

This week at St Lawrence's



29th/30th March 2014

Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Missal Page 164 – YEAR A)



1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Missal Page 170); Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8:8-11;
John 11:1-45

Dear Friends

Last Sunday morning was a real eye-opener for some of our visitors from the life changing charity, Mary's Meals. They were amazed at the number of people at Mass and, wait for it, by how well we sang. It's true, we certainly love to sing here, and it's worth remembering that every hymn is a prayer – even the great St Augustine wrote that "he who sings prays twice!" One of my own personal favourites, and I know this would be true of many of you, is that beautiful and powerful confession of my faith in God's great faithfulness, Amazing Grace: "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see." It is a hymn that speaks to and speaks for many of the changing scenes of life, its words speaking from deep down inside. Written in the late 1700's, by the sailor turned slave-trader turned Anglican priest, John Newton, it tells the story of one man's conversion, and in just a few verses proclaims the eye-opening and life-changing power of faith. I am reminded of some beautiful words I once read, "tears, always tears in the presence of my God; tears of sorrow for what I am, tears of joy for what thou art." The words of Amazing Grace were written two hundred years ago. They could as well have been sung two thousand years ago by the central figure next to Jesus in today's Gospel, the man born blind. Jesus Christ opened his eyes and changed his life so that he could see clearly the wonder and beauty of his own reflection, the beauty all around him and, as he looked on the face of Jesus, the beautiful face of God. That one saving encounter when the Lord opened his eyes opened his soul to the gift of faith: 'Lord, I believe', the man said, and he worshipped him. Faith is like that, our reaching out for God and God reaching out to touch us. A beautiful and daily prayer could be, "Lord, that I may see". That prayer can change everything. In the Encyclical letter to the Church, *Lumen Fidei* (The Light of Faith), started by Pope Benedict and finished by Pope Francis, we are taught that "faith does not merely gaze at Jesus but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes; it is a participation in his way of seeing." Perhaps today make your own the words of an ancient prayer, "God be in my head and in my understanding, God be in my eyes and in my looking, God be in my mouth and in my speaking, God be in my heart and in my loving."

With my love and prayers for you all, especially all Mothers on this your special day.

Fr Chris

SACRAMENTS

RCIA

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

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation candidates will have their Reconciliation Service on **Thursday 3rd April** in Church at 7pm.

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.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 31st March** at 7.30pm for a St Patrick's night of music and dance. Transferred from 17th March.

SCHOOL MASS

On **Tuesday 1st April**, St Lawrence's School will be joining us for the 9.30am Mass for their end of term Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

There will be the usual First Friday Coffee Morning after the 10am Stations of the Cross on **4th April**. The early bird Mass will take place at 06.45am.

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.

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

In light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also state that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.

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.

PASSOVER MEAL

The annual celebration of the Passover Meal takes place on **Wednesday 16th April** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Please contact Tanya Webster if you are able to help in any way. Tickets will be available from this weekend. If you have taken a ticket but are unable to attend, please return it to the Parish Office, as this is a popular event and we usually have a waiting list..

POLISH LENT EVENTS

Stations of the Cross **every Wednesday** at 8pm.
Confessions - **Thursday 10th April**, 7pm-8.30pm.

EASTER FLOWERS

There will be a collection at the end of all Masses on **5th/6th April** for Easter Flowers.

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 **this weekend** or your alms can be put in the wall-safe by the Font.

MASS LED BY THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated at St Lawrence's on **27th April** starting at 2.30pm, led by the African Community. Further details to follow.

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.

OTHER

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.

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.

THE INNER TRAIL OF FAITH

St Lawrence's and The Centre for Spirit and Culture will be hosting a series of bi-monthly events, the first of these will be on **Saturday 26th April** at 1pm at the CSCA Centre, Manor House, Manor Lane, Feltham TW13 4JQ. The topic that day will be on *Islamic Faith* – a talk followed by a Question and Answer session. All welcome to attend.

THANK YOU

MARY'S MEALS

Gerrard McMahon from Mary's Meals was "delighted at the response to the *Rags to Riches Collection* last weekend. The parish managed to donate 1181kg of unwanted clothes, bedding, etc., some of which was brand new and overall the quality was high. The donations came to £548.36 making a grand total of **£1079.81** which is fantastic! The money raised will feed 89 children who will not only get one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. A very big 'thank you' to everyone at St Lawrence's for your tremendous support. There will be a *Rags to Riches* collection at St Michael & St Martin's Church, Hounslow on Sunday 13th July (morning Masses only) if anyone wants to bring unwanted clothes then".

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF
www.saintlawrences.org.uk

020 8890 2367

feltham@rcdow.org.uk

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:

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 <i>Stations of the Cross and Retreat (Polish)</i>
+ 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
Monday 31st Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Mrs Walsh (Special Intentions)
Tuesday 1st April Lent Feria	08.30 09.30 10.30 18.30 – 19.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament No Morning Prayer Mary James RIP (with school) Novena to Our Lady Holy Hour and Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 2nd Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30 20.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Celebrant's Intention <i>Stations of the Cross (Polish)</i>
Thursday 3rd Lent Feria	08.30 09.15 09.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Veronica Quainoo in Thanksgiving
Friday 4th Lent Feria	06.45 08.30 09.15 09.30 10.00	For World Peace Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer David Hayes (Intention) <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 5th Lent Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.30 13.30 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Pauline & Craig Penfold in Thanksgiving (25th Wedding Anniversary) <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Baptism of Cora Cooper Sacrament of Reconciliation Joan Keightley RIP (1st Anniversary)
+ Sunday 6th 5th Sunday of Lent	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	For the intentions of the Power Family People of the Parish Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Eily O'Connor (Intention)

Sanctuary Lamp: Raphael E Omoniyodo 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 two weeks' Offertory Collection:

15-16 March: Envelopes £966.98, Loose £714.07, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2101.05
22-23 March: Envelopes £1037.80, Loose £778.83, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2236.63

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699