



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

20TH FEBRUARY 2022

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Herrero
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Daniel writes:

Some time ago, I received a WhatsApp with a short clip. For once it was not rude, or a joke nor was it someone doing something silly. It was from a news channel in the USA reporting on the opening of a new convent. The reporter spoke with one of the sisters and asked: "what would you say to someone who does not believe in God?" The young sister responded: "I would say that if you don't believe in someone greater than yourself, you will never do anything greater than yourself". A similar answer, but with different words, Paul gives to the Christian community of Corinth in the second reading this Sunday.

In the Greek world of the first and second century, a religious-philosophical movement known as Gnosticism originated. To put it simply, people were seeking to attain a higher status of living and to liberate themselves from the burden of the material and imperfect world by acquiring knowledge ('Gnosis' in Greek) or wisdom ('Sofia' in Greek).

Apparently, some Christians in Corinth had understood that the knowledge of the Gospel would give them that much desired higher status. To the point that they considered themselves to be already "Spiritual". As a result, they believed that the actions they performed with their bodies did not count, which became their excuse to give themselves to all sorts of immoral acts.

Paul's attempts to fight this misunderstanding can be found all through the letter. In chapter 1, for example, he speaks at length of the "wisdom of the world" opposed to the "wisdom of God". And in chapter 3 Paul points out to them how far they are from being truly "spiritual": "*But I, brethren, could not address you as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh*"

And that is the real problem, they were seeking to become "spiritual" but in the process they had become "fleshly", imitating all the wrongdoings of the world. They were lustful, jealous, ambitious for worldly things, they formed groups and discriminated against the poor, they scandalized the weak, they did not love their enemies...

So, Paul had to remind them that the Gospel is not just knowledge, it is a person: Jesus Christ. And he, and only he, could give them the new life that deep down they wanted. But a new life that manifests itself, not in disordered acts, but in supernatural acts. A new life that raises the natural order to the spiritual and supernatural: "*But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual.*"

That is a lengthy way to explain the second reading this Sunday, when the American nun had, in fact, put it so much better and simpler: "If you don't believe in someone greater than yourself, you will never do anything greater than yourself".

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 19/2 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Ramón Canela Pascual Mary & Eileen Maloney	ANN INT
Sun 20/2 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	7 TH SUNDAY IN OT Gunnersbury	Josephine Arch People of the Parish David Withers Daniel O'Brien Laura Williams Valentina Orechovskaya	ANN INT RD 1 st ANN RIP RD
Mon 21/2 10.00am	Feria	Melissa Hughes	RD
Tue 22/2 10.00am	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	Maureen Kehoe	1 st ANN
Wed 23/2 10.00am 6.00pm	St. Polycarp Comboni Convent	Elizabeth Farelly Sr. Giovanna Galviati	INT RIP
Thur 24/2 10.00am	Feira	Mary Murnane	RIP
Fri 25/2 10.00am 6.00pm	Feria PIME Convent	Susan & Peter Simons & Family Sr. Maria Alotsia Cerlini	INT RIP
Sat 26/2 10.00am 11-11.45am 12.30pm 5-5.45pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Feria Grove Park	Mary & John Healy Confession Baptism Confession Donal & Eileen McSweeney Saada Geryes Sfeir	INT ANN RIP

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthly, Mary Garrett, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Trish Williams, Hugh Caldin, Elizabeth Fagundez, Alex Tuffy, Isabelle Ranle, Eileen McGuinness, Albie Korinek, Greta Gribben and all those suffering.

For those recently deceased: Aishling Murphy, Josephine Mortlock, Rita Gregory, Elena Harvey. Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Ramón Canela Pascual, Josephine Arch, Daniel O'Brien, Maureen Kehoe, Donal & Eileen McSweeney, Denis O'Donoghue, Elizabeth Draper. Rest in Peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.141:

1st Reading: **1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**

Psalm: **102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 15: 45-49**

Gospel: **Luke 6: 27-38**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.144:

1st Reading: **Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7**

Psalm: **91: 2-3, 13-16**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

Gospel: **Luke 6:39-45**

COVID SAFETY IN CHURCH:

- FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED, not legally required.
- HAND SANITIZER / HAND-WASHING
- GET BOOSTERED / VACCINATED
- LATERAL FLOW TEST BEFORE MASS is recommended
- ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID/FLU, please stay home!

COMBONI SISTERS 150th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION – 2022 is the Sisters' sesquicentenary being founded in Verona in 1872 for mission in Africa. **There are a very small number of available places on the Sisters' pilgrimage to Comboni sites around Verona (24th – 28th May 2022) to which parishioners were invited last weekend. Please contact the Sisters for details if you are interested: 020 8994 1220; or <http://www.combonisc.co.uk/>** Various other celebratory events are planned for London and Chiswick including a Mass and Reception on a Thames cruiser emulating the journey of the first Sisters accompanied by the then Fr Daniel Comboni up the River Nile to the interior of Africa. A 150th Birthday Fund will also be established so that over the year contributions can be made to assist the Sisters in their overseas missionary projects.

