

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Collect: O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading: **1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**
David is anointed king of Israel.

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD
C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

Responsorial Psalm: **Ps 23(22):1-6. R1**
The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth-ing I shall want.



Second reading: **Ephesians 5:8-14**
'Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD
C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation: (ALL STAND) **John 8:12**
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Gospel:

'He went and washed and received his sight.'

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

R/ THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD
C/ PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST



CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF HAL Camden Town

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15th March 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

Sunday Mass Times:

6pm (Saturday Vigil), 10am
(Family) & 12 Noon (Solemn)
5pm (Portuguese)
Other Mass Times:
Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays:
12 Noon
Wednesdays & Thursdays: 9:30am
Holy Days of Obligation:
As announced



Confession Times:

Fridays 12.35-1pm, Saturdays
11-11.30am & 5.15-5.45pm or by
appointment.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Fridays: 12:30pm-1pm,
Saturdays: 5.15-5.45pm

Parish Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays &
Fridays: 10am-2pm
Wednesdays: Closed

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Christ always leads us into fuller light.

In today's Gospel, sight comes slowly. The man born blind is healed in a moment, but it takes much longer for him to understand who Jesus really is. Little by little, his eyes are opened — not just to the world around him, but to the Lord standing before him. That is often how grace works in our lives too. We do not see everything at once. We grow into faith, into truth, and sometimes even into forgiveness. The danger is not that we are only partly blind; the danger is that we stop there. Christ is always leading us into a fuller light. If we stay open, keep praying, and keep listening, he can open our eyes in ways we never expected. **The question for each of us is this: where in my life am I still resisting the light that Christ wants to give?**

Father Mark

On this Laetare Sunday we also celebrate Mothering Sunday. Father Mark wishes all mothers and grandmothers a very happy and blessed day. We pray for those mothers no longer with us that they may rest in peace. Amen.

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE TO THE PARISH (SUNDAY COLLECTION ETC):



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK, HOUSEBOUND, THOSE WHO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT HOME:

Mike Power, Father Anthony, Margaret Quinn, Michael O'Brien, Christine Smith, Rachel Cottrell, Alice O'Neill, Jilly Taylor, Marie Cawdery, Pauline Guthrie, Maureen Lyden, Richard Ainsworth, Francesco Sesia, Joe Owen, Doreen O'Callaghan, Wesley Gilead, Henrik Sperlich, Allan & Lynne Mackintosh, Ray Norris, Morag & Raj Puri, Stephen de Winter, George Spencer, Ann Olive, Fr. Colin McLean.

HAL LAMPS: CARWOOD FAMILY & DUFFY FAMILY

RECENTLY DEPARTED: We pray for all those who have died recently:

DEAD ANNIVERSARIES: We pray for all those who died around this time:

LITURGICAL CALENDAR & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

RP	Sunday	15 th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Vigil	5:15pm 6:00 pm 10:00 am 12 Noon	Evening Prayer of the Church Judith Lomax (RIP) Danny Posner (RIP) Pierre Kirk (RIP)
P	Monday	16 th March	Lent Feria		12 Noon	Michael O'Hara (RIP)
W	Tuesday	17 th March	Saint Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland			No Mass
P	Wednesday	18 th March	Lent Feria		9:30 am	Mary Ramoutar (RIP)
W	Thursday	19 th March	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary		9:30 am	Jenny & Family (INT)
P	Friday Abstinence	20 th March	Lent Feria		12 Noon	David Martin (RIP)
P	Saturday	21 st March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Vigil	6:00 pm	People of the Parish



NEWS AND VIEWS

Readers for Holy Week

If you will be here for Holy Week, please indicate when you are available to read for the liturgies during Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday) on the notice board in the sacristy.

New Organ

We are pleased to announce that we now have a new organ, up and running, situated in the gallery, thanks to a generous benefactor. The organ now needs to be 'balanced' by placing speakers at the front of the church. If anyone would like to donate to the cost of the new speakers, please see Fr Mark or Carl Williams.

Retiring Collection for Easter Flowers and Music

There will be a retiring collection this Sunday 15th March and next Sunday 22nd March towards our Easter Flowers and music. Please give generously, if you are able, either in cash or on the card machine under 'Easter Flowers & Music'

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

On Saturday evenings, Sung Evening Prayer is celebrated at 5:15pm before Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join us.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross replace Adoration on Fridays after the 12 Noon Mass and also take place on Fridays at 6pm until the end of Lent.

Mothering Sunday and Laetare Sunday

Mothering Sunday coincides with Laetare Sunday, also called Mid-Lent Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, a day of respite from fasting halfway through the penitential season of Lent. Its association with mothering originates in the texts read during the Mass in the Middle Ages, appearing in the lectionary in sources as old as the lectionary used in the 8th century. These include several references to mothers and metaphors for mothers. The introit for the day used imagery of the New Jerusalem: Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be ye glad for her, all ye that delight in her: exult and sing for joy with her, all ye that in sadness mourn for her; that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations. *Psalm:* I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord. (Laetare Hierusalem). Commentators of the period associate this with the personification of the Church as the Bride of Christ or with the Virgin Mary.

New Way to Donate to the Parish.

Many of us no longer carry cash making it tricky to donate to the Sunday collection and other collections for the Mission of our church. For your convenience, you can set up regular offerings and donations by scanning the QR Code on the front of this newsletter. Shortly, this QR Code will be displayed on church notice boards etc to make giving easier. We thank you for your generosity.

Altar Servers:

Our annual rehearsal for Holy Week liturgies will take place between 6pm-8pm on Tuesday 31st March. Please collect your individual letters of invitation from the Sacristy.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2026

First Holy Communion 2026: The next class will be on Saturday 21st March at 11am in the hall.

Confirmation 2026: The next class will take place on Tuesday 17th March at 6pm in the hall.

RCIA Course: Now up and running. Thursdays at 6pm—19th March & 26th March. Important dates for your diary which you will need to attend in addition to Sunday Mass and on other Holy days: Holy Week: Palm Sunday, 29th March. Maundy Thursday, 2nd April evening Mass at 8pm. Good Friday liturgy of the Passion, 3rd April at 3pm. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, 4th April at 8.30pm.

TEA & COFFEE

Parishioners and visitors are all welcome to join us in the Van Pelt Hall after 10am Sunday Mass.

COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY (THANK YOU!)

Friday Collection: £47.17 Envelopes: £376.50 Loose: £323.93 Total: 747.60
Donation by Dona Card Machine on Sunday: £175.00 and £519 per week by standing order.