

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Denise Allain; Mary Asantewaa; Joan McKeown; Maria Marin; Jerzy Matuszewski;
Breda Costello; Phyllis MacDonald; Manuel Barros; Rosa Costa; Denis Evinson;
Ronnie Richardson; Ron Johnson
and all the faithful departed.

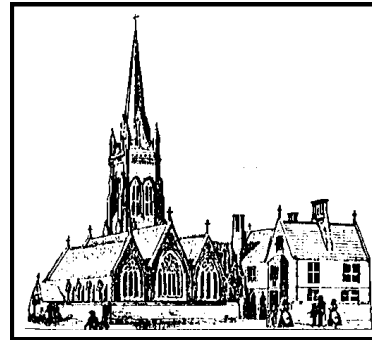
**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

4th SUNDAY OF LENT 2026
Parish Mass Book Page 164

Saturday	14th March		
		6.00 pm	Jerzy Matuszewski (RIP-anniv)
SUNDAY	15th	8.30 am	The people of the Parish
		10.00 am	Breda Costello (RIP - anniv)
4th SUNDAY OF LENT		12 Noon	Phyllis MacDonald (RIP - anniv)
		6.00 pm	Manuel Barros & Rosa Costa (anniv)
Monday	16th	9.30 am	Denis Evinson (RIP - anniv)
		11.30 am	Funeral Mass of Joan McKeown (RIP)
Tuesday	17th	9.30 am	Ronnie Richardson (RIP)
St Patrick, Patron of Ireland			
Wednesday	18th	<i>No Mass today. Church is closed.</i>	
Thursday	19th	9.30 am	Ron Johnson (RIP)
St JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Friday	20th	9.30 am	-
		7.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
		7.30pm	-
Saturday	21st	10.00 am	The sick and housebound
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Adoration</i>

**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**

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

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

Dear Friends... Church tradition dedicates March to St Joseph. Lent falls mostly in March, so Joseph is our Lenten leader in the way that Mary is the "Advent Woman." Advent is about *receptivity*: as we wait for the coming of Christ the Church points us to Marian virtues. Mary shows us how to prepare a place for Jesus in our lives as she did in the world. But if Advent is about "Christlessness," when we read the prophets' longing for Christ, Lent is about "Christ-fullness" when we wait *with* Jesus in the desert, walk with him along the Way of the Cross, and prepare for his ultimate victory at Easter. There is no better for model for that than St Joseph. On Joseph's March 19 feast day we celebrate the builder from Nazareth who first had to change his life because Jesus had come into the world.

When the Gospel says "The word became flesh and *dwelt* among us" the Greek actually says he "*tabernacled* among us." In other words, the Word entered Joseph's family, lived in his house, and entrusted himself to Joseph's care. That is what our Lenten task is: To be better custodians of the gift of Christ by shaping our house to his needs. Literally our house, and the house of our body and soul.

The other major focus of Lent is the Passion of Christ. As we take up our cross and follow Jesus, Joseph is our model once again. His whole life was dedicated to sacrifice, prayer, and self-giving as he lived a unique marriage literally centred on Christ and responded obediently to the Lord who called him *again* and *again*.

Last, Joseph is a model of the virtuous life we are called to build. The Gospel of Matthew identifies Joseph as a "just" man. Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that Matthew's Jewish audience would have known how a "just man" is defined — by Psalm 1. It says, "Blessed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked ... whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his law day and night." Pope Francis' letter about Joseph celebrates all those who, like him, are: "ordinary people...yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history." Lent is the time to shape our hearts in Joseph's virtues, shaping the future without fanfare, for Christ.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 15 MARCH: Also known as "Laetare (Rejoicing) Sunday", or "Refreshment Sunday or "Mothering Sunday." TODAY!!

On the mid-Lent holiday enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and be tempted (!) by a CAKE SALE in aid of the new SVP Conference. From 11am and after the 12Noon Mass, in the Hall at No.62. Also available is....

"THE REAL EASTER EGG" Once again this year we are selling this Fairtrade, palm oil and plastic free Easter Egg, including a booklet with the story of Easter for the young, and a prize competition. A great gift for any age, or for yourself!! £6 or any donation above **also in aid of the SVP Conference. Available on Mothering Sunday, or now from the Sacristy or Parish Office.**

ARCHBISHOP RICHARD'S LENT APPEAL: See posters 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's a wall box for Lenten Alms in the "Pieta" chapel; an option on the tap-to-donate machine and envelopes for gift aid offerings. The Appeal finishes with a collection at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday.

NEW "TAP-TO-DONATE" TABLETS: As you will see we now have new Contactless Payment terminals at both doors of church. These have many advantages over the old version **BUT** if you had registered for *Gift Aid* on the old machine you will need to register again. Sorry! No way round that one.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Thank you for your contributions to this Lenten Almsgiving appeal. We should have a total for it next week.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK: Today you can pick up a copy of the schedule of all worship during Holy Week and Easter Week. This is the most important time of the Christian year and important that we set aside as much time as possible for worship, to enter into the mystery of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

TEACHING RESOURCE FOR CHILDREN: Free Lenten Activity Kit for Your Child FROM Shalom World Media: Make this Lent meaningful for your child: simple, prayerful, and full of joy. Shalom World Pals' FREE Lenten Activity Kit for Kids (ages 6-12) is a beautiful, faith-filled pack that helps parents walk with their children through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, right at home.

Download from shalomworld.org/lenten-kit

CATHEDRAL CONCERT, WEDS 18 MARCH AT 6.45PM: Westminster Cathedral Choir and Britten Sinfonia present a Lenten concert of sacred reflection and profound musical devotion, bringing together two masterworks that speak powerfully to the mystery of faith, suffering, and redemption - James MacMillan's monumental *Stabat Mater*, and the timeless *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The concert will begin with Sir James MacMillan in discussion with Fr Patrick van der Vorst, Precentor of Westminster Cathedral and Founder of Christian.art. All are welcome: westminstrcathedral.org.uk/stabatmater

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL: From Dr Patrick Lanigan, Vice-Chair of the Governors: "We are delighted to share with our parish community that **St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School** is aiming to join the **St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust**. This marks a wonderful new chapter in the life of our school. Becoming part of the Trust will enable our school to enhance its mission and ensure that our children continue to receive an excellent education rooted firmly in Gospel values. Joining the Trust brings several important advantages, including:

- A strengthened Catholic community and shared mission: Working closely with other Catholic schools helps to deepen and protect the school's Catholic ethos.
- Access to wider expertise and specialist support: The Trust offers guidance in curriculum development, safeguarding, inclusion, finance, and leadership. Shared training, resources, and opportunities for pupils enrich the learning experience for everyone.
- Long term stability and security: The Trust structure provides resilience and strategic direction to support the continued flourishing of the school.
- Wider opportunities for staff and pupils: Professional development for staff and additional educational experiences for children across the Trust family.

As the school moves into this exciting phase, we also warmly remind parish families that St Thomas of Canterbury continues to welcome applications from parishioners with school age children. Anyone wishing to find out more about the school or its admissions is encouraged to get in touch with the school office on **0207 385 8165** or **admin@stthomasrc.lbhf.sch.uk**. We ask all parishioners to keep the pupils, staff, and governors in your prayers during this time of transition, as we embrace this exciting new chapter with optimism.