

This week at St Lawrence's



15th/16th March 2014

Second Sunday of Lent
(Missal Page 155 – YEAR A)

Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 32; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Third Sunday of Lent (Missal Page 158): Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

Dear Friends,

Caterina Benincasa, we know her today as Saint Catherine of Siena, lived a rather short life. But what a life! She is the right woman to walk with in Lent, as we allow the Church to guide us through the Word of God in the examination of our lives. Her “writings” (mostly dictated, as she was fairly illiterate) insist that on the Lenten journey the very first question we must ask is not, “Who is God?” No! The first question is: “WHO AM I?”

“Who am I?” or “What am I living for?” can be quite frightening questions for many of us. At times these can be very daunting, even disturbing questions; interrogatives that we often decide not to proceed with and so we easily shelve them. Of course, when we are leading very busy and reasonably contented lives, such questions will not surface. But when sickness or suffering, bereavement or loss and so on, come our way then they have to be faced.

St. Catherine compares the quest for self-knowledge and meaning, to the process of digging a well. Before we reach the clear, running water far below, we have to work our way through a lot of soil, dirt and mud. She calls this the “soil of our poverty”. In coming to know ourselves, she says, we need to accept all our inadequacies and our limitations; all our failures and neurosis, and all the wounds and hurts of our history. She encourages us not to fear this downward journey and not to run away from all those areas of our lives, which seem dark, twisted, broken, ambiguous ... She urges us instead to stay with this “soil” for it is a reminder that we are only poor creatures; a reminder that we need God who is the bubbling, fresh source of life deep within us. For there, and only there, we can meet the One who loves us. Yes, we come to meet God through self-knowledge. It may be a painful journey. But the pain heals.

St. Catherine made this journey very early in life as she died at the age of 33. Some of us, already old, have still to make this journey. No matter what our age, Lent is the perfect time to do this, the perfect time to dig this well. Lent is a “time of grace.” A time to be set free from all illusions and fantasies about us. Lent is a time to enter firmly in our concrete reality so to experience Christ’s transfiguring love and mercy. Where could we do this? Well, read the newsletter and you will find out and then COME to any of the activities God inspired us to foster during Lent, so that we will start to dig this well and to know ourselves and each other better.

May God bless you.

Fr Fortunato.

Contact us:

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Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

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

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next preparation class children is on **Saturday 22nd March** at 9.45am in the school Hall. The next Parents Session will be on **Tuesday 25th March** at 2.00pm or 7.00pm.

RCIA

Please continue to pray for our adults who are exploring the Catholic faith in our Monday evening group.

CONFIRMATION

The next Confirmation preparation session is on **Thursday 20th March** at 7.30pm.

PARISH NOTICES

LENT DAY OF PRAYER - SATURDAY 22nd MARCH

(visiting priests for Confession morning and afternoon)

10.30am – 11.45am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation

12.00noon – Holy Mass

12.30pm – Stations of the Cross

1.00pm - 2.30pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Soup lunch will be available in the Parish Centre at 1pm. Proceeds to CAFOD

REMINDER

Please note that during Lent, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, Monday to Friday at 8.30am and an early bird Mass every Friday at 06.45am. There will also be Holy Hour and Confessions every Tuesday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 17th March** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre for a demonstration of Lace Making given by Beryl Clarke. This is a change from the printed programme.

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.

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

Planned Giving Envelopes for the year 2014-105 are now available for collection and can be found on tables on the left hand side of the Church as you enter. Thank you to all those who have picked up their box. 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.

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:

April 1st, 22nd

Please come with your child and wait in Church.

OTHER

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Lent is a time for all of us to *Dig Deep*: into ourselves, our faith, our relationship with God and the people around us. Today, especially, we remember our sisters and brothers who are poor and do not have enough to eat. If you haven't already, please pick up a Fast Day envelope and prayer card and hand the green envelope with your donation. The Fast Day collection will be taken up at the end of all Masses this weekend but will be kept open for a couple of weeks.