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via the Zoom, Mondays at 7.30pm. Next meeting takes place on 21st Feb. Contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

THE MEN'S GROUP - Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th Feb, 8.15 for 8.30pm in the St Edward's Room. We will follow on our Synodal Pathway conversation with a presentation on "*Divine Renovation - from a Maintenance to a Missional Parish*", followed by drinks at The Lamb. Men of all ages are very welcome. Email Stephen Donnelly at donnelysm@hotmail.com for details. We are affiliated to <https://catholicman.uk/>

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May at 3.00pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the Parish Office giving the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – The new Offertory Envelopes will be available to collect from the Parish Office (weekdays 9.00am to 4.00pm) week commencing 14th March to those parishioners who have signed up for them. Those envelopes that haven't been collected will be posted out w/c 28th March. Gift Aiding your Offertory and other donations to our parish using numbered envelopes or a Standing Order, is a very practical way of increasing the value of your offering by 25 pence for every pound you give at no extra cost to you! Providing you are a UK Taxpayer, you can join the scheme by signing a Gift Aid Declaration which can be obtained from the Parish Office or contact the office by email: chiswick@rcdow.org.uk We would also ask those parishioners who have already signed up to inform the office:

About any changes (ie your name and address; please remember you cannot use your family member's envelope) so we can update our records before we start to distribute new envelopes.

If you are not a UK taxpayer any more or pay insufficient tax to cover any refund that the parish claims on your donations.

Thank you for your continued generosity during these difficult times: in 2021 the parish received **£29,275 in Gift Aid payments from HM Treasury thanks to your being in this scheme!**

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS) BOOKLETS/LEAFLETS – There is a NEW and FRESH selection on a rack at the back of the church. Prices are marked on each booklet/leaflet. Please put the money for these purchases in the brown collection box marked 'CTS' also at the back of the church opposite the CTS rack.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE EALING – from 2nd March until 10th April, you are invited to pray peacefully for all those affected by abortion. To find out how you can help, call Sarah 07776256838, email, or come to the opening event, 6.00pm, Sunday 20th Feb, Polish Church, Ealing Broadway. London40daysforlife@hotmail.com

THE PASSAGE a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3rd March at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets at <https://passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert/> or telephone 020 7592 1856.

GUNNERSBURY NOTES

The Late RITA GREGORY RIP - On Wednesday 9th March at 12.00 Noon the Requiem Mass and funeral of our late parishioner Rita Gregory will take place in the church. May she rest in peace.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – As we can't leave new boxes of envelopes in church due to GDPR restrictions, those who have previously received new boxes of envelopes each year will be posted this year's in the week commencing 28th March. Please read the fuller note about envelopes in the adjacent column.

GROVE PARK NOTES

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – Those who have previously received new boxes of envelopes each year will be posted this year's in the week commencing 28th March. Please read the fuller note about envelopes in the adjacent column. Thank you.

CHISWICK & GROVE PARK BRIDGE CLUB – meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Room of St Joseph's Church, 1 Bolton Rd. A friendly group who play duplicate bridge and usually finish around 10.00pm. There's a table fee of £3.00. For info call Phil Tait on 07860575135 or email philliptait@btinternet.com

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – Tuesday morning post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St Edward's Room each week and a **Friday coffee morning** in the Parish Centre Lounge Bar at 10.30am. All are very welcome!

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL: GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. If you have a son in Years 2 or 3 who loves to sing then the world's greatest Catholic Choir would be delighted to hear from you. Every year six boys enter Year 4 as new choristers and all receive generous scholarships supplemented by means-tested bursaries where necessary providing education at a top independent school as well as the opportunity to sing and tour in a world famous choir. Find out more at www.choirschool.com

RETOUVAILLE - Covid 19 - a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriageand you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing **3rd to 6th March** call or text 0788 729 6983. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.org or visit www.retrouvaille.uk

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS : Sun Feb 20th meet 3.00pm main gate, St Mary's University, Twickenham TW1 4SX. Nearest tube: Strawberry Hill. We'll discover the story of St Mary's and walk along the river to Richmond. The walks are led by Joanna Bogle, historian and author. No need to book, just turn up! Suggested donation £5.00. Children accompanied by an adult with responsibility for them. Each walk lasts 1-2 hours. Wear suitable clothing/shoes. We walk whatever the weather! See: catholichistorywalks@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERING FAIR, Saturday 5th March, 12.00-2.00pm Westminster Cathedral Hall - Whether you want to try volunteering for the first time or are looking for a new role, come and discover opportunities. See: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caritas-volunteering-fair-tickets-250053004267

VOLUNTEER READERS & SCRIBES at St Richard Reynolds Catholic College - We know that the presence of a reader and scribe can make a huge difference to a pupil sitting their exams and we are seeking volunteers for this very rewarding role. There is official guidance on the role and **full training would be given.** If you could assist we would be delighted to hear from you. There is a considerable time commitment as the exams take place over a 3-4 week period, not daily, from the 16th May to 28th June. For details pls contact k.trimble@srrcc.org.uk or 020 8325 4630, ideally by the end of March although later could also work. Thank you.

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick
£3870.56
St. Joseph's Grove Park
£174.28

Thank you for your generosity.