



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

26th FEBRUARY 2023

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Daley
Fr Femi Victor Orilua CSSp
Tomas Krejci
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminarian
Administrator

Fr. Michael writes:-

Every human being, whether conscious of it or not, is familiar with the desert experience into which the Spirit leads Jesus in today's Gospel. It doesn't matter that we don't live in ancient Jerusalem or the Judean desert. Indeed, we are haunted, are we not, and moved, at the images of ruined Ukrainian cities and towns so cruelly and senselessly destroyed by the Russian regime, as well as by the devastated urban centres of Turkey and Syria after the earthquakes. And we are amazed at the tenacity of the survivors, some set on staying, hoping to recover their way of life, finding strength even in and somewhat because of the desert in which they find themselves. Even in our own urban or suburban sprawl, the desert can be near. The London poet T.S. Eliot writes in his *Chorus from the Rock*:

The desert is not remote in southern tropics,

The desert is not only around the corner

The desert is squeezed in the tube-train next to you,

The desert is in the heart of your brother.

Spiritually speaking, we can often choose not to go to this desert within ourselves. Indeed many of the struggles in which we find ourselves come from the fact that we've distracted ourselves from the desert or even run away from it. Yet it is a place of critical importance as much for us as for Jesus as His going there at the outset of His ministry shows. It is a place we can't be children anymore because it is a place where we will be sifted like wheat, where we will be tempted and tested. It is a place in which we must take responsibility for ourselves and our relationship with God, others and, in fact, ourselves. It is a place where it is essential to know truly our heart's desire because this desire will steer us through our trials and, with God's grace, through our failures. Indeed, with perseverance, it is our desert experience which bears fruit in integrity, a process which, in a fine phrase, the *Catechism* calls 'custody of the heart'. In that place and in that prayer we will know the consolation and even the true joy of being, even in our afflictions, in communion with Christ in His mission, His struggle, His agony and His victory. We will have learned a little more of what it actually is to love, to look beyond ourselves. Would that those behind the Russian bombs would only do this too.

Our overseas Lent Project this year: St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG)

In addition to the Cardinal's Lent Appeal (details overleaf) as our domestic beneficiary for Lenten Alms, the Parish Finance Committee has chosen the SFLG as our overseas beneficiary. It's a Catholic charity with a 127 history of working to end the suffering still caused by leprosy. It supports 40 leprosy centres around the world treating and supporting almost 20,000 people in low-income countries. We'll hear more about its work next weekend at all Masses. <https://www.stfrancisleprosy.org/>

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat 25/2 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Eamon Morley The Kungu Family	RD INT
Sun 26/2 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	1st SUNDAY OF LENT Gunnersbury	People of the Parish Madge Purcell Peter & Rita Gregory Francis Duncan Fox Family Deceased Matthew O'Leary	INT RD ANN ANN RIP ANN
Mon 27/2 10.00am	LENT FERIA	Patrick O'Brien	ANN
Tue 28/2 10.00am	LENT FERIA	Dan & Anne O'Gorman	ANN
Wed 1/3 10.00am 6.00pm	ST DAVID Comboni Cnvnt	Daniel Murnane Philomena Gray (Whittaker)	RD RD
Thur 2/3 10.00am	LENT FERIA	Margaret Mary Fitzgerald	RD
Fri 3/3 10.00am 6.00pm	LENT FERIA	Margaret & Ogran Stations of the Cross	ANN
Sat 4/3 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	LENT FERIA Grove Park	Ruth Sykes Confession Confession Charles Bredin Michael McLoughlin	3 rd ANN SICK 1 st ANN

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthly, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Hugh Caldin, Elizabeth Fagundez, Alex Tuffy, Eileen McGuinness, Albie Korinek, Greta Gribben, John Monks, Jim Ryan, P.C.Wryne, Ted O'Connor, Cecilia Walsgrove, Marion Sutton, Iris Faulkner, Mike O'Farrelly, Elizabeth Mulhall, Pascale Murphy, Claudio Bogi, Gloria Weymouth, Theresa Southern, Constance Redmond, Georgia, Brid, Pat Gleasure, Tony Sheehan, Vinny McNamara, Sophie Duarte Bravo, Carlos Amaro Bitencourt, Maria Jose Bitencourt, Dr. Charles Bredin, Vera Jansen and those suffering.

For the recently deceased, may they Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: John Sanger, Peter & Rita Gregory, Francis Duncan, Matthew O'Leary, Patrick O'Brien, Dan & Anne O'Gorman, Margaret & Ogran, Ruth Sykes, Michael McLoughlin, 1st Anniversary, Denis O'Donoghue. May they Rest in Peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.151

1st Reading: **Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7**

Psalm: **50: 3-6, 12-14, 17**

2nd Reading: **Romans 5: 12-19**

Gospel: **Matthew 4: 1-11**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.155

1st Reading: **Genesis 12: 1-4**

Psalm: **32: 4-5, 18-20, 22**

2nd Reading: **2 Timothy 1: 8-10**

Gospel: **Matthew 17: 1-9**

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS) BOOKLETS/LEAFLETS – are on a stand at the back of the church. Prices are marked on each. Please put the money for these purchases in the brown collection box marked 'CTS' at the back of the church.

REPOSITORY – On sale this week, Mother's Day cards, St. Patrick's Day cards, badges and other religious items. It is open after all Sunday morning Masses. Also on sale is the Westminster Year Book price £5.00.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY, Friday 3rd March - This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Envelopes are available at the back of church and can be **returned next weekend** or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023 - Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more info or to use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND – Non-perishable items of food to be brought and left in the box at the back of church next weekend. NO cash collection after Masses due to CAFOD Fast Day collection. Those who wish to donate to the Foodbank please do so with a marked envelope to the Priests' House.

