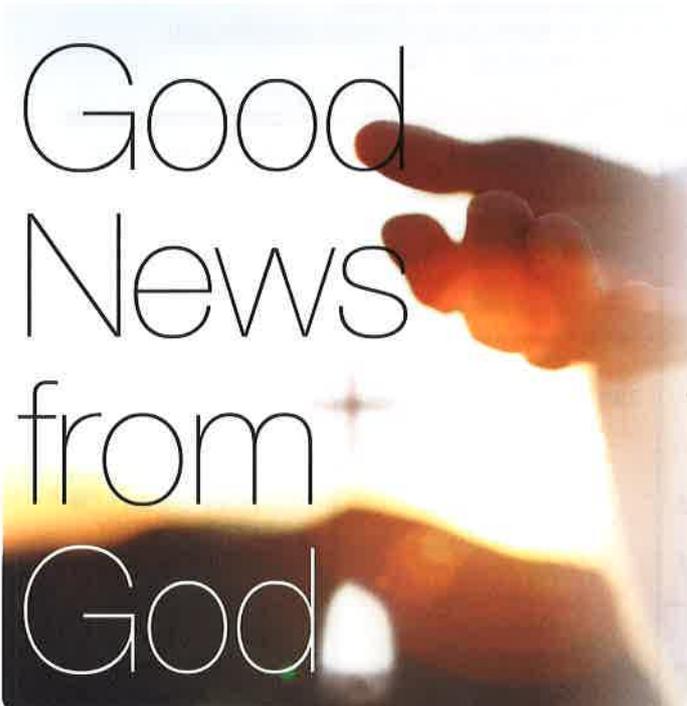


SUNDAY *Plus*

1st Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week I** Year A


Good
News
from
God

Jesus, we are told, came bringing “the Good News from God”. He had extraordinarily good news for the people of his hometown of Nazareth and for all the people of Israel. But right from the start of his preaching and teaching he encountered opposition. His fellow citizens in Nazareth were perplexed by the sudden and unexpected emergence in Jesus of a wisdom and a power they never suspected. They thought they knew him well. He was one of themselves and he grew up with them. When he began to teach them in their synagogue they were amazed at his message and at his skills in delivering it and the miracles that were happening at his word... And they would not accept him.

The scribes and Pharisees, the religious elite of Israel, were not

prepared to listen to him either because they knew that he had not attended a rabbinic school nor sat at the feet of a great teacher of the Law like Nicodemus or Gamaliel, and therefore he had nothing to teach them. It was their right to teach him and his duty to learn from them and obey them...

But Jesus makes it very clear that God’s ways are not our ways. God doesn’t see the world as we see it. God has an eye for the unique value of each individual, even the one whom the scribes and Pharisees may reject as a renegade sinner...

There is joy in heaven, Jesus assures us, when we acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness... God never humiliates us.

James McManus C.Ss.R., Embraced by Mercy

Speak to my heart, Lord. Let me hear your voice. Guide me on my path through life. Bring me closer to you.  Amen.

A moment of mindfulness

This spiritual exercise will deepen your awareness of being in the presence of the God of mercy and show you how God has embraced you with his love and mercy.

- Centre yourself; sitting upright; breathing rhythmically; clearing your mind of all pre-occupations.
- Bring yourself to bodily stillness.
- Now calmly acknowledge that you are the prodigal in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).
- Experience the Father rushing to embrace you and welcome you.
- Be still for some time in the presence of the God of mercy and compassion and receive his love.
- Now focus again on your breathing as you relax in God’s presence, and bring yourself gently back to the world.

James McManus C.Ss.R., Embraced by Mercy

Let us ask our heavenly Father to assist us in living in service to one another, each according to his or her state of life, shepherds after his own heart, capable of helping one another to walk in love and truth.

Pope Leo



Saints

St Jude: emotions in times of despair

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

St Jude is a symbol of hope: the patron saint of desperate causes. Hope is remembering what God has already done in history and has promised to do in the future. Desperate people need to experience the light of Christ; to be helped from despair into hope, which is the willingness to persevere when our faith is shaky or absent; an openness to new possibilities. Can we keep hope alive in today’s world where this capacity is challenged, by counteracting the belief that death or shattered dreams are the end? Christ’s story did not end on the cross. That was a new beginning, when God’s Spirit became more far-reaching. A terrible death began a new consciousness in humanity. Hope is the realisation that all of creation will be made new. We carry this hope to our broken world. May the power of Christ present in St Jude as he healed people and spread God’s love, also be in us as we go out and spread the Gospel of hope.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team



READINGS

Today:
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Monday:
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday:
Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday:
Esther 4:17m,
17o-17q, 17x-17z
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday:
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday:
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

Next Sunday:
Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



St Cecilia's Church

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Contact us Via St Cecilia's Parish Office: Tel: **020 8641 3141**

Email: northcheam@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk

Facebook: [SaintCecilia Ncheam](https://www.facebook.com/SaintCeciliaNcheam).

