

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

For Kathleen Gilson, Denis Evenson, Sean Furlong Selina Rielly
and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

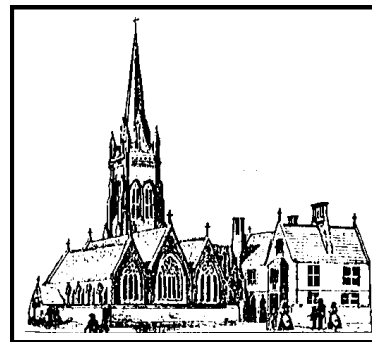
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2025

Saturday 8th March

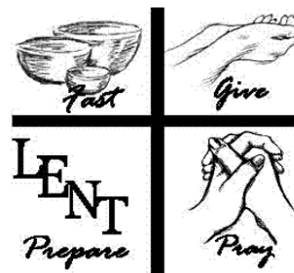
	5.30 pm	The sick and housebound
SUNDAY 9th	9.00 am	-
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	10.30 am	The People of the Parish
	12 Noon	Kathleen Gilson (RIP)
	6.00 pm	-
Monday 10th	9.30 am	-
Tuesday 11th	9.30 am	-
	10.30 am	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	2.30 pm	St Anthony Prayer Group
Wednesday 12th	9.30 am	Denis Evinson (RIP anniv)
Thursday 13th	9.30am	-
	7.30 pm	"We dare to hope" meeting 1
Friday 14th	9.30 am	Sean Furlong (RIP anniv)
	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross & Mass
Saturday 15th	10.00 am	The sick and housebound
	10.30 am	Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS: AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY
OR BY ARRANGEMENT WITH Fr JAMES OR Fr LINFERD

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11AM - 3PM



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
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Dear Friends, While we may often only associate Lent with various sacrifices and commitments to prayer and charity, there is much more to the season. One aspect of Lent that we may miss is its deep connection to the sacrament of Baptism. This is only heightened for those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, as the season of Lent marks the final stage of preparation for the sacrament. At the same time Lent can also remind all the baptised of their duties and the need for interior renewal.

Pope Benedict XVI writes: *"The Sundays of Lent...introduce us to the experience of a baptismal journey, almost as if we were retracing the path of those preparing to receive Baptism, in order to rekindle this gift within us and to ensure that our life may recover a sense of the demands and commitments of this sacrament which is at the root of our Christian life."*

He explains how each Sunday is connected to a different aspect of Baptism. For example, the First Sunday of Lent recalls how we must all reject and renounce Satan before getting baptized: *"The First Sunday, ...presents Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, and invites us to renew our definitive adherence to God and, in order to remain faithful to him, to face courageously the struggle that awaits us."*

This year, using the cycle of readings for Year C we don't hear all of the Gospels specifically relating to the meaning of baptism, but it is there in the prayers of Mass, so listen and read carefully as the days go by. As I mentioned in my homily for Ash Wednesday, the act of receiving ash on the crown of our heads also reminds us that this was the place we were anointed at our baptism to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ: Prophet, Priest and King. Lent prepares us to renew this vocation – to be a prophet: someone who tells the truth even in difficult circumstances; to be priestly: someone who is set aside to make sacrifices for others, which is our job of bringing holiness into the world, and to be King: in different ways to being our world to the service of the true king. Even if you are not preparing for your own Baptism, it is still important to prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal promises. While we tend to only focus on Lent being a season of death and dying to self, it is more of a season focused on **renewal and rebirth**. God invites us to die to the world, so that we can be reborn as a child of God. Lent is about new life and not simply death.

Fr James

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20 Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

LENT 2025 GENERAL INFORMATION:

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 10.30am - 11.30am; 6.15pm - 6.45pm

Sundays of Lent: Between the morning Masses; also 5.15pm - 5.45pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Our corporate Stations of the Cross will be on **Fridays of Lent at 7.00pm**, followed by Mass at the conclusion of the Stations. Of course, Stations can be made at any time when church is open.

PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (EXPOSITION): The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration on **Saturdays 10.30am - 11.30am**. Or, come to prayer before the Tabernacle at any time the church is open.

LENT STUDY AND FAITH-SHARING: Thursdays 7.30pm - 8.30pm at No.62. Prepared by the Dominican Sister of the New Forest, this series of reflections is called "*We Dare to Hope*" and follows themes of the Jubilee;

ALMSGIVING: You may wish to support particular charities with Lenten Almsgiving (the fruit of our fasting), e.g.: *Aid to the Church in Need*: <https://acnuk.org/>; or *Mary's Meals*: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>. In addition to the usual appeals: For the *Holy Places* on Good Friday, and *CAFOD*, there is a dedicated Alms wall box for the *Cardinal's Lent Appeal*, supporting initiatives in the diocese. Also, on 23 March, there is a national appeal for the *Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 14 MARCH: Be a "Pilgrim of Hope" with CAFOD this Lent. You'll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions, at a time our nation is withdrawing from her commitment to aid. Envelopes available in church, the proceeds of our Fast we collect NEXT SUNDAY.

CARDINAL'S LENT APPEAL: Our corporate Almsgiving this year is for the Cardinal's Appeal supporting initiatives in Youth work, Evangelisation, social action, marriage & family life. There is a wall box for donations in the "Pieta" chapel and envelopes for gift-aid donations. The poster has a QR code or you can visit the diocesan website for online giving.

"WALK WITH ME, A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT 2025" This familiar resource is also available today, still priced at £1. A good Lenten resource with reflections for each day of Lent.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES RENEWAL: TODAY Please pick up new envelopes for the next financial year at the back of the church. If you wish to donate via envelopes and possibly gift aid your donation ask the team and they will help. If you are signed up for gift aid but no longer pay tax in the UK please let us know as we must not claim tax back if you are not a tax payer! If you wish to give by standing order ask the team. Of course you can also gift by the card machine by the north entrance to the church. Thank you for your support for the parish.

SUNDAY MISSALS ON SALE: Following the introduction of the new translation of the scriptures used in Mass, we now have some stock of the new edition of the Catholic Truth Society Sunday Missal. £19.95 from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass. **Back in stock today!**

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER ROLE?: The Lygon Almshouses Trust is looking for someone with financial or accounting experience to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer and to join the board of Trustees. Lygon House, on the Fulham Palace Road, provides housing in 40 flats for Fulham residents on low income and in housing need. For more information contact: Charles@noelfamily.co.uk or Lygonhouse@gmail.com

"WESTERN AREA" JUBILEE OF THE SICK: Saturday, 22 March at 10:00am In *St. Gregory the Great South Ruislip* 447 Victoria Road HA4 0EG. Holy Mass with Anointing Of the Sick at 10.00am followed by a short Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Confessions available throughout. Some space for parking. Otherwise the Car Park at Aldi and &M across the road. Closest Tube: South Ruislip (Central Line: 10 minute walk). **In this borough we are counted as part of the Western Area even though Central Area events are much closer to us! See poster in church.**

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY AT THE CATHEDRAL: Saturday 17 May. The Cardinal invites couples celebrating in 2025 their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. If you wish to attend please supply the following information to Gerald in the Parish Office by 24 March:

- 1) husband and wife's names;
- 2) date and church of Catholic marriage;
- 3) number of years married;
- 4) postal address & email address /telephone No.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN LOUDES PILGRIMAGE: 25th July - 1st August 2025 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nicholas is now open via the online form at <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by **Wednesday 30th April**.