

SUNDAY *Plus*

2nd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Transformed by God



Today, and every day, let us ask the Lord to open our hearts to his saving word and its power to transform and enrich our lives and the world in which we live.

Pope Leo XIV

In God's love

Today's Gospel passage tells us that Jesus did not face the knowledge of his forthcoming violent death alone. That lonely knowledge could paralyse anyone. The story of the transfiguration tells us that Jesus is enabled to make that journey to Jerusalem in the declared love of the Father. The direction which Jesus has to follow will cost him his life.

In our own journeys we can face difficult decisions more surely in the knowledge that we are loved and supported. When we hear our name called in love we can face our road to Jerusalem. The power of that love funds us to face the future, just as its absence makes the future a loveless landscape. It is that love that we celebrate; it helps us to travel hopefully; it enables us to keep on striving until we can rest at last in the love that knows our name best.

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R., *Praying the Rosary*

Jesus, Lord of my life, I can ask for nothing more than to see and believe that my life lies in you, in the kingdom of my Lord.  Amen.

Dan Schutte

I was surprised that I found myself beginning to pray daily. I could not get down on my knees, but I could pray while I was walking. If I got down on my knees, I thought, "Do I really believe? To whom am I praying?" A terrible doubt came over me, and a sense of shame, and I wondered if I was praying because I was lonely, because I was unhappy.

But when I walked to the village for the mail, I found myself praying again holding in my pocket the rosary that Mary Gordon gave me in New Orleans some years before. Maybe I did not say it correctly but I kept on saying it because it made me happy...

I reasoned with myself, "I am praying because I am happy, not because I

am unhappy. I did not turn to God in unhappiness, in grief, in despair – to get consolation, to get something from him."

And encouraged that I was praying because I wanted to thank him, I went on praying. No matter how dull the day, how long the walk seemed, if I felt sluggish at the beginning of the walk, the words I had been saying insinuated themselves into my heart before I had finished, so that on the trip back I neither prayed nor thought but was filled with exultation...

It is so hard to say how this delight in prayer grew on me... I began to go to Mass regularly on Sunday mornings.

Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*



Feast of the week
Sunday 1 March

St David of Wales (500-589)

The birth of St David's is the stuff of legends! To summarise: it was apparently foretold to St Patrick (born nearby) a century before David was born on a Pembrokeshire cliff, during a storm, to a mother (Non) who later became a nun and eventually canonised herself. Both David's parents were descended from Welsh royalty and some of his supporters also claim that he was King Arthur's nephew.

What is certain is that, as an adult, David became a monk and eventually Archbishop of Wales, founding twelve monasteries, including Menevia (St David's) and Glastonbury. The communities led prayerful, hospitable, very austere lives, for instance pulling the plough themselves rather than using animals.

David's last words were: "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."

In 1120, Pope Callistus II canonised David who, shortly afterwards, was declared the patron saint of Wales.

READINGS

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

Monday:
Daniel 9:4-10
Luke 6:36-38
E&W: St David
(Solemnity in Wales;
Feast in England):
Philippians 3:8-14
Matthew 5:13-16

Tuesday:
Isaiah 1:10. 16-20
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 18:18-20
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday:
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 16:19-31

Friday:
Genesis 37:3-4.
12-13. 17-28
Matthew 21:33-43.
45-46

Saturday:
Micah 7:14-15. 18-20
Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Next Sunday:
Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2. 5-8
John 4:5-42



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 Website: www.stceciiliarchurch.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 the goal of human history ... the centre of the human race, the joy of every heart
and the answer to all its yearnings' (Gaudium et Spes, 45)*

