

# SUNDAY *Plus*

4th Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

## The light of faith

My human experience goes beyond merely the regularity of nature as seen in science. The Incarnation means that this creation has been sanctified by God's presence. Only such a faith can also explain the beauty I experience in understanding that regularity and the love I have for nature and its beauties and its laws.

And only the story of the fall and redemption can explain the loves and trials and shortcomings I experience in my human life, even when I am not busy doing the work of a scientist...

The fact that my personal experience of God, in worship and in prayer, is so identical to the experiences of religious people in so many different times and places and cultures, tells me that either there's an underlying truth we are all sharing... or else we are all hallucinating in exactly the same manner...

The fact is, I do personally experience God. I have, always, from earliest childhood...

The science fundamentalist believes, and the religious fundamentalist fears, that religion is a fairy tale suitable only for children, and that once you learn science it will leave no more room for religion. But that just doesn't happen.

Some people are tone-deaf. It's not their fault, and I don't criticise them for it. But I might get bent out of shape if a tone-deaf person insisted that my love of music was an hallucination, based on lies my parents taught me.

Or more absurdly, that my love of music would go away once I'd learned the physics of sound waves.

Guy Consolmagno SJ, *Brother Astronomer: adventures of a Vatican scientist*

Life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong.

Pope Leo XIV

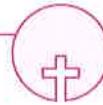
### To see as Jesus sees

Making the blind man see was a sign Jesus quoted to the friends of John the Baptist when they came asking to know who he was. For him, as for all of us, it is a symbol. We readily call people "blind" who shut their eyes to the truth. But which of us can dare claim that we "see the truth"? The truth is immensely vast and challenging. Would we

be eager to see our conduct to our family, our fulfilment of our responsibilities, our unselfishness, as God sees these things?

The blind beggar knew he was blind, he cried out however hopelessly in human terms, to be given sight. Jesus spoke sadly of those who have eyes yet do not see. This is us. He accepts this, he understands it, he feels compassion for it. But he cannot heal it unless we acknowledge it and ask for light.

Lord of light, my eyes are important but the eyes of my heart are even more valuable. Open the eyes of my heart to see you in everything I say, think and do. Let me see you in everybody I meet.  Amen.



Feast of the week  
Tuesday 17 March

### St Patrick (c. 385-461)

St Patrick was born in Britain – possibly in Wales – during the early fifth century and, at the age of sixteen, was taken prisoner by a band of Irish raiders who attacked his parents' farm. He seems to have been taken to Antrim or Mayo and put to work as a shepherd. Lonely and afraid, he rediscovered Christianity.

After six years Patrick escaped and returned to Britain. Soon afterwards he came to believe that God wanted him to go back to Ireland – but as a missionary, a venture which took fifteen years of study, preparation and ordination to the priesthood.

Knowing something of the Irish language and culture, Patrick incorporated Irish traditions into his teaching of Christianity. So for example he celebrated Easter with bonfires and superimposed the sun onto the cross, creating the Celtic cross. He also used the three-leaved shamrock to explain how the Trinity could be three Persons and yet one God.

### READINGS

**Today:**  
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**Monday:**  
Isaiah 65:17-21  
John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:**  
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12  
John 5:1-3, 5-16  
England & Scotland:  
St Patrick (Feast):  
1 Peter 4:7-11  
Luke 5:1-11  
Ireland: St Patrick  
(Solemnity):  
Jeremiah 1:4-9  
Acts 13:46-49  
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

**Wednesday:**  
Isaiah 49:8-15  
John 5:17-30

**Thursday:**  
2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16  
Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

**Friday:**  
Wisdom 2:1, 12-22  
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:**  
Jeremiah 11:18-20  
John 7:40-52

**Next Sunday:**  
Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Romans 8:8-11  
John 11:1-45



**St Cecilia's Church**

101 Stonecot Hill, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9HN

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

Email: [northcheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheam@rcaos.org.uk) Website: [www.stceciliarchurch.co.uk](http://www.stceciliarchurch.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](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) and the Sutton Deanery Website at [www.suttondeanery.weebly.com](http://www.suttondeanery.weebly.com)

*Open my eyes Lord....teach me to live with the fervor of someone whose love never grows cold.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Laetare Sunday**