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS – At 6.00pm each Friday evening in Lent we will have the liturgical celebration of the Stations of the Cross. Leaflets will be available at the back of the church. (Accordingly there will be no Friday evening PIME Convent Mass throughout Lent but they will resume after Easter.)

INTERESTED IN FLOWERS AND FLOWER ARRANGING?

Please do consider coming along to join our team who look after the church flowers throughout the year. No experience needed as you will get lots of support and encouragement, just bring your enthusiasm! We will be busy for Easter and always welcome extra help. Please leave your details with Sharon in the Parish Office at chiswick@rcdow.org.uk and we will be in touch with more info.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – Those aged 18-35 are very welcome to join the weekly social gathering of young adults in our parish. Meet outside church after the 6.30 Sunday evening Mass. See: <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/young-adults>

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 28th Feb. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

40 DAYS FOR LIFE EALING – Volunteers needed this Lent to give an hour a week from Ash Weds 22nd Feb until Palm Sunday 2nd April to pray and offer help and outreach to mothers and anyone affected by abortion. Join with 1 million volunteers in 64 countries worldwide who have helped to save the lives of over 20,000 babies. To find out how you can help, please call Sarah 07776256838, email london40daysforlife@hotmail.com

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May at 2:30pm. 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 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the following details to the Parish Office: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - As preparations begin for the annual Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes from **Friday 21st to Friday 28th July**, we aim to travel together as a Diocese. In order to aid the planning stages and inform our travel options, it would be helpful if you could indicate your interest in travelling to Lourdes in July and state if you would be willing to offer any help or volunteer for any of the roles that support the Pilgrimage. To **express interest visit:** <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> Volunteers over 18 require a DBS check from Westminster Diocese Safeguarding with the correct level of clearance to work with the vulnerable. All participants, particularly Assisted Pilgrims, need to complete a Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage Medical Questionnaire and to have received the appropriate permissions.

CATHOLIC CENTRE CHISWICK – The Parish Centre is now open for all activities and the Lounge Bar is open for its regular hours: Friday noon to 11.00pm; Saturday and Sunday noon to 6.00pm.

CAR PARKING IN THE CENTRE – PLEASE would parishioners NOT park in the Parish Centre Car Park on weekdays, as MOST places are rented out at commercial rates helping to keep the Centre open. Pls ask the Manager before parking: 020 8747 5074.

AGE CONCERN, Friendship Club, Oxford Rd Nth, W4 4DN **Thursday Talk, All welcome! 2nd March at 11.30am** two representatives from LB Hounslow's **Community Solutions** team will come to talk about how this service can help you access information, advice and help on various topics.

A CONCERT WITH NICK DRAKE SONGS performed by Raphael Sparanero, will take place at the Catholic Centre, Dukes Ave on Saturday 11th March at 7.00pm. Tickets £12, available from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nick-drake-concert-tickets-536063569567> or email chiswickcatholiccentre@rcdow.org.uk or tel: 020 8747 5074. One third of the proceeds of the concert will go to the 'School of Joy', a school for disabled and disadvantaged children in Beit Sahour, Bethlehem.

LENT PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE and the things that give us joy at OUR LADY OF VICTORIES PARISH HALL 235a Kensington High Street W8 6SA on Thursdays during March:- **9th March 7-8pm:** What are the things that give you joy? What things stand in the way?

16th March 7-8pm: Showing the Letter Part 1, followed by reflections and telling your story.

23rd March 7-8pm: Showing the Letter Part 2, followed by invitation to a journey forward.

30th March 7-8pm: The world is better with you in it. How can we use our talents?

CAFOD, THE BIG LENT WALK – Walk 200 km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. To sign up go to: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk>

BACH'S ST. JOHN'S PASSION – Westminster Cathedral, Thursday 16th March 7.30pm, with stellar soloists, world-famous choir and Baroque orchestra <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/> but **AT HALF-PRICE** to parishioners (from £15-£45 a ticket to £7.50-£22.50!) with THIS OFFER CODE: SJP50 by this link only <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F005D88A31F16CD?did=saint50john>

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT – Chiswick Catholic Centre, Friday 17th March from 7.00pm to 11.00pm. DJ & Music, Irish Dancers, hot and cold Irish buffet included. £10 a ticket from the Parish Centre Lounge Bar, Friday Coffee morning, Parish Office or emailing chiswickcatholiccentre@rcdow.org.uk Limited numbers so please buy tickets early, which also helps catering plans!

ST. PATRICK'S EVENT – Kensington, Our Lady of Victories, Saturday 18th March 7.00pm. Live Music, Irish Dance Display, Open Buffet, Guinness and good Craic! Tickets £20 in aid of the charity Friends of the Holy Land www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/ from fhk Kensington@hotmail.co.uk or 020 7937 4778 or 07746 847 126. Votive Mass of St Patrick at 6.00pm in church beforehand.

LENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-30s) led by the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 18th March in Kensington**. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10.30am-5pm) including talks • Mass • Stations of the Cross • confessions • adoration • faith sharing and social. Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Simon Stock Church Hall, London W8 4BB. Donations only. **Register:** tramy@assumptionreligious.org

LENT TAIZÉ PRAYER in Notre Dame de France (French Church, 5 Leicester Place WC2H 7BX) at **7.30pm 25th March**, with Taizé chants, scripture and silence in the heart of London. All welcome!

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – The Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room and on Friday at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome!

Collections for last weekend:
OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick
19/2/23 - £4126.12
St Joseph's Grove Park 19/2/23 - £215.50
Thank you for your generosity.