<p style="text-align: center;">SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Sat. 28th Feb. 06:30pm. Katherine (Birthday Thanksgiving) <i>Fr Ben's Mum</i> Pat-Joe Cullinane (First Anniversary RIP)</p> <p>Sun. 1st Mar. 09:30am. Dorothy Upton (Recently Deceased RIP) 11:00am. Edward Mariampillai (RIP)</p> <hr/> <p>Mon. 2nd Mar. NO MASS <i>The church is open for private prayer</i></p> <p>Tues. 3rd Mar. 10:00am. John Shanahan (RIP)</p> <p>Wed. 4th Mar. 10:00am. Paul Fairhall (Well being & Good Health) 07:30pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Thur. 5th Mar. 10:00am. Carmel Fitzgerald</p> <p>Fri. 6th Mar. 06:00pm. Adoration, Bible Reflection & Benediction 07:00pm. Stephen Walsh (Speedy Recovery)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Sat. 7th Mar. 06:30pm. Ann and Francis Lobo (RIP)</p> <p>Sun. 8th Mar. 09:30am. Pam and Mick Wessier (RIP) 11:00am. Alf and Marie Oliva (RIP)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mass Offertories can also be made via the QR code. The QR code takes you to the parish DONA page. Don't forget to gift aid your offering, if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for all that you give.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>The Second Offertory this weekend is in support of CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day and overseas development.</p> </div> <div style="flex: 0.5; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <hr/> <p>PARISH LIFE</p> <p>The Thursday Club gathers in the parish room after the 10am Mass.</p> <p>Knit & Natter follows on from the Thursday Club at 12.30pm</p> <p>Little Church (Children's Liturgy) Sundays at 9.30am and 11am</p> <p>Youth Group meets on Thursdays from 5pm to 6.30pm. Open to Y7 to Y11 for faith, food and fun.</p> <p>Mothers Prayer Group come together on Saturday at 5.30pm in the Family Chapel.</p> <p>IT Workshop if in need of tech support please contact Marie Toomey.</p> <p>Devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary: if you would like the statue of Our Lady to visit your home add your name to the list at the back of the church.</p> <p><i>More information is available on the parish website.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We also pray for</p> <p>The Angela, Edward & Lorna Lobo (RIP) Carmel Fitzgerald (RIP) Horace Delpratt (RIP) Archbishop Peter Smith (RIP)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayers for the Sick & Housebound:</p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Please get in contact should anyone be in need of prayers or a home visit.</i></p> <hr/> <p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>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 here, on the 13th March at 10.30am & at NE Surrey Crematorium at 12 noon. <i>May she Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory. Amen.</i></p> <hr/> <p>A Summary of the latest Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is available on the parish website and on the noticeboard in the narthex.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 6th March is Women's World Day of Prayer This year the prayers are provided by the women of Nigeria. See the posters.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Saints of the Week 1st St David 3rd St Katherine Drexel 4th St Casimir of Poland 7th Saints Perpetua and Felicity</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Mass Intentions</p> <p>10th Donald, Saisi, Vladimir & Charles 11th Sheila Davis 12th John & James Coughlan 13th Rainha Coutinho</p> <hr/> <p>Parish Surgery Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 5.30pm to visit with your priest.</p> <p>Parish Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.30am to 5.30pm.</p> <hr/> <p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>** 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 07766 392006</p>
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CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY

CAFOD is the official international development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Established almost 65 years ago, it works to address the root causes of poverty, climate change, global debt and unfair food systems by providing long term development programmes in over 40 countries across the continents of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, working with not only Catholics but people of all faiths, and none.

CAFOD, a not for profit agency, works in partnerships already established, to ensure aid is led by trusted expertise with knowledge and understanding of local communities. Together they collaborate to influence government policy to end poverty and promote justice for the common good.

Across our world, many families are living through floods and droughts that make it harder to grow food. This year CAFOD is focusing on helping people are find new ways to feed their families. Your support is helping them to construct floating gardens, use solar powered pumps to draw water and plant eco gardens.

This week a group of generous CAFOD supporters have committed to match your gift, so for a limited time, the money raised will be doubled. *Thank you for your generosity.*

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. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

Westminster Cathedral Choristers Every September, up to six choristers join Westminster Cathedral Choir School in Years 4 or 5 (ages 8 or 9). Formal musical experience is not essential. What matters most is potential: bright, curious boys who bring enthusiasm, imagination, a sense of fun, and a love of singing. For the right boy, choristership is truly life-changing. It nurtures teamwork, confidence, discipline, faith, and a lifelong passion for music and learning. All choristers receive generous scholarships, with additional means-tested bursaries available covering up to 100% of fees. If parents would like to find out more about chorister life, please join our next online information session on **Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 6:30pm. Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/2zsf92j8>** Alternatively, contact Rachel Bonnet at **020 7798 908**, or RBonnet@choirschool.com

Lenten Talks, Wimbledon Tuesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th March, in the Sacred Heart Lower Hall, Edge Hill, Wimbledon SW19 4LU, three talks by Canon David Gibbons, Parish Priest. Refreshments from 7:00pm, talk at 7:30pm, finishing at 8:30pm.

