

This week at St Lawrence's



22nd/23rd March 2014

Third Sunday of Lent
(Missal Page 158 – YEAR A)



Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Missal Page 164): 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Dear Friends,

We are already in the third week of Lent. And some of us have discovered that the Lenten discipline of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**, has not been difficult. It has been impossible! Some of us feel weighed down by the daily grind, by our worries and anxieties, unable to cope. Some of us are tired, really tired, from long hours of work, or travelling, or from looking after the children and caring for the family. On the surface we keep up appearances. We look reasonably normal. We are not too disturbed. And we manage a smile, a joke and even a laugh. But for some of us, the reality is very different. And we know it.

Some of us looking at our moral, sexual, inner and private lives are uneasy. We do not like what we see. We feel guilt, condemnation, and deep shame. Some of us keep a lot hidden. We may have feelings of failure, dejection, or even quiet despair. If only things could be different. Better. If only!

In other words we are no different from the woman at the well. She is an outcaste and her love life has ensured this; the other women in the village think: '*she's already had five husbands, perhaps the next one will be mine*'. Women like her are often objects of fun and scorn, but five broken relationships means five times her heart has been broken. She has longed for love, for someone who would permanently satisfy her and cherish her, but so far no luck.

Except when Jesus Christ arrives and promises to transform her life, which has become like stagnant water, into a spring of living water. And the Church brings to us this message of real hope and encouragement. Real hope. Not cheap, easy words. Today, Jesus Christ wants to dialogue with each one of us as he did with the Samaritan woman.

This Sunday however in a special way Jesus Christ will dialogue with the catechumens of our parish who will be moving on the second stage of their journey of initiation. The first phase of their journey of faith has been a time for them to hear the mystery of God proclaimed. They have consciously and freely sought the way of conversion and intention to change their lives and to enter into a relationship with God in Christ. We ask you please to pray for them as they continue their journey of faith and in the next three Sundays at the 9am Mass we, as a parish, will journey with them as they discover what it means to follow Christ as a Roman Catholic.

Take courage, the Church says. Do not be afraid. God knows our fears and worries. He understands everything that troubles our heart or mind or conscience. He knows everything that angers us, shames us, or tempts us to despair. As we make the Lenten journey to the great night of Passover, there is help for all those who feel trapped in their sins, fears and sufferings. This help comes from the Word of God, proclaimed among us. That is why, more than anything else, we need to listen to this Word. Really listen. God's Word has **POWER!** Power to change the hearts and lives of those who welcome it: those who say: let this Word become flesh, **MY** flesh! May God Bless you.

Fr Fortunato.

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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 27th March** at 7.30pm.

PARISH NOTICES

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.

Sr. Katherine leads a group for quiet reflection every Wednesday after the 9.30am Mass in the Prayer Room.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st April** at 7.30pm. If anyone has any items for the Council please write a note to the Chair, Graham Baker and post into the Presbytery by 12noon on the day.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Our Lenten Almsgiving this year is for the aid to the *Church in Need Syria Appeal* and the *Bakhita Fund* providing aid and support to victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. A special collection will be taken up on after all Masses next weekend (29th/30th March) or your alms can be put in the wall-safe by the Font.

POLISH LENT EVENTS

Stations of the Cross **every Wednesday** at 8pm.

Saturday 29th March, 7pm – Lenten Retreat and Stations of the Cross.

Thursday 10th April, 7pm-8.30pm – Confessions.

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 and 22nd

Please come with your child and wait in Church.

REST IN PEACE

MARY JAMES RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Mary James RIP who passed away recently. Her funeral will take place on **Monday 24th March** at 4pm at Hanworth Crematorium. Please also remember in your prayers all those who mourn her.

MARVELINE TERESA TOUSSAINT RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Marveline Teresa Toussaint RIP whose funeral will take place on **Wednesday 26th March** at 11.40am at Hanworth Crematorium. Please also remember her father, brothers and all those who mourn her.