Parochial Administrator: Fr Benedict Fadoju

Confessions: 5:00pm – 6:00pm Saturdays or please contact Fr Benedict on request

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Philip Pak **Telephone: St Helier:** 0208 296 2917

Useful information can be found by visiting the Diocesan Website at www.rcsouthwark.co.uk and the Sutton Deanery Website at www.suttondeanery.weebly.com

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. 21st Feb. 06:30pm. Teresa McGowan (RIP)
Sun. 22nd Feb. 09:30am. Mary and David Hughes (RIP)
11:00am. Patricia Davey (RIP)

Mon. 23rd Feb. NO MASS
Tues. 24th Feb. 10:00am. Francis Lobo (RIP)
Wed. 25th Feb. 10:00am. The Holy Souls
Thur. 26th Feb. 10.00am. Fr Ben *In Thanksgiving & Blessings*
Michael & Marie O' Mahony (Special Intentions)
Fri. 27th Feb. 06:00pm. Adoration and Benediction
07:00pm. Luz Quitasol (Anniversary RIP)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. 28th Feb. 06:30pm. Katherine (Birthday Thanksgiving)
Pat-Joe Cullinane (First Anniversary RIP)
Sun. 1st Mar. 09:30am. Dorothy Upton (Recently Deceased RIP)
11:00am. Edward Mariampillai (RIP)

Mass Intentions are usually published in the newsletter and announced during the Mass. The endeavor is to accommodate intentions on the date requested, as far as possible. If a specific day is unavailable the intention will be included in the prayers for the week and the Mass arranged for the next available date. The stipend amount is up to you. As a guide, £10 is a recommended donation.

Mass Offertories based on the recent appeal by Fr Ben for Mass Offertories you can now also donate via the QR code. Thank you for your kind generosity which is very much appreciated in providing support to keep our parish running. Thank you for all that you give.



The Second Offertory next weekend is in support of CAFOD and overseas development.

PARISH LIFE

Parish Pastoral Council Officers are to undertake the Oath of Office 22nd February at the 11am Mass.

Stations of the Cross begins every Wednesday throughout Lent from 25th February at 7.30pm.

Lenten Bible Reflection Fridays during the Holy Hour.

The Thursday Club gathers in the parish room after the 10am Mass.

Knit & Natter follows on from the Thursday Club at 12.30pm

Little Church (Children's Liturgy) Sundays at 9.30am and 11am

Youth Group meets on Thursdays from 5pm to 6.30pm. Open to Y7 to Y11 for faith, food and fun.

Mothers Prayer Group come together on Saturday at 5.30pm in the Family Chapel.

IT Workshop if in need of tech support please contact Marie Toomey.

Thank you to everyone for your support for A Day with Mary.

We also pray for

Esthakky Janson RIP
Susan McHugh RIP
Dennis Cooke RIP
and the welfare of
Xavier Mendes

Prayers for the Sick & Housebound:

Please pray for the wellbeing of:
D.H.

Adelaide Cotter,
Paul Fairhall,
Amy Bradbury
(nee McKenzie),
Marie Goti
Michael Christou
John Rosenow
Mary Silva
Michael Hoskins

Please get in contact should anyone be in need of prayer or a home visit.

Repose of the Soul Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Quirke and pray for her loved ones left behind. Her Funeral Mass is on the 6th March at 10.30am

May she Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory. Amen.

Private Prayer Spend some quiet time with Jesus. The Church is open for private prayer every Monday from 10am and after Mass each day, until 7pm. Private prayer on Friday is from 10am until Benediction at 6pm.

Upcoming Mass Intentions in March

3rd John Shanahan
4th Paul Fairhall
5th Carmel Fitzgerald
6th Stephen Walsh
7th Anne & Francis Lobo

Saints of the Week

22nd **Chair of St Peter**
23rd **St Polycarp**
25th **St Ethelbert**
27th **St Gregory of Narek**
27th **St Ann Line Tyburn Martyres**
27th **Blessed Mark Barkworth**
27th **Blessed Roger Filcock**

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For Children with Incurable Diseases

Parish Surgery Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 5.30pm to visit with your priest.

Parish Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.30am to 5.30pm.

Parish Registration

If you worship at St Cecilia's Church please ensure you are registered with the parish and your information is up to date. Pick up a Form at the back of the church and return it at the Sacristy or pop it through the Presbytery letter box, next door.

Fr Ben will be away from parish to spend time with Jesus on Retreat.

Welcome Father Charles, thank you for being with us this week.

Have a blessed week everyone.