Tuesday 3 rd March	St Bede the Venerable
Tuesday 10 th March	St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury
Tuesday 17 th March	St John Henry Newman

Introduction to Catholic Bioethics: Is a group for Catholic university students in healthcare and biosciences. February to April 2026. A range of guest speakers will deliver 6 lectures on Catholic Bioethics. The group meets every Wednesday at 6pm in the Chaplaincy room of King's College London: Guy's campus. For details & sign-up, email Laurence Jasper, Catholic Lay Chaplain (laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk) use your university email. Website: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/christus-medicus-group-at-guys>

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Friday 6 and Friday 27 March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next retreat are 27th Feb-1st Mar 2026 in Swindon and 15th-17th May 2026 in Maidstone, why not find out more at wwme.org.uk

Vacancy The Archdiocese of Southwark is hiring a Videographer & Social Media Officer. If you feel called to proclaim Jesus Christ and help others encounter his love, please visit rcaos.org.uk/vacancies to apply. Application deadline: 12 March 2026.

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

For the Bereaved *For Grief In Loss: Hope In Christ* is a weekend for those who have been bereaved. This weekend, from March 20-22, will take place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer and guidance. Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory in Kent, places are limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you -- 01622 717 272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

The Big Plastic Count Sign up to help reduce the use of plastic. For one week from the 9th to the 15th March thousands will count our plastic waste to reveal the true scale of the UK's plastic problem. Campaigners are looking at ways of reducing it's production and are asking us to help gather evidence from our homes, schools and communities, in an effort to influence corporations to find alternative packaging that is sustainable. We are all aware of the long lasting environmental damage plastic causes to oceans, soil and wildlife. Register as an individual, your household, get your class or school involved. <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

The Leadbeater Assisted Suicide Bill has not gone away, yet! The Government has confirmed it will not give the Bill an extension of time, beyond the dates already set. For the Leadbeater Assisted Suicide Bill to become Law, it will have to pass all stages in the House of Lords by the May deadline. With only 5 remaining sittings allocated to the Bill, media are reporting it is almost certainly expected to fail. However there now follows the biggest battle on life issues in UK history, the prevention of the Leadbeater Bill, the Scottish McArthur Bill and the Antoniazzi Clause to the Crime and Policing Bill. <https://righttolife.org.uk/>

**SUMMARY OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026 at 7.45pm
IN THE CANON BEAUSANG PARISH ROOM**

The Purpose of the Meeting: To create the Terms of Reference in establishing the new parish council, creating a Parish Family Tree, and forming a calendar of events for the coming year.

Terms of Reference

The components needed for the Terms of Reference were agreed including the number of members required to sit on the Parish Pastoral Council. The key roles being the Parish Priest as President, the Chairperson and Secretary. The Chairperson will be responsible for conducting meetings, setting the agenda and keeping order. The Secretary is to take and maintain the Minutes of the Meetings.

Parish Council Officers: in addition to the 3 key roles, five new members have been invited to join, overseeing six essential areas in parish ministry, vital for everyday parish life.

Terms of Office

The previous Parish Council automatically dissolved in the change over of the parish priest. Each new appointed Parish Council Representative is to undertake an oath of office and attend an inauguration to mark the start of the new term of office from the end of the month.

The Inauguration and Blessing of Parish Pastoral Officers will take place during the Mass on the 22nd February at the 11am.

Safeguarding Officers: The names of the Parish Safeguarding Officers can be found on the noticeboards in the church porch, the narthex and on the internal church noticeboards.

Meetings

Members of the Council are committed to meet a least once every quarter, with additional meetings held, as deemed necessary.

A written summary of meetings will be conveyed to parishioners via the parish newsletter.

The Appointment Process

The Chairperson and Secretary roles are to remain as fixed term tenancies. For all other representatives the length of office will be three years. At the end of the fixed term the needs of the Council will be reassessed. A review of officers and tenancy terms apply from January 2029.

Communications

The Parish Annual Report will be published in February each year.

The Annual Re-dedication and Blessing of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in February each year.

Liaison

The Parish is to be represented at the Sutton Deanery Pastoral Council (SDPC) which meet four times a year. The Parish Deanery Representative then reports back on SDPC Meetings to the Chairperson.

What is our Mission and Vision?

We are all asked to think about the question 'What does Mission look like for our parish?' Using the theme of 'harmony' which also holds musical connotations to our patron saint, how do we answer this question?

Please put any suggestion you may have in the Suggestion Box on the wall in the Narthex at the back of the church.

A formal parish document will be issued in due course.