Sat. 14th Mar. 06:30pm. Heather and Vivien Fonseca (RIP)  
Sun. 15th Mar. 09:30am. Gabriel Moroney (Birthday RIP)  
11:00am. Joaquina and Francis D'Silva (RIP)

Mon. 16th Mar. NO MASS  
*The church is open for private prayer*  
Tues. 17th Mar. 10:00am. Tommy and Mary Waters (RIP)  
**St Patrick's Day** Tom Thorne (RIP)  
Wed. 18th Mar. 10:00am. In Thanksgiving & for the Holy Souls  
07:30pm. **Stations of the Cross**  
Thur. 19th Mar. 10:00am. Michael O'Brien  
Fri. 20th Mar. 06:00pm. Adoration, Bible Reflection & Benediction  
07:00pm. Rochelle Bragança (RIP)

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Sat. 21st Mar. 06:30pm Anthony and Edward Lawrence (RIP)  
Susan McHugh (RIP)  
Sun. 22nd Mar. 09:30pm E.U. (Special Intentions)  
11.00am John Regida & Family (Special Intentions)

**LENTEN LIFE**

Mon. 23rd Mar. No Mass  
07:00pm **LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE**  
**and The Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Visiting priests will be available to administer Confession.

**HOLY WEEK**

Sun. 29th Mar. PALM SUNDAY. THE PASION OF OUR LORD  
9am Mass (\*\*Please note the change to the Mass time)  
11am Mass and Procession

Mon. 30th Mar. No Mass  
Tues 31st Mar. 11:00am Funeral Mass - John Lydon  
Wed. 1st Apr. No Mass  
All are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at 12:30pm at St George's Cathedral for the Blessing of the Oils.  
07:30pm Stations of the Cross

Thurs 2nd Apr. MAUNDY THURSDAY  
08:00pm Mass of the Last Supper  
Waiting with the Lord to midnight.

Fri 3rd Apr. GOOD FRIDAY  
10:00am Children's Stations of the Cross  
03:00pm The Passion of the Lord

Sat. 4th Apr. HOLY SATURDAY  
10:00am The Blessing of Baskets  
08.30pm EASTER VIGIL

Sun. 5th Apr. EASTER SUNDAY  
09:30am & 11:00am  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD LITTLE

\*Note: For safety LITTLE CHURCH will meet in the Church Hall at the far end of the rear car park for the 9.30am Mass sessions only from 22/03/26 onwards

**We also pray for**

John O'Brien (Wellbeing)  
Eileen Quirke (RIP)

**Prayers for the Sick & Housebound:**

Please pray for the wellbeing of:  
D.H.  
Adelaide Cotter,  
Paul Fairhall,  
Amy Bradbury  
Marie Goti  
Michael Christou  
John Rosenow  
Mary Silva  
Michael Hoskins  
Mary McFarlane  
Brian Newman

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

**Private Prayer** Spend some quiet time with Jesus. The Church is open for private prayer every day until 7pm. **Prayer Petitions** can be entered in the Parish Prayer Book on the small altar in the Narthex and will be include in at Mass on Fridays evenings.

**Repose of the Soul** Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of **John Lydon** whose Funeral Mass is 31st March at 11am.

**Eileen Quirke** Funeral Mass 17th April at 2:00pm  
*May they Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory. Amen.*

**Second Offeratory** next weekend is for the poor parishes of our diocese.

**For Mass Intentions** look for the green envelopes & hand them to Father or the parish office.

**Saints of the Week**

17th **St Patrick**  
18th **St Cyril of Jerusalem**  
19th **St Joseph**

**Upcoming Mass Intentions for the Month of March**

24th **John & Joan Gray**  
25th **John Whyte**  
26th **for JPB**  
27th **Holy Souls**  
28th **Helen Davy**  
29th **Deidre Egan**  
29th **Fernandez & Pinto Family**

**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.

\*\* **The Thursday Club** are looking for a mini bus driver, to drive a hire bus for five club outings a year. MIDAS license holder essential. Contact Mary Newman on 07587 146 441

For Mass Offerings via QR.



