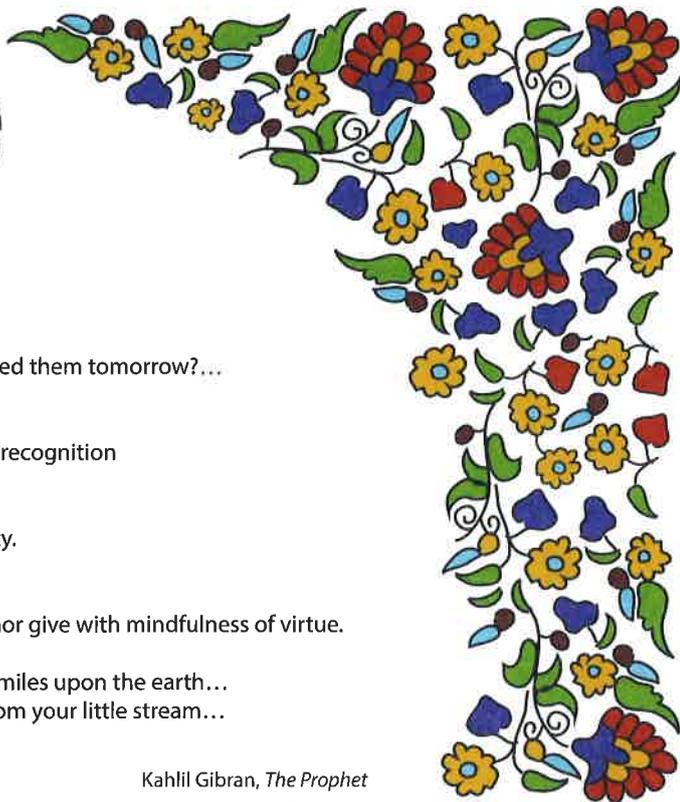


# SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week III Year A**

**England & Wales: Bible Sunday**

## Believe in life



Then said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?...

And what is fear of need but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition

and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue.

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes. He smiles upon the earth...

And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream...

See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Dearest Jesus, living water, refresh my soul  
and fill me with new life and love.  Amen.

### Don't give up

I cannot pretend to understand God, but this is what I see: people who have moved from seeming success to seeming success seldom understand success at all, except a very limited version of their own. People who fail to do it right, by even their own definition of right, are those who often break through to enlightenment and compassion... It is God's greatest surprise and God's constant disguise, but you

only know it to be true by going through it and coming out the other side yourself. You cannot know it by just going to church, reading scriptures or listening to someone else talk about it, even if you agree with them... The surrender of faith does not happen in one moment but is an extended journey, a trust walk, a gradual letting go, unlearning and handing over. No-one does it on the first or even second try.

Richard Rohr OFM,  
*Breathing Under Water*

Our prayer embraces all those peoples suffering because of war. Let us implore courage and perseverance for those engaged in dialogue and in the sincere search for peace.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week  
Thursday 12 March

### Blessed Rutilio Grande García SJ (1928-1977)

The Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, might not have become a martyr for social justice and a saint had it not been for the influence and assassination of his close friend Fr Rutilio Grande García SJ. Rutilio Grande's death transformed Romero from a quiet, bookish, predictable archbishop into someone who was also a voice for the voiceless, impoverished, oppressed people of El Salvador.

Grande worked for social transformation through the creation of Basic Christian Communities, which led people to come together to share and live the Gospel – but in criticising the unjust political system, he made enemies of the authorities.

A death squad ambushed Grande's vehicle. He was shot twelve times. An elderly man who tried to shield the priest was also killed, as was a sixteen-year-old boy.

At the funeral, Romero declared, "The true reason for [Grande's] death was his prophetic and pastoral efforts to raise the consciousness of the people throughout his parish."

### READINGS

**Today:**  
Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42

**Monday:**  
2 Kings 5:1-15  
Luke 4:24-30

**Tuesday:**  
Daniel 3:25, 34-43  
Matthew 18:21-35  
Scotland: St John Ogilvie (Feast):  
Isaiah 50:5-9  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
John 12:24-26

**Wednesday:**  
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9  
Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday:**  
Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Luke 11:14-23

**Friday:**  
Hosea 14:2-10  
Mark 12:28-34  
Scotland: St John Ogilvie (Feast):  
Isaiah 50:5-9; 2  
Corinthians 1:3-7  
John 12:24-26

**Saturday:**  
Hosea 5:15 – 6:6  
Luke 18:9-14

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



**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.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk](http://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](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) and the Sutton Deanery Website at [www.suttondeanery.weebly.com](http://www.suttondeanery.weebly.com)

**'Ours is the Lord who wishes to shower us with His love, to fill us with the 'living waters' of the 'Spirit and truth' and to tell us everything. This is the God in whom we believe: this is the Lord we serve.'**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Sat. 7th Mar. 06:30pm. Ann and Francis Lobo (RIP)  
Sun. 8th Mar. 09:30am. Pam and Mick Wessier (RIP)  
11:00am. Alf and Marie Oliva (RIP)

Mon. 9th Mar. **NO MASS**  
*The church is open for private prayer*  
Tues. 10th Mar. 10:00am. Donald, Susi, Vladimir, Charles  
For Healing and Special Intentions  
Wed. 11th Mar. 10:00am. Sheila Davis (Special Intentions)  
07:30pm. **Stations of the Cross**  
Thur. 12th Mar. 10:00am. John and James Coughlan (RIP)  
Fri. 13th Mar. 06:00pm. Adoration, Bible Reflection & Benediction  
07:00pm. Rainha Coutinho  
*(In Thanksgiving for all Blessings)*

**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)

**Mass Intentions** Anyone may make a request for a Mass Intention. Look for the green envelopes in the church and return them to Father or the Parish Office. Please be aware a Funeral Mass would take precedence. A stipend amount, in support of clergy, is at your discretion. As a guide, £10 is a recommended offering.