**Reminder -The clocks go forward by one hour
next weekend (29th/30th March)**

OTHER

“24 HOURS FOR THE LORD”

Following the Holy Father's initiative, the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization has circulated information to every Diocese concerning “24 Hours for the Lord”. This begins on **Friday, 28 March at 1600** and will conclude at the same time on **Saturday, 29 March**. Every diocesan bishop has been asked to keep at least one church in his diocese open during this period in order to offer the Sacrament of Penance to those wishing to avail themselves of it, preferably within the context of Eucharistic Adoration. Cardinal Vincent has designated **St Patrick's, 21 a Soho Square, W1D 4NR** as the principal church in this diocese where the “24 Hours” will be observed. Everyone is welcome to attend St Patrick's to participate in this time of prayer and penance.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-40)

Friday 28 March, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room next to Westminster Cathedral. Two recently ordained Jesuit deacons will be reflecting on Chapter 2 of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* - Amid the Crisis of Communal Commitment. For more info, contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

FELTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

There will be a recital of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* by the Feltham Choral Society on **Saturday 29th March** at 7.30pm at St Dunstan's Church, Feltham. Please see poster in porch for tickets, etc.

STUDY DAY ON HUMAN AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT: FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULthood

DATE: 12th April 2014. TIME: 10am-1pm. VENUE: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. This will be an interactive teaching and learning day for all interested in their personal faith development and those who teach adults and children. Facilitators: Mgr Malachy Keegan and A. Karaliute S.T.L. Please always book in advance to attend a session by email: livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or at <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/events> or tel: 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £ 7.00. Tea & coffee will be provided.

YOUNG FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Fr Uwe Michael Lang will give a spiritual introduction to the celebrations of Holy Week on **Saturday, 12 April** from 2-5pm. Two talks, time for prayer, opportunity for confession. Hosted in the Hinsley Room by the Young Friends of Westminster Cathedral. Admission free. Further info: 07903 644 935 or young.friends@mail.com.

DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE

The Divine Mercy Apostolate Marian Fathers have organised a Pilgrimage to Aylesford in preparation for the Feast of the Divine Mercy. Date: **Saturday 26th April** Time: 10am-5pm. Coaches will be leaving from Westminster, Ealing and Slough. Please see notice in the porch for details and the programme.

HEAVEN'S ROAD FM CATHOLIC RADIO

www.heavensroadfm.com is a new internet Radio broadcasting prayers, interviews and features to appeal to a Catholic audience. Also, they have over 200+ podcasts available and webcast up to 40 Masses daily. The Radio is run on a shoestring by unpaid volunteers, so any donation, however small, would be very welcome. Cheques should be made payable to Heavens Road fm Catholic Radio and sent to them at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford, GU5 0QX. They also seek enthusiastic people to help make programmes, techies to operate the Radio and administrators to hold it all together. Much can be done over the internet – they have people in 10 different dioceses contributing. Further info at <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/vols/>

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

Mass intentions and other services this week:

LENT DAY OF PRAYER (10.30am-2.30pm)		
Saturday 22nd Lent Feria	10.30 12.00 12.30 13.00 14.30 15.00 17.00 18.00	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)
+ First Mass of Sunday		
+ 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)
Monday 24th Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Harry & Philomena Booker RIP
Tuesday 25th THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	08.30 09.15 09.30 10.00 18.30 – 19.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Carmelina Cardozo Rodrigues RIP Novena to Our Lady Holy Hour and Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 26th Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30 20.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Kurt Kosin RIP Stations of the Cross (Polish)
Thursday 27th Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Paul, Francisca & Raphael Omoniyodo in Thanksgiving
Friday 28th Lent Feria	06.45 08.30 09.15 09.30 10.00	Eily O'Connor (Intention) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Susan Truss RIP (1st Anniversary) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29th Lent Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.30 17.00 18.00 19.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Ann Smith (Intention) Stations of the Cross Sacrament of Reconciliation Daniel Dolan RIP Stations of the Cross and Retreat (Polish)
+ First Mass of Sunday		
+ Sunday 30th 4th Sunday of Lent	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	People of the Parish Michael & Christine Bigley RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Baby Rosie's Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp: Ruvet Abreu in Thanksgiving

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

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

Figures not available at the time of printing

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