**First Holy Communion Children and Families** As ever, we have a delightful group of children making their First Holy Communion this year. They have been gathering for three weeks now in preparation to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, please keep them, their families and Catechists in your prayers as they continue to explore their love of faith in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

#### MASS OFFERINGS

*Mass Offerings 28th Feb./1st Mar.*

First Offering: £1,236.78;  
Second Offering - CAFOD: £1,265.69  
Candles: £96.75

*Mass Offerings 7th/8th Mar.*

First Offering: £1,196.06  
Candles: £111.20

**Gardening Club**—thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to come along and help with clearing the overgrowth and debris from around the parish grounds. Many hands made light work in preparing for new growth in the garden this coming Spring. *The Gardening Club* will be gathering again at 9am on the 18th April. If you are able to donate or help with planting, please leave your details with the parish office.



**St Cecilia's Big Lent Walk** Year 5 and Year 6 brought a ray of sunshine with them as they walked from our primary school to, in and around church in a relay on Thursday, taking part in the challenge to help fight global poverty, by raising awareness and funds to change the lives of others for good. As part of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk the children have started to record and reflect on what they have learnt in a display in the church, this will grow over time as they journey through Lent. Please do take a look.



**The Family Chapel** is a now bright and welcoming space for babies, very young children and their families. The new floor covering is more inviting and safer, allowing the little ones room to explore and move around, if they wish. Floor level comfy seating asked for by parents has been added, there is still more to do, the aim is to have the chapel completed by the end of the year.

For Parish Hall Hire contact  
[stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com](mailto:stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com)

**Evangelisation Expo** entitled *Radiate: an Evangelisation Expo* join on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at Amigo Hall, 11am:4:30pm. In this the year of St Francis of Assisi, we welcome Fr Casey Cole OFM as the keynote speaker and his Franciscan brothers Frs Tito Serrano OFM and Jason Damon OFM. The keynote talk will be on *God Evangelises Through Ordinary People – We Need to Go and Get Them*.

There is also a choice of two workshops: *Living a Faith That Attracts* and *From Friendship to Invitation*. There are is also Practical Parish Evangelisation ideas and an *In Conversation with the Friars* (your opportunity to ask questions about Evangelisation) as well as opportunities to meet new people, pray for Evangelisation and be inspired by the Lord. It will be a very special day. Details and Registration are available at - [Expo — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis](http://Expo—Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis) ([www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/expo](http://www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/expo))

**An Invitation** from Bishop Paul Hendrick to join him on this year's SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026. A great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. It a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> Complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**SVP and CAFOD Work Experience** The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21 – 26 June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. [Apply here](#). Applications close on the 6 April. Any queries, please contact [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**Divine Mercy Conference 2026, Dublin** The conference has been running for 35 years and is the biggest devotion to Divine Mercy in the world. Guest speakers included Fr Leon Pereira, English Chaplain, for Medugorje and the powerful healing testimony of Roisin Doherty. Exerts from the conference are available to view at <https://www.divinemercyconference.com/>

**The Good Counsel Network** A Prayer Vigil runs for 12 hours a day, 8am until 8pm, seven days a week until Palm Sunday 29th March. If you could spare an hour to come and pray, it would be a great help. The vigil takes place at the corner of Brixton Hill and Brixton Water Lane, London, SW2 5BJ. Please call Gabriella on 07745711064 or 02077231740.

**Protecting Life** The House of Lords is due to vote on Wednesday 18th March, on the Antoniazzi Clause introducing changes to the Crime and Policing Bill passed by MPs last June. If Peers vote for the clause it will sadly become law, allowing no legal protection for babies at any trimester. Twenty three Bishops from the Church of England currently sit in the House of Lords, known as the Lords Spirituals, they can make the essential difference between these extreme proposals being passed or being defeated. Please take 30 seconds to send an email to one of those Bishops asking them to turn up and vote against this dreadful Clause, their votes could make all the difference.

[https://righttolife.org.uk/bishops?utm\\_source=righttolife.org.uk&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=bishops&utm\\_content=share\\_whatsapp](https://righttolife.org.uk/bishops?utm_source=righttolife.org.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=bishops&utm_content=share_whatsapp)

MPs voted 379 votes to 137 for this extreme 'amendment' to the law. SPUC are also asking us to take action and lobby the House of Lords, go to <https://spuc.org.uk/> or pick up their leaflet from the Narthex.

#### Prayer to St Joseph

#### Feast Day 17th March

O St Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place you in my interests and desires. O St Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms, I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart, press Him in my name and kiss His forehead for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St Joseph Patron of departing souls pray for me. Amen.