YOUNG ADULTS IN THE WEST

This event for young people (16-35) in west London will take place on **Saturday 22 March**, 6pm-9pm, at St James's Parish, Twickenham. Fr Chris Vipers (Episcopal Vicar) and Fr David Reilly (Diocesan Youth Chaplain) invite all our young people to participate. The event will begin with the celebration of Mass at 6pm, followed by food, refreshments and social time in the parish hall. There will be opportunities for faith-sharing, hearing testimonies and Q&A with the Episcopal Vicar. Please speak to your priest for more details or email Fr David on davidreilly@rcdow.org.uk

EXPLORING A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

Find out more about what it means to be a priest from recently ordained priests on **20th March** at the Centre for Youth Ministry in Somers Town. For further details please contact Fr Graham Stokes on grahamstokes@rcdow.org.uk 020 8747 5909 or see www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations.

MARY'S MEALS

With only 1 week to go before Mary's Meals arrives at our Church on **Sunday 23rd March**, please bring along all your unwanted textiles including clothes, bags, blankets, towels, curtains, shoes, bedding and even books. Mary's Meals will have a large van here on the morning of **Sunday 23rd March** to collect your unwanted clothing (no bric-a-brac or furniture please). Remember to put all clothing etc. in black sacks and bring them with you when you come to Mass that morning. Mary's meals is a no frills charity committed to spending 93p in every £1 received on its charitable activities with only 6p spent on Fundraising and 1p on Governance. For more information, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

PILGRIMAGES 2014

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) 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.

Westminster Youth Ministry will lead a 10 day Young Adults Pilgrimage (18-35) in parallel with the Main Diocesan Pilgrimage visiting the region's principal holy sites. The cost is £1,100 on a full board basis and Fr David Reilly the Youth Chaplain will be leading the group. Limited to 50 places only. Further information can be obtained from the Youth Team on youth@rcdow.org.uk or 0207 387 1971

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

8 - 9 March: Envelopes £1084.01, Loose £795.32, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2299.33

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Sunday Mass Times

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

Mass intentions and other services this week:

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| Saturday 15th Lent Feria | 09.30 10.45 | DAY WITH MARY (9.30am-5.30pm) Video Presentation on "The Message of Fatima" (School Hall) Procession of Our Lady. Angelus. Crowning. Sung Litany. Mass in honour of Our Lady Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament The Five Joyful Mysteries, Sermon on Our Lady by Fr Fortunato The Five Luminous Mysteries. Silent Adoration. Meditations on the Passion. Sermon on Our Lady by Fr Chris The Five Glorious Mysteries. Act of Consecration. Benediction. Enrolments in the Brown Scapular and Miraculous Medal During the Day: Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Gladys & Anthony Gellineau RIP |
| | 13.30 | |
| | 16.15 | |
| | + First Mass of Sunday | |
| + Sunday 16th 2nd Sunday of Lent | 09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00 | Margaret Harries RIP (Anniversary) May & Bernard Early RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) People of the Parish |
| Monday 17th ST PATRICK | 08.30 09.15 09.30 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Petronila D'Sa D'Costa RIP (1st Anniversary) |
| Tuesday 18th Lent Feria | 08.30 09.15 09.30 10.00 18.30 - 19.30 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer David, Rosie and Philip D'Souza RIP Novena to Our Lady Holy Hour and Sacrament of Reconciliation |
| Wednesday 19th ST JOSEPH | 08.30 09.15 09.30 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Abina O'Connor & Denis McGillicuddy RIP |
| Thursday 20th Lent Feria | 08.30 09.15 09.30 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Sabina Alvarez RIP |
| Friday 21st Lent Feria | 06.45 08.30 09.15 09.30 10.00 | Celebrant's Intention Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Ermelinda & Edgar Cota Cruz RIP Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 22nd Lent Feria | 10.30 + First Mass of Sunday | LENT DAY OF PRAYER (10.30am-2.30pm) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation Deceased members of the Whooley Family Stations of the Cross Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Mass in Tagalog for the Filipino Community Sacrament of Reconciliation Victor Frost RIP (Anniversary) |
| + Sunday 23rd 3rd Sunday of Lent | 09.00 11.00 13.00 14.30 18.00 | People of the Parish Patrick Osuji RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Mass led by the African Community Mary Galligan (Intention) |

Sanctuary Lamp: Bartholomew Fernandes RIP