING (from the Co-ordinator, Frank Macken)

Planned Giving Envelopes for the year 2014-105 will be available for collection on weekend of 8th/9th March. As in previous years the envelopes may be found on tables on the left hand side of the Church as you enter. Envelopes are in strict alphabetical order but it is possible that your number may have changed from last year.

Over the years it has been found that Planned Giving – whereby Parishioners commit to donating a regular amount to our Church – is by far the best way to ensure a steady and reliable income and greatly assists in organising Parish finances.

If you are not already on the scheme and would like to join, or if you are a new parishioner, please contact me.

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.

PASTORAL CARE

If you know of someone (a neighbour, a friend, a member of your family) who is unwell at home or in hospital or unable to get to Church any longer, and if you think they would value a visit from one of the Priests or Sisters, please let Florie in the Parish Office know. They may be out of sight but they shouldn't be out of mind.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support for collections held in the parish recently:
Westminster Catholic Children's Society (Crib Appeal): £879.82
Pax Christi: £235.54.
Cardinal Nichols Gift for Holy Land: £422.87
Education Sunday: £180.02
CAFOD Cake Sale: £228.32. *Many thanks to all who supported, made cakes and helped.*

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

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.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world. This year the programme is offered by the women of Egypt and the theme of the service is "Streams in the Desert" where we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert' for those who experience 'spiritual' drought. There will be a special service at Christ Church, Hanworth Road, Feltham TW13 5AB on **Friday 7th March at 2.00pm**. This service is open to all.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals is an international charity movement that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. Please bring all your unwanted clothing including bags, blankets, towels, curtains, bedding, shoes, even books to Church on **Sunday 23rd March**. Put your clothing etc. (no bric-a-brac or furniture please) into sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up at the 9am and 11am Masses. Amazingly 2 full black sacks of reasonable quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! For more information, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

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.**

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED BOOKING FORMS TO THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A FEW SEATS STILL LEFT FOR THIS TRIP.

Two parishioners from Cranford are seeking sponsorship to raise funds for Sick Pilgrims and Redcaps going on the coach. Ellen James (Redcap but unable to travel this year) is doing a Parachute Jump/Skydive on 5th April and Luigi Cornini (Knight of St Columba) is doing a walk from Cranford to Osterley Park and back on 26th March. They will both be at St Lawrence's in the next few weeks and would appreciate any sponsorship.

DIOCESAN HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2014

Cardinal Vincent invites us to join him on the 4th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. 17th-25th November 2014. Price £1495 per person sharing. £275 single room supplement. For further details and a booking form contact Gerald Daly at the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173 email: geralddaly@rcdow.org.uk or Gill Didino at Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Deacon James Richards RIP** (Heston parish) and **Mary Patricia Avery RIP**.

The Funeral of **Mary Patricia Avery RIP** will take place at Hounslow Cemetery Chapel at **11.30am on Tuesday 4th March**.

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

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 1st ST DAVID	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Peter Ward, John & Bridie Kehoe RIP
	12.45	Baptisms of Nathan Zek Gomes, Henry William Nodwell and Irene Elefante
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Kurt Kosin RIP (Month's Mind)
+ Sunday 2nd 8 th Sunday of the Year	09.00	Jim Fitzpatrick RIP
	11.00	George & Daisy Maple RIP
	13.00 18.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) People of the Parish
Monday 3rd Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Baby Myles Rodrigues RIP
Tuesday 4th Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30 10.00	Michael Gilbert RIP Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 5th ASH WEDNESDAY	09.30	No Morning Prayer
	12.15	Christina Power RIP (with School)
	18.00	Maureen O'Keeffe RIP
	19.30	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Deceased members of the O'Neill Family
Thursday 6th Lent Feria	08.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Soosapillai Jeyapragasam RIP (Anniversary)
Friday 7th Lent Feria	06.45	Fr James McGuire (Intention)
	08.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30 10.00	Ernesto Soria RIP (1st Anniversary) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 8th Lent Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Patrick Gallighan RIP
		(Baptism of Grace Sophie Ndangang during Mass)
		Stations of the Cross
	12.30	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Intentions of the Lock Family
+ Sunday 9th 1 st Sunday of Lent	09.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Betty Smith RIP
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	Olivia Dolland (Intention)

Sanctuary Lamp: Joseph Danladi (Intentions)

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

22-23 February: Envelopes £929.45, Loose £688.43, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2037.88

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

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

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes