



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Yr A

21st/22nd March 2026

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 21 9.30am 6pm	Bridget Burke D'csd souls of the Fernandes, Rodrigues & D'Souza Families	RIP (A) RIP
Sun 22 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	Caetano Vicente De Souza Fr Gerry Burke D'csd members of the Early Family Anto Praveen Kumar (B'day)	RIP (4th A) RIP (7th A) RIP T'GIVING
Mon 23 9.30am	Pio, Lina, Ananya & Rohan Joseph	SP. INT
Tue 24 9.30am 7pm	Monsignor Philip Hoteyin People of the Parish	RIP INT
Wed 25 9.30am 6.00pm	Caetano & Claudia Fernandes Fernandes & Vaz Family	RIP INT
Thur 26 9.30am	Cleo D'Costa (B'day)	T'GIVING
Fri 27 9.30am 1.00pm 7pm	Paul, Francisca, Winifreda & Raphael Ominyodo (B'day) REQUIEM - MARY JOAN COLLINS Rosy & Carafino Braganza	T'GIVING RIP RIP
Sat 28 9.30am 6pm	Jerome & Maria Rodrigues Chris & Jewela Rodrigues	RIP T'GIVING
Sun 29 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	Fernandes & Pereira Family John Coleman Jeanette (Kiki) Hocking People of the Parish	SP. INT RIP (1st A) RIP INT

Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the soul of Michael Joseph D'Souza RIP

OTHER REGULAR MASSES, LITURGY

Confessions and Adoration: Saturday 10.15am-11.15am
Confessions: Saturday 4pm-5pm
Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday 9.10am
Rosary: Monday & Friday 10am; St Anthony Devotion: Tues 10am
Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help: Wednesday 10am
Sacred Heart Devotion First Friday 10am
Prayer & Intercessory Group: 3rd & 4th Saturday 7pm
Polish Mass: Every Sunday 1pm; Malayalam Mass: 3rd Sun 2.30pm
Filipino Mass: 4th Sat 2.30pm; Nigerian Mass: 4th Sun 2.30pm

Dear Friends,

Something has changed

Everything is hidden; a veil has fallen over all that once drew our eyes toward the Divine. Everywhere we turn, we see purple veils. The Gloria has fallen silent; the hymn of angels and saints no longer resounds and those sacred images that once lifted our minds to God are now hidden. Something has changed.

We have entered the final weeks of the Lenten desert, accompanying Christ as He journeys towards the Cross, towards the ultimate sacrifice. Passiontide marks not only a transition, but the beginning of the end, the end of sin's power. Yet this end is approached not in glorious triumph but humility.

As our ability to see all that lifts our hearts and minds to God is taken away, the other senses are enhanced. We begin to listen more intently to the Word of God in Scripture, we become more conscious of our bodies kneeling, we smell the intensity of the incense, the fragrance of Heaven (Revelation 5:8).

The veiling reveals a truth about the world itself, in our fallen state, the world is veiled. Our eyes unaided by grace cannot gaze upon the Divine. It is only through our death in Baptism that the veil is pierced and a new sight is given. In Him, and through His Cross, we are made capable of seeing what was once hidden. As such, these veils remind us of the love of God. As we prepare to kneel at the foot of the Cross, with eyes newly opened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us be ready to truly proclaim:
Something has changed.
Christ has saved me.

Have a blessed week,
Ashley

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Year A)

Today: Fifth Sunday of Lent p.170
Morning Prayer Week I
Next week: Palm Sunday p.176

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586)
Feast: March 26, Martyr

"I believe that whatever comes at a particular time is a blessing from God."

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Mon, Wed, Thur: 10.00am-12noon & Fri: 12.30-2.30pm
Tues, Sat & Sun: Office Closed

PARISH CONTACTS

Father Mike Maguire

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Ashley Wells

Seminarian
C/o. Parish Office

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Marinha Bragança

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CATECHESIS CORNER

I had been called to the ICU to anoint dying persons several times. One would think a priest becomes accustomed to these moments with time; we do not. These encounters do not leave a priest untouched. Each call to the bedside of the dying carries its own weight. Each room has its own silence. On one occasion, I found myself standing before a machine in the ICU doing its duty while a soul stood before eternity. The nurses told me I had little time. I stepped in without delay and began the prayers immediately. I laid my hands upon him and anointed his forehead with the Oil of the Sick, praying for the Lord to raise him up and forgive whatever sins remained. There was something deeply humbling in that moment. The machines were sounding, the body was failing, the man did not respond, yet the Church was there, and Christ was there. I left that room grateful that he did not depart without the consolation of the Last Rites. Since then, three lessons have settled in my heart: First, life is brief. The strength we rely on can disappear quietly and quickly. The call to be reconciled with God is never something to postpone. Second, the sacraments matter, especially at the hour of death, for they are not empty rituals. They are Christ acting in His Church at the most decisive moment of a person's life. Third, no one should wait until the final second to seek grace. When illness begins, when age advances, when weakness sets in, call for the priest. The Church desires to walk with her children to the very end. Visits to the sick always reminds me again that our ministry stands at the threshold between time and eternity. And in that fragile space, even when machines are sounding and words are few, the mercy of God is never late.

PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (AGED 18-35) St Lawrence parish has launched a brand-new Young Adults Group for those aged 18-35 who want to live their Christian faith more fully and intentionally. In a fast-paced world that often pushes Christ to the margins, this group offers a space to slow down, reflect and support one another in putting Christ at the centre of daily life. Meeting weekly, the group will gather for 7pm Mass on Fridays, followed by an informal gathering in the Parish centre. We will be having an Easter break, our last session is on 27th March and then reconvene on Friday 17th April.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 FUNDRAISING
- Race Night - **New date Saturday, 9th May 2026.**
- 2 Coffee Mornings - dates to be published shortly

The pilgrimage dates are 17th – 24th July. The cost will be £1,216 per person, based on two sharing, including coach transfers from Toulouse Airport (our arrival airport) to Lourdes and travel insurance and pilgrimage levy. Please do not delay – register your interest today! If you need help with your booking please contact Florie.

MASS FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - celebrated by Fr Peter Shekelton on **Saturday 18 April at 11am** at St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church, 41 Langdale Gardens, Perivale UB6 8DQ. This special celebration is open to all, and especially welcomes those with intellectual disability, together with their families, friends, and carers. See poster in porch.

AV COMPUTER EXPERIENCE - Reaching out to any parishioner that may have AV computer knowledge. We have an issue with a cable in the Parish Centre and would be grateful for any guidance.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION - Wednesday 25th March - Masses will be at 9.30am and 6.00pm.

HOLY THURSDAY - 2nd April. If you would like to have your foot washed at the Mass of the Last Supper please speak to Florie in the Parish Office.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of Joan Mary Collins, Yvonne Beaudouin and Jozefa Hermaszewska (mother of Joanna James our previous secretary), who have died recently. May they rest in eternal peace. Funeral details can be found on the noticeboard.

LENT AT ST LAWRENCE'S

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Every weekday morning from 8.15am-9.00am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Every Friday after the 9.30am Mass and after the 7pm Mass.

SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUP - Every Monday during Lent, there will be a small faith-sharing group in the Presbytery after the 9.30am Mass. It lasts 45minutes to an hour. We are following a Diocesan Lenten resource "We Dare to Ask", led by a member of the Pastoral Team.

CAFOD – BIG LENT WALK - The walks will take place on the following Wednesdays in Lent at 10.30am:
25th March Bedfont Cemetery and 1st April Hanworth Crematorium.

We start with a short prayer by the grotto then walk to the cemetery, say the rosary and walk back finishing with a prayer at the grotto. This will be followed by a simple soup lunch in the Parish Centre.

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL 2026 - "*Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love*". The annual appeal supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service, through Education, Youth & Evangelisation, Marriage and Family Life and Social action. The Appeal is open throughout Lent. Please use the envelopes provided for your donation.

FLOWERS - PLEASE DO NOT bring flowers to decorate the altar or any of the statues in Church during Lent.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES LEAFLET - Please take a copy, it has all the information you need for our services during Holy Week and Easter.

EASTER FLOWERS - There will be a collection for Easter Flowers this weekend 21st-22nd March after all Masses.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2026-27 - All those who currently use or had requested Planned Giving Envelopes, the envelopes are now ready for collection from the Parish Office. They start from the 10th of April.

SCHOOL CAR PARK AND ACCESS ROUTES Regrettably, we are unable to use the school car park at the moment for our weekend parish Masses. We will keep you updated going forward and we apologise for the inconvenience caused.

WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED Beginning Experience Weekend 8th to 10th May 2026 at Worth Abbey. For further details please contact Mary on 07730 884315 or Email: beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 2026 - Celebrations at St Andrews Church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on **12 April 2026 at 2:30 pm**. The service will be led by Mgr Sean Healy and will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate this glorious feast. Please call millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – Retrouvaille could be the solution. www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

COFFEE MORNING - Thank you for your support last weekend. A sum of £202.55 was raised for the Youth Fund.

THANK YOU FORYOUR GENEROSITY

14th/15th Mar: Loose - £1,640.69 Envelopes - £168.00
Total: £1,808.69

January Standing orders: £7,429.50
January Contactless & Stripe: £1,637.20

HSBC BANK ACCOUNT NAME: WRC DT FELTHAM
Account Number: 71095528 Sort Code: 40-05-20

Please add your Surname, First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper, and indicate if it is for a Donation, Baptism, Mass, etc.