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MASSES AND INTENTIONS

5th to 13th April 2025

Sat 5th April

10am to 10:45am Confessions

6pm Mass: *Hugh and Patricia Patterson, anniv*

Sun 6th April 5th Sunday of Lent

8:30am Latin Mass (1962 Missal): *Pro Populo*

10:30am Mass: *Henry de Vries (RIP)*

5pm Kerala Mass

Tue 8th April

6:30pm Mass: *The O'Rourke family*

7:10pm Readers practice session

Wed 9th April

10am Mass: Followed by Rosary at 10:30am

7pm Lenten Holy Hour

Thu 10th April

6:30pm Mass: *Peace in the world*

6:30pm – 7:30pm Confessions –

A visiting priest is available

Fri 11th April Saint Stanislaus

11am Exposition and Confessions till 11:45am

12 noon Mass: *The Lambe family*

6pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 12th April

10am to 10:45am Confessions

6pm Mass:

Sun 13th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30am Latin Mass: *TBA*

10:30am Mass: *TBA*

5pm Kerala Mass

SUNDAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM

What great deeds the Lord worked for
us! Indeed we were glad.

GIFT AID & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

At the start of the new tax year, we would like all parishioners who are U.K. taxpayers to consider signing up for the Government's Gift Aid Scheme.

Gift Aid allows us to increase the value of your Offertory donations by 25% without any additional cost to you.

By simply filling out a Gift Aid declaration form, requesting a box of Offertory envelopes or setting up a Standing order you can help us make the most of your generous contributions.

We are most grateful for your continued support and generosity to our beautiful church.

We invite you to consider this appeal and to give as you are able, knowing that every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference to our parish.

READERS

We are holding a practice session on Tuesday 8th April at 7:10 pm for our parish readers. New readers and those who are interested in becoming a reader will be most welcome.

ALTAR SERVERS

A note to parents: we will hold a practice in the church for the Easter Triduum on Tuesday 15th April. This can take place in the afternoon or at 7:10pm in the evening. Would parents let Fr Richard know your preference, so that we can book the best time for this practice.

MISSIO RED BOXES

Would box holders please return your boxes for collection over the next few weeks. John is also happy to pick up your box from home, should you wish. Please call him on 07773712688.

AS WE APPROACH HOLY WEEK

It is a tremendous work for the whole parish to be able to support in prayer all those who are either entering into the Christian life or are entering further into the Paschal Mystery at the Easter Vigil.

So, let us continue to stand with our three catechumens, Rachael, Kelly, and Brett, who will be baptised, confirmed and receive the Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Also, those already baptised, who will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil, Riccardo, Aston, Stefania, Antonio, Favour, Domenico, Giovanni, and Jaxon.

And let us keep in prayer the children who have been enrolled by their parents for First Sacraments, and who will join us at the altar soon after Easter, Olivia, Sarah, John, Victor, Victoria, Francesco, Riccardo, Alessandro, Jaxon, Ariana, Mason, Mia, Aaren, Noah and Seth.

Everything that we have done in the parish to support parents in preparing children for the sacraments, has been done to enable the families, parents and children, to become more integrated in the life of the parish.

The parish encourages these parents to offer your children as new altar servers in the parish.

We will hold a training session later in the Spring.

Almost all these children have made their First Confession. Now is the time for parents to get them into the habit of going to Confession once a month.

Ideally, you want to get them to the stage where they spontaneously want to receive this sacrament, because they see the tremendous value it has for their lives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Week's Collections - £505.20

Standing Orders - £132.50

Vintage Tea - £216

REIMAGINING BAPTISM

An important seminar for parish catechists about how baptism is understood in the life of the Church today. It takes place on 9th & 10th May at the cathedral hall in Southwark. Booking details etc are available on a poster in the porch. It would be great if some of our parish catechists could take part in this event.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday we will hold the feet washing ceremony during the Mass, the Mandatum. There is a sheet at the back of the church where you can volunteer to take part in this. It is proper to have twelve people for this ceremony.

PARISH PICNIC – HELP WANTED

A parish picnic is proposed to be held on Saturday 12th July.



WE NEED YOUR HELP.

If you can help us in setting up. Running a BBQ, a bouncy castle or generally being part of the team.

Then please contact Rachel Kirkham on 01234 314093 ASAP. Thank you.



**A COACH IS GOING FROM
BEDFORD TO WALSINGHAM**

On Saturday 14th June for the Northampton Diocese Pilgrimage. An itinerary for the day will be provided for all pilgrims. The cost is £18 per person. In Walsingham, you may wish to have lunch in the restaurant or to bring a packed lunch. The coach leaves 7:45am for 8am prompt departure from Holy Cross Catholic church. If you are interested in taking part in our Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, please contact Maria Quinlan on 0790 559746.

Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation



Lenten Reflection - Week 5 : Ecological Spirituality

The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica was opened by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve to begin the Jubilee Year of 2025. We enter the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. In his Christmas Day message, Pope Francis recalled, "the door of God's heart is always open; let us return to him. Let us return to the heart that loves us and forgives us."

Today, we are called to manifest this Trinitarian Love, that we recognise at work in each of us, and among us, and so '*participate with others in the Holy Spirit's Mission of Love in our world*' (Gen Chap '21)

In this Jubilee Year, we are invited on our own journey in which we become "tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind" (Spes non confundit.) The difference between a pilgrim and a traveller is openness to God. A pilgrim seeks God not just in their ultimate destination but in all that they encounter along the way.

We are daily faced with the challenges of poverty, injustice, violence and the destruction of the environment. The emptier the person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to have a genuine sense of the common good. (L S) The gift of Hope is greatly needed in our world. Hope is transformative. It widens our vision and fills our hearts, inspires our imagination and creativity, strengthens our resolve and helps us examine our lifestyle and strive to live differently.

Reflections: We can all be Pilgrims of Hope walking together, so let's start our journey right now! Pope Francis says: "By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope....and reawaken in every heart the joy and courage to embrace life to the full."

Read and reflect Luke 4:16-21 – The Mission of Jesus, His Mission, is also our mission ... We know the world is facing many challenges, we can join millions of people in this Jubilee Year to bring the light of hope and the message of God's love to every part of the world

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind...."

Reflect quietly Psalm 18: The Beauty of Creation

The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands. Day unto day takes up the story, and night unto night makes known the message....

Using all our senses, take time to contemplate a sunset or a rainbow; watch children at play; listen to the birds; gaze at a flower, a butterfly, feel the warmth of the sun, taste an orange.



Suggestions / Actions: Let's consider how we can be *Pilgrims of Hope* in our families, our communities, our parishes and schools and within the wider world in this Jubilee Year?

Examine how my life choices impact creation and the poor? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with the poor, the vulnerable, those overlooked in society?

I ask for the grace to see creation as God does - in all its splendour and suffering. Where did I notice or feel God's presence in creation today?

Prayer: Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and tender love. Praise and glory be to you. Amen.

Laudato si Commission

Sr. Dymphna Connolly, Bedford, England