



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

27TH MARCH 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Herrero
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Daniel writes:

40 years the people of Israel spent wondering in the desert. Perhaps to our imagination this sounds like an excruciating experience: walking for so long, with no water or food. However, when you open the Bible, you realise that, in fact, it remained in the memory of the Israelites as an almost idyllic moment in their history.

Despite their great numbers and the difficulties to meet their needs in a place where there is practically nothing, they never lacked anything. *"I have been leading you for forty years in the desert, yet the clothes which you have been wearing have not worn out, nor have the sandals on your feet."* (Dt 29:4) God provided water even from a dry rock: *"Moses and Aaron then called the assembly together in front of the rock. He then said to them, 'Listen now, you rebels. Shall we make water gush from this rock for you?' Moses then raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the branch; water gushed out in abundance, and the community and their livestock drank."* (Num 20:10-11) They even had quails for food! *"I have heard the Israelites' complaints. Speak to them as follows: 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have bread to your heart's content, and then you will know that I am the Lord your God.' That evening, quails flew in and covered the camp, and next morning there was a layer of dew all round the camp."* (Exo 16:12-13) To those examples I would still have to add the innumerable times God protected them from dangers, defended them from enemy nations, and allow them to see Him and listen to his voice.

But from the many gifts they received from God the one that deserves special mention is the Manna. *"That substance you gave showed your sweetness towards your children, for, conforming to the taste of whoever ate it, it transformed itself into what each eater wished."* (Wis 16:21) So impressed they were at receiving *"bread from heaven"* that they kept a portion of it in the Ark of the Covenant together with the Torah. That way, the spiritual food of the Word of God and the physical food of the Manna would be kept safe for generations. Its name: *"Man-hu"* literally means "what is it?" And that is no surprise because even today we still don't know exactly what it was. But "what is it?" is also an expression of surprise. Unlike the onions and the meat they had in Egypt, for which they had to work hard, Manna came to them from heaven for free.

However good, the time in the desert had to come to an end, just as our Lenten journey will come to an end. As we look forward to Easter when our journey ends, we must remember to make the most out of this time and relish every gift that the Lord offers us for free to nourish us inwardly and strengthen our faith.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)

Sat 26/3 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	William Duncan Brian Green – 1 st Anniversary	RD ANN
Sun 27/3 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT Gunnersbury	Imelda Murphy Don O'Farrelly People of the Parish Dr. Noreen Honan Wilfred H. Barnes Anthony Okai	ANN ANN INT ANN ANN RIP
Mon 28/3 10.00am 11.30am	Lent Feria	Departed in Anna's Family Funeral of Martin Surr	RIP RIP
Tue 29/3 10.00am	Lent Feria	Steven Osborne	SICK
Wed 30/3 10.00am 10.30-12.00 11.30am 6.00pm	Lent Feria <i>Gunnersbury Comboni Convent</i>	Thomas McCarthy Exposition and Benediction Funeral of Jadwiga Bedford Sr. Mariangela Losa	RIP RIP
Thur 31/3 10.00am	Lent Feria	Mary Margaret Ahmed Chaudhry	RD
Fri 1/4 10.00am 6.00pm	Lent Feria	Patrick McEntee Stations of the Cross	RIP
Sat 2/4 10.00am 11-11.45am 5-5.45pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Lent Feria Grove Park	Jerry Collins Confession Confession Denis Cronin Mary Sheahan	ANN 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: Martin Surr, Ivan Rizov, Jadwiga Bedford, Hemlut Schuierer and Trish Williams. Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Brian Green, Imelda Murphy, Don O'Farrelly, Dr. Noreen Honan, Wilfred H. Barnes, Jerry Collins, Denis Cronin. Rest in Peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.168:

1st Reading: **Joshua 5: 9-12**

Psalm: **33: 2-7**

2nd Reading: **2 Corinthians 5: 17-21**

Gospel: **Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.176:

1st Reading: **Isaiah 43: 16-21**

Psalm: **125**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 3: 8-14**

Gospel: **John 8: 1-11**

A GREAT GRACE FOR OUR PARISHES – an additional priest joining Frs Michael and Daniel at the beginning of April, will be **Fr John Mbinda CSSp**, a missionary priest of the Holy Ghost Fathers, also called the Spiritans. Fr John brings with him over 20 distinguished years' experience as a missionary both in Europe and in Africa, most recently after his term of office as Superior of his Order in his native Kenya and in South Sudan. We look forward to welcoming him and his ministry among us.

LENT

A) WEEKLY SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FOR LENT:

TUESDAYS 6.30pm to 7.30pm: 'ENCOUNTERING THE SPIRIT' – a small group prayer experience based on the spiritual listening and speaking learned from the synodal process. Each week we will reflect together on the previous Sunday's Gospel and how to put it into practice. The meeting is on **Tuesday 29th March** in the St Edward's Room on the theme of 'The Prodigal Son'.

WEDNESDAYS after Mass from 10.30am to 12.00 noon: EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION. The Rosary will follow 10.00am Mass as usual but in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps leave and return; perhaps just drop in for extra prayer. Benediction will be at 12.00 noon.

FRIDAYS 6.00pm: STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Following the Angelus at 6.00pm, there will be a liturgical celebration of the Stations of the Cross. Those present may process behind the priest around the church at the Stations or remain in pews as preferred. (There will be no 6.00pm Mass in the PIME Convent during Lent.)