**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.



**PARISH LIFE**

**Lenten Penitential Service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation** in preparation for Easter is on Monday 23rd March at 7pm. We will have visiting priests also available to help administer Confession.

**Prayer Petitions** There is now a Parish Prayer Book on the small altar at the entrance to the Narthex, for parishioners and visitors to enter prayers, and will be included at Mass on a Fridays.

**Gardening Club—Saturday 14th March at 9am.** Our Garden Club is made up of wonderful volunteers, who request your help to clear the garden waste at the edge of the parish car park. If you have time to share please come along. Bring your garden shears, secateurs and gardening gloves. Meeting at 9am in Canon Beausang parish room.

**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

*More information is available on the parish website.*

**We also pray for**

**John Lydon (RIP)**  
**Recently deceased**  
**Mary McFarlane**  
**(Wellbeing)**  
**Brian Newman**  
**(Speedy Recovery & Wellbeing)**

**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

**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 Monday from 10am and after Mass each day, until 7pm. Private prayer on Friday is from 10am until Benediction at 6pm.

**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.

Please also pray for John Lydon who left this world on Saturday 28th February. John was 86 and a long standing member of our parish.

**May they Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory. Amen.**

**Saints of the Week**

8th **St John of God**  
9th **St Francis of Rome**  
10th **St John Ogilvie**  
11th **St Constantine**  
12th **St Maximilian of Tebessa**  
13th **St Leander of Seville**  
14th **St Matilda**

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

17<sup>th</sup> Tommy & Mary Waters  
17<sup>th</sup> Tom Thorne  
18<sup>th</sup> In Thanksgiving & for the Holy Souls  
19<sup>th</sup> Michael O'Brien  
20<sup>th</sup> Rochelle Bregança  
21<sup>st</sup> Anthony & Lawrence Edwards  
21<sup>st</sup> Susan McHugh

**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

*Details of Mass Offerings to follow next week.*

**Rite of Election** Two weeks ago, a group from St Cecilia's attended the Rite of Election at St George's Cathedral with the Archbishop. This year 600 candidates in our diocese are seeking reception into the Catholic Church. More than half of them are under the age of 35, many journeying in faith with the additional help of Catholic media, in search of the truth and Christ in community. Likewise, Cardinal Richard Moth, received 800 candidates preparing for full communion with the Church at Westminster Cathedral. Across the country the number of conversions are rising, following the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary, to Our Lady of Walsingham in 2020.

**An invitation** from Bishop Paul Hendrick 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)

**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](mailto:RBonnet@choirschool.com)

**A Day with Mary** 9.45am – 5.00pm Saturday 14 March at Westminster Cathedral will host a day of instruction, devotion, and intercession to Mary including Mass, sermons, and Adoration. Please bring a packed lunch. For the programme and other 'A Day with Mary' dates and venues, please visit [adaywithmary.org](http://adaywithmary.org).

**Divine Mercy Conference 2026** took place last weekend in Dublin to a huge crowd. 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 Cross was a pulpit, in which Christ preached His love to the world."*

*St Augustine of Hippo*

**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.

**For the Bereaved** *For Grief In Loss: Hope In Christ* is a weekend for those who have been bereaved. The weekend, from March 20-22, takes place away from the pressures of daily life and can help 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](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

**Vacancy** The Archdiocese of Southwark is hiring a Videographer & Social Media Officer. Visit [rcaos.org.uk/vacancies](http://rcaos.org.uk/vacancies) to apply. Application deadline: 12 March 2026.

**Vacancy:** St John Fisher, Merton seek a Parish Secretary for 20 hours per week. Experience in Microsoft Office, book-keeping, and administration is essential, along with excellent communication and organisational skills. If you are interested, please email your CV and a covering letter to [merton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:merton@rcaos.org.uk) by Saturday 14 March.

**Vacancy** Richard Challoner seek a IT Technician to join their IT Support Team looking after classroom tech plus staff and student technology needs/ For more information visit <https://www.richardchalloner.com/our-school/news/vacancy-it-technician> Closing date 20th March 2026

#### **Bible Trivia Isaiah 40**

When God made Eve what did He take out of Adam?  
His rib.

What is the only bone in the body that can regrow?  
Your rib.

How many ribs do you have? 24

What organ do your ribs surround?  
Your heart.

How many elders sit around the throne of God? 24

Who should be sitting upon the throne of your heart? God

What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on?

A donkey.

What sign did God put on a donkey's back to remind everyone of this?

A cross.

What animal are Christians often described as?  
Sheep.

What animal is satan often described as?

A serpent.

What animal's blood is an anti-venom to the other animals?

A lamb.

In Psalm 22:6 what animal does David compare himself to? A crimson worm.

What is the significance?

The crimson worm climbs up a tree to lays its egg, dies and then on the third day it turns white.

In Isaiah 40, Isaiah writes that those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings like eagles.

What do eagles do when a storm comes?

Eagles can sense a storm coming from very far away, they use the wind of the storm to glide above the storm keeping their eyes on the sun the entire time.

Who is our Son, our Light? Jesus.

Who should we keep our eyes fixed on? Jesus.

*Have a blessed week everyone!*