

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Patricia McNelis; Joan McKeown;
Alia Abdulraheen Saleem; Faik Francis Mansour Hanna;
and all the faithful departed.

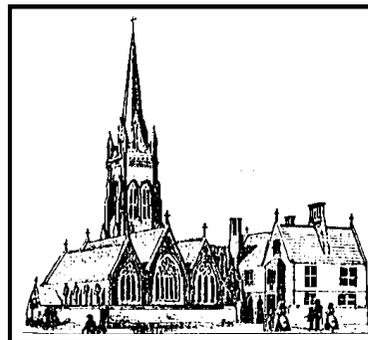
**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

1st SUNDAY OF LENT 2026
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Saturday	21st February		
		6.00 pm	Patricia McNelis (RIP - anniv)
SUNDAY	22nd	8.30 am	Ints of Gloria Wildman (thanks)
		10.00 am	Ints of Jacqueline Pilkington (health)
1st SUNDAY OF LENT		12 Noon	-
		6.00 pm	The people of the Parish
Monday	23rd	9.30 am	-
St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr			
Tuesday	24th	9.30am	-
		10.30am	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
		2.30pm	St Anthony Prayer Group
Wednesday	25th	No Mass today. Church is closed.	
Thursday	26th	9.30am	-
Friday	27th	9.30am	-
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.30pm	-
Saturday	28th	10.00 am	The sick and housebound
		10.30am	Exposition and Adoration

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.20AM ; 5.00 - 5.40PM
OR BY ARRANGEMENT**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
11AM - 3PM, (Closed on Wednesday except Holy Days)**



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
St THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, FULHAM**

**60 Rylston Rd, London SW6 7HW
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**Email: fulham@rcdow.org.uk
Web: fulhamcatholic.org.uk**

**Parish Priest: Fr James Neal
Administrator: Mr Gerald Daly**

**Safeguarding Representative: Ms Shirley Mills
Email: fulhamsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**

Dear Friends... In the Gospel of Ash Wednesday Jesus takes it for granted that his followers will practise fasting. What does this mean? Fasting simply means reducing the quantity of what we eat on a day, perhaps by cutting out one meal. This can be done at any time, but is recommended in Lent, and required of us on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (Remember, that obligation falls *only* on those aged between 14 -60, and not on those who are ill, or pregnant women. For all others it is voluntary at our discretion. Fasting is supposed to help us, not endanger our health!) We can also fast from things other than food, of course.

What's the point? Fasting reminds us of our fragility, and therefore also of our dependence on and responsibility for others. Fasting is a discipline, and thus something that helps us to take control of who we are, in line with God's plan for our dignity and self-respect. It is a sacrifice we can make for a particular reason, as Our Lady recommended at Fatima, generating spiritual energy that God can use to build his kingdom.

In his letter to the Church for this Lent, Pope Leo writes: "*Fasting is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbour.*"

So if you want to conquer sin in your life, try some type of fasting. Pope Leo asks us to fast in another way: "*I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope.*" Fr James

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20 Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: THIS FRIDAY 27th Feb: An opportunity for Lenten Almsgiving in support of the development work of CAFOD. See the poster in church and brief presentations at Mass. For gift aided donations, envelopes are available in church. Proceeds will be collected next weekend.

ARCHBISHOP RICHARD'S LENT APPEAL: See posters for further info.. and the *Mosaics* leaflet with stories of previous initiatives. The diocesan Almsgiving appeal supports encounter with Christ in education, youth work, marriage & family life projects. There is a dedicated wall box for Lenten Alms in the "Pieta" chapel; an option on the tap-to-donate machine and envelopes for gift aided offerings. The Appeal finishes with a collection at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday.

SOCIETY OF St VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP): Next meeting is on *Thursday 19 March at 7.30pm in No.62*. Open to any who are interested. We are now planning for the future and for fund-raising for the Conference.

MASS OF WELCOME FOR ARCHBISHOP RICHARD: For us in the Western part of the diocese everyone is invited to Mass at Ealing Abbey **THIS THURS 26 FEB** at 6.30pm. Archbishop Richard write to us: "I will remain at the back of the church at the end of each Mass to greet as many as possible."

MON 2nd - FRI 6th MARCH: Fr James will be on some days of Retreat. See next week's Newsletter for the week's details. There will be Mass on Monday 2nd at 12 Noon and Stations of the Cross/Mass on Friday 6th at 7pm.

RIGHT TO LIFE UK: writes to ask help to stop a move to bypass the House of Lords in the fight against legislation for assisted suicide. "Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. *Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.*

POP UP ART SHOP: The Society of Fulham Artists & Potters open their shop at Fulham Broadway with new work. Open: Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun from 1pm - 7pm until 29 March. Come to browse. Admission Free.

WESTMINSTER JUSTICE & PEACE ANNUAL LECTURE:

Given by Charles Wookey, for many years advisor on social and ethical issues to archbishops at the Bishops'. He will speak on 'Living out Catholic Social Teaching in Today's Britain' At Farm Street Church, 114 Mount Street, W1, on 25 March at 7pm. To attend contact justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk by 1 March.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY:

Sat. 23rd May at 2:30pm in the Cathedral. The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the diocese who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary and would like to join the Archbishop, please contact the office with these details, *before 10th April:* Names of both spouses; postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email); date and place of Catholic Marriage. *This is always a wonderful and moving event.*

RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN WITH THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:

The Little Sisters of the Poor invite young women, aged 17-35, for a 4 day retreat at St Anne's Home, 77 Manor Road, N16 5BL. From 3pm on 2 April (Holy Thursday) till 6pm on 5 April (Easter Sunday), although attendees are welcome to stay for 1-2 days only. A donation is suggested to cover costs. To register and find out more please email Sister Caroline at: ms.stanne@lsplondon.co.uk.

Come to see RISE Theatre's PASSION PLAY this Lent at St Thomas of Canterbury Fulham: Tuesday 10 March at 7.30pm (in the school, Estcourt Road)



A chance to experience this powerful one act, one hour drama: From John 1:1-18 "The Word Became Flesh", moving through Gospel moments - The Wedding Feast at Cana; the calling of Simon; the Miraculous Catch of Fish and then into the main Passion Story, Rise Theatre's unique style creates a fast-paced, emotionally impacting performance to enrich our Lenten devotions and preparation for Holy Week.

For tickets visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre or from the Office or in Church after Mass today: £10 or £5 under 16 years.

See poster in church or visit www.youtube.com/risetheatrecompany to watch the trailer (*Passion Play Highlights 2024*).

(*Performance 1 hour approx. and includes a dramatic interpretation of the crucifixion so Parental Guidance is advised for under 12s.*

In aid of RISE Theatre and St Thomas of Canterbury S.V.P.