



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A – 15 March 2020

We Evangelising Pilgrims

We are on pilgrimage. Today we arrive at the Third Sunday of Lent. Journeying together through the Sundays we have encountered man's creation and fall, and how Jesus was victorious over the temptations of the devil. We were then inspired by the utter gratuitousness of God's gifts to us: God promises to bless all nations through the faith of Abram; the Transfiguration revealed the divine glory of Jesus to strengthen the faith of the disciples, and ours, on the path toward to the Crucifixion.

And here we are today, this Third Sunday of Lent. The readings this Sunday lead us to consider the ways in which Jesus is transforming us and sending us out to reap. Our own transfiguration is actualised, is brought to life "because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us", as St Paul teaches. Please, let us never be complacent or blasé about these words. St Paul, in the excerpt today from Romans, lists the three theological virtues which make possible our sanctification, without them we could not start our pilgrimage and life of evangelisation. These are faith, hope, and love. Faith enables us to hold unto those things which we now cannot see; hope teaches us to live in holy expectation of those things; and love, love is the very life blood of God. The love that we experience now from God, will not only continue but will be amplified in heaven, whilst both faith and hope will have achieved their purpose.

Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman and then with the disciples is emphatic in His teaching to lead them, and us, away from natural perspectives toward the higher and supernatural. The water for which the Israelites, in our first reading, and the Samaritan woman thirsted will never fully satisfy, but Jesus is offering the woman eternal water, flowing from the wells of salvation, leading her to worship in spirit and in truth, regardless of location. Jesus is the new Temple. She has to go and tell others about Jesus. The disciples, too, are concerned with natural food, where Jesus is focussing on the grain, the bread of heaven, that leads to eternal life: His Body, the Real Presence present at every Mass on the altar. They are told to reap, to hunger for the Father's will above all else. How will we evangelise? *Fr Ben*

Mass Times:

Sunday

6.00pm (Saturday)
9.00 (Sung), 10.30 (Choir), 12.00
noon (Choir), 6.00pm

Weekdays

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10.00
Thurs: 7.00pm
Saturday: 10.00

Rosary

After weekday Mass

Exposition

Weekdays 6.00-12.00 noon,
6.00pm-12 midnight
(not school holidays)

Confessions

Saturday: 10.30-11.00,
5.15pm-5.45pm

Music

de Monte - *Missa Si ambulavero*
Lassus - *Ad Dominum cum*
tribularer

201 All people that on earth do
dwell

72 When I survey the
wondrous cross

65 My song is love unknown
282 Ave Regina caelorum

Sunday Readings, Page 158

Ex 17:3-7

Psalms 94:1-2, 6-9, R. v9

Rm 5:1-2, 5-8

Jn 4:5-42

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Catechetical Coordinator: Margaret Wickware (margaretwickware@rcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music: Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

Stations of the Cross During Lent every Thursday evening at 6.15pm, before Mass, and Friday morning after Mass, we will pray the Stations of the Cross. Do come and follow Our Lord as He takes up His cross, for us, on the *Via Crucis*.

Biblical Walk Through of the Mass Ever wanted to explore the scriptural roots of the Holy Mass? On Sundays 15, 22 March at 4.00pm in the Parish Hall, our Catechetical Coordinator, Margaret Wickware, will guide and help us to understand this beautiful mystery and how God uses this to transform us.

School of Ignatian Prayer Over five sessions, led by experienced Ignatian prayer guides, we will learn about St Ignatius of Loyola and his ways of praying. There will also be time for silent prayer and opportunities to share together. What a wonderful gift for Lent. Thursdays 19, 26 March and 2 April, 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Parish Hall, suggested donation £20. Please email Audrey Hamilton at ahamilton@jesuit.org.uk or call 020 7529 4844. Or sign up at the back of the church.

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group Next meeting is on Wednesday 18 March from 4pm-5.15pm in the Hinsley room, Morpeth Terrace. Revd Alan Gadd will speak about his interfaith work in South London. To find the Hinsley Room stand in front of the cathedral and walk to your right past St Paul's shop and the school. Look for an ivy covered fenced garden beyond the playing field.

Rededication of England to Our Lady - Dowry Tour The final visitation of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will take place at Westminster Cathedral from Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 March and will include a Eucharistic healing service with Benediction at 7pm on Friday 20 March. The closing Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent at 6pm on Saturday 21 March. The Cardinal will celebrate the 12 noon Mass on Sunday 29 March, which will include the At of Entrustment rededicating England to Our Lady. All are welcome. www.Behold2020.com.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages over 18 years meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information see the poster in the porch, visit www.catholicingles.org.uk, or tel. 0161 941 3498.

Mass for Migrants On Saturday 2 May at 11am, Banner Procession and Mass at St Anthony of Padua RC Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB. Everyone is warmly welcome to this wonderful Mass, celebrating the tremendous contribution of migrants to the London and South-East Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster. The Mass will include the newly painted icon of Our Lady of Walsingham, recently blessed by Pope Francis, and will be celebrated by the Bishop of Brentwood, Bishop Alan Williams, in honour of St Joseph the Worker. Please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you are a group bringing a banner.

Coronavirus For the latest advice from the Diocese of Westminster on Coronavirus, please follow this link <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/>.

Coronavirus – let's not forget the vulnerable In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc, as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money, please give what you can. Please also consider if you could spare some time to volunteer, perhaps by driving to collect food for a foodbank or simply by looking out for your neighbours. Contact cfc@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7931 6077 if you would be willing to help.

CAFOD Family Fast Day You can still return your envelopes. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper Hall	10.00am	English Class
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1.30pm-3.30pm	Over 50s Club
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and toddlers