B) LENT PROJECT 2022:

As pre-pandemic, we'll have a dual Lent Project, one *domestic* and one *overseas*. In the first three weeks of Lent: **£5521 Thank you.**

The CARDINAL'S APPEAL is our domestic project and this year the appeal will fund parish social outreach projects and Caritas Westminster (celebrating this year its 10th year of foundation) social outreach projects. For what it does and which projects are supported see: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/> There are specific Cardinal's Appeal envelopes at the exits of the church.

COMBONI-150 is our overseas project, celebrating also the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Comboni Missionaries. All funds given through the parish will go directly to assist Comboni Sr Rosemary Herrera (no relation of Fr Daniel...) in Arequipa, Peru. She is hoping for a total of £4855 in support of her ecological project among families in subsistence living. **The project aims to provide two bio-gardens as 'sow a seed and you feed a village' but also, in the interim, some food parcels and meals to those developing these gardens which will belong to the villagers.**

CASH placed in the Lent Project money box at the main doors of the church will be divided 65% for Comboni-150 and 35% Cardinal's Appeal. Cash placed in envelopes marked for either charity and handed into the collection or the presbytery will go 100% to the named charity. Cheques should be payable to 'Our Lady of Grace and St Edward's Church' and come in an envelope marked with the designated charity.

HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY – 10th April

Palm Sunday begins our Holy Week journey. Palms will be blessed and distributed at each Mass. Please note:

The 9.45am Mass will commence at **9.30am** in the Parish Centre.

The 11.00am Mass will commence at **10.50am** in the Parish Centre.

The 12.15pm Mass will begin at **12.30pm** in church.

CHRISM MASS - Tues 12th April

This Mass takes place in Westminster Cathedral at 12.00 noon, and is celebrated by the Cardinal, Bishops and priests of the Diocese. At this Mass the oils of Chrism, Catechumens and the Sick, are blessed and consecrated for use in the parishes in the coming year.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 14th April

8.00pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper, also with the washing of the feet. After Mass there is Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight with Compline at 11.45pm.

GOOD FRIDAY – 15th April

9.00am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer.

11.00am: Children's Liturgy of the Stations and Veneration of the Cross.

3.00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

HOLY SATURDAY – 16th April

9.00am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer.

9.00pm: The Solemn Easter Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY – 17th April

Masses at 8.30am, 9.45am (Family), 11.00am (Solemn), 12.30pm, and 6.30pm. Gunnersbury at 10.00am and Grove Park at 10.30am.

GUNNERSBURY and GROVE PARK NOTES

The Late Jadwiga Bedford RIP - On Wednesday 30th March at 11.30am Requiem Mass and funeral. May she rest in peace.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - those who have previously received new boxes of envelopes each year will be posted this year's in the w/c 28th March.

ST. JOSEPH'S

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FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS COMING WEEK – Between this weekend and next we will have our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food which may be brought to the presbytery door. Cash donations are welcome in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox and there will also be a collection after each Mass next weekend.

COMBONI 150 BOAT TRIP – Saturday 30th April (11.30am – 4.00pm) is to be the celebratory boat trip from Chiswick Pier upstream to Hampton Court and back again to Chiswick Pier recalling the boat trip of St. Daniel Comboni with the first Comboni Sisters in 1877 up the River Nile to the interior Africa. The trip will have Mass and a festive catered lunch but there will still be plenty of time for sightseeing, enjoying company and the fine weather, hopefully! Tickets are £30 all inclusive for adults; £15 for children, with under fives going free. Buy tickets from this link <https://buytickets.at/combonimissionarysisters/672697> or contact Sr. Natalia or Sr. Graca to book tickets, email: combonicentre16@gmail.com tel: 020 8994 1220.

CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day – **Thank you** for your generous giving. An additional £445 was donated last weekend bringing the total from Chiswick to £1413.82 was donated and **£128.00** from Grove Park. This will go to support some of the poorest people in our world. Donations in envelopes can still be given this weekend or by visiting www.cafod.org.uk/len

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via the Zoom, Mondays at 7.30pm. Next meeting takes place on 28th March. Contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – those who have previously received new boxes of envelopes each year 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 Thank you for your continued generosity: in 2021 the parish received **£29,275 in Gift Aid back from HM Treasury thanks to your being in this scheme!**

UKRAINIAN CRISIS DONATIONS – To read about ways to ease in a small way the humanitarian suffering of the displaced please see the home page of the parish website or these directly:

1. Disasters Emergency Committee: <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

2. CAFOD: <https://cafod.org.uk/>

3. Aid to the Church in Need: <https://acnuk.org/> channelling £1M through the churches of eastern Ukraine, covering Kharkiv, Zaporizhyya, Donetsk, Odesa and Krym (church buildings being emergency accommodation providing humanitarian assistance)

4. Ukrainian Catholic Church in London is forwarding donations directly to and through its network in Ukraine. To donate, please send cheques payable to **AUGB LTD - Central Appeal Fund** to: **Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London**, Chancery Office, 21-22 Binney Street, London W1K 5BQ

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!

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick

£4714.06

St. Joseph's Grove Park

£218.38

Thank you for your generosity.