

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

For Canon Bernard Scholes, Tamara Vedernikova, Tommy Gaffney,  
Stephen Ogunleye, Brendan Culkin  
and all the faithful departed.

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

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 2025**

**Saturday 29th March**

	<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Tamara Vedernikova (RIP)</b>
<b>SUNDAY 30th</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Tommy Gaffney (RIP-anniv)</b>
<b>OF LENT</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>Stephen Ogunleye (RIP)</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>-</b>

**Monday 31st**      **9.30 am**      **-**

<b>Tuesday 1st April</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Brendan Culkin (RIP-anniv)</b>
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Tuesday Morning Prayer Group</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>St Anthony Prayer Group</b>

**Wednesday 2nd**      **9.30 am**      **-**

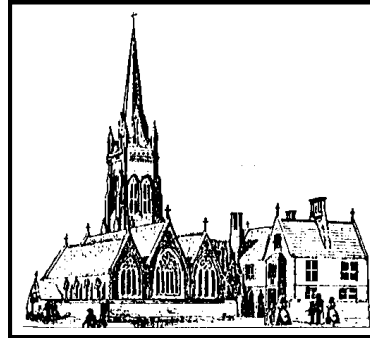
<b>Thursday 3rd</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>“We dare to hope” meeting 4</b>

<b>Friday 4th</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>The Holy Souls</b>
	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross &amp; Mass</b>

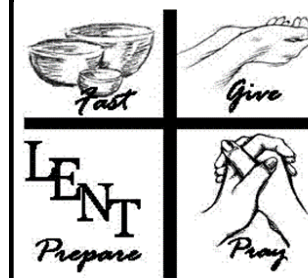
<b>Saturday 5th</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>The sick and housebound</b>
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Adoration and Benediction</b>

**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  
St THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, FULHAM  
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Priests: Fr James Neal & Fr Linferd Fernandes  
Parish Deacon/ Catechetics: Rev Wayne O'Reilly  
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Parish Administrator: Mr Gerald Daly  
Safeguarding Representative: Ms Shirley Mills  
Email: fulhamsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**



Dear Friends, Lent is traditionally a time of the year for spiritual renewal. An old custom about this middle Sunday of Lent from eastern Europe can remind us to bury the idols of our lives so that we may fully embrace life with Christ.

Throughout all the middle ages the custom seems to have prevailed of representing the battle of Spring over Winter on Mid-Lent Sunday by some symbolic contest which most frequently took the shape of making an effigy of Winter with sticks and stones and of hurling it

into the water. With this also seems to have been associated in other places a recollection of the overthrow of paganism in Poland, AD 965, when the Catholic Duke Miecislus destroyed the pagan idols and threw them into the river on this Laetare Sunday.

While most of us do not openly worship pagan gods, all of us have our own "idols" in our lives...and we should be serious and honest with ourselves about searching them out. Those idols could be the computer, TV, or our smart phone. It could also be our sinful habits, such as pornography, gossip, or excessive drinking, or too many Greggs sausage rolls.

For many of us, we began Lent hoping to cut ties with some of these things and mid-Lent is the perfect time to renew our commitment. If we haven't already "drowned" the idols in our lives that control us, now is the time to bury whatever is keeping us from God. The key is that these modern-day idols do not have a hold on us and we are not their slaves. In order to fully embrace Jesus Christ, we must be free from everything in our lives, willing to do whatever it takes to be closer to God. After passing the mid-point of Lent, re-double your efforts to set yourself free from your idols, detaching yourself from anything that might hinder your full love of God. Of course, another tradition of this Sunday calls it "Mothering Sunday," a holiday on which a person would return to their "Mother Church" - the place of baptism or the Cathedral of the diocese.

The secular world has turned this into "Mother's Day." When is Mother's Day? Answer: every day should be Mother's Day, when we do honour to, or pray for the soul of our own mother!! Jesus said "Who is my mother?...the one who does the will of my Father is my brother and sister and mother." Today too is Laetare Sunday, we rejoice that our Lenten journey leads us to Easter.

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*, for initiatives in the diocese.

**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.

**NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR WALSINGHAM SHRINE:** last Sunday. *Thank you!* This brought in £356.

**TEAS & COFFEES AFTER 10.30 MASS: TODAY!! SUNDAY:** Come and have a tea or coffee **IN THE HALL, NO. 62** served by the young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a good way to help and support them in their preparation. **ALSO** they will be selling the following wonderful things: **EASTER EGGS AND BOOKS!!!**

**"THE REAL EASTER EGG"!** From the Meaningful Chocolate Co. This Easter give your children or yourself or anyone **THE ONLY** Easter Egg that contains a 24 page Easter story activity book covering all the Holy Week story from Palm

Sunday on. **WONDERFUL VALUE AT £6 PER EGG.** This is the only Easter Egg that is actually about Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus!! With **NO Palm Oil, NO plastic AND with a Prize competition. ON SALE NEXT SUNDAY (MOTHERING SUNDAY) at the stall in No. 62.**

**"THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD" NEW BOOK BY** Adventurer, TV Presenter and former Chief Scout **BEAR GRYLLES.** An imaginative retelling of the Gospel story by a series of eye-witnesses. Written to invite young or curious readers of any age to engage with Christian Faith. Published at £14.99: **WE HAVE SOME COPIES AVAILABLE AT £5 NEXT SUNDAY from the stall in No. 62. A great Easter gift!**

**EASTER FLOWERS "LILLIES FOR REMEMBRANCE":** To help to beautify the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday and church at Easter and to remember departed loved ones in our prayers you can help with funding Easter flowers. Take an envelope for your donation and slip of paper and write the names of those to be remembered clearly on it. Envelopes can be returned to the Presbytery or in the Sunday Offertory. Thank you!

##### **DAY TRIP TO AYLESFORD PRIORY & DENBIES WINE ESTATE:**

A day trip to Aylesford Priory (Designated Jubilee Church) and Denbies Wine Estate on 28th May (Wednesday) has been organised. The trip will be led by Fr Linferd. Departure will be early in the morning if all is to be achieved. Those wishing to go must collect a copy of the itinerary from Fr Linferd. **The cost will be £40 (Cash only please).** Please note: payment due by **1st May!**

**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](mailto:Charles@noelfamily.co.uk) or [Lygonhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Lygonhouse@gmail.com)

**200 CLUB MARCH RESULTS:** There were 127 members in the March draw. The winners are: 83: Colin Mongul: £158.75; 81: John Moloney: £31.75; 150: Elizabeth Meyer: £31.75; 190: Steve & Lilian Greene: £19.05; 108: Bridget Rooney: £19.05; 107: David Rolls: £19.05. You have to be in it to win it!!

**WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN LOURDES 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.**