



Sunday 16 March 2025

# NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Lent

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## Walking Up the Mountain: Seeing Beyond Challenges

Dear Parish Family,

Lent is a journey - not just of **external sacrifices but of internal transformation**.

This Sunday, Jesus takes His disciples up the mountain, where they witness His transfiguration - a powerful moment of divine revelation. But this is more than just a vision of glory; it is a lesson in seeing beyond immediate struggles, embracing challenges, and preparing for true transformation.

On the mountain, Jesus meets His predecessors - those who have encountered God in their challenging time. Moses climbed the mountain, received the Commandments, and led his people forward in spite of their murmurs. Elijah ran to the wilderness in fear for life, but after hearing God's gentle whisper, he returned as a stronger prophet. Both faced difficulties but came back renewed, with a clearer purpose.

**In life, we need the right people around us - those who encourage us to move forward, challenge us to grow, and help us see beyond our struggles.** However, like Peter, we sometimes seek immediate comfort, avoiding difficult but necessary paths. Jesus reminds us that there is no Easter without Good Friday - true success comes not by avoiding hardships, but by embracing them with faith and genuineness.

As we reflect on our own faith journey, we are also reminded of our commitment to our parish community. Our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Drive by our finance committee, taking place **on March 23, March 30, and April 6**, is an opportunity for each of us to play an active role in the ongoing upkeep of our parish. This is **not just about financial contributions - it is about our shared responsibility in ensuring that our church remains a place of worship, service, and growth for generations to come**. Gift Aid, for those eligible, is a simple way to increase the impact of your contribution at no extra cost.

Another way to support our parish is by taking part in the **Easter Raffle Draw led by our teenagers**. This is a joyful way to come together as a community while also raising funds for important parish initiatives like creating Children's play area. Tickets are available now - get yours and take many to collect from your friends and family members. May we continue this Lenten journey with renewed vision, a heart open to growth, and a commitment to the faith that unites us. Let us climb our own mountains, knowing that beyond every struggle, His glory awaits.

**With Blessings and prayers, Fr. James Raj ([jamesraj@caos.org.uk](mailto:jamesraj@caos.org.uk))**

## Mother's Day Celebration – March 30

On Sunday, March 30, we celebrate Mother's Day at Sunday Mass. We invite all mothers and grandmothers to attend and receive a special blessings from the church. You are also welcome to bring your own gifts for your mothers and grandmothers and present them before the Lord in gratitude. Let us come together to thank God for the gift of motherhood!



## Stewardship & Gift Aid Drive – March 23, March 30, and April 6



A heartfelt thank you to the Finance Team for their meticulous planning in managing parish finances. We will hold a Planned Giving & Finance Drive on March 23, March 30, and April 6. We request your prayers and support as we work together for the growth of our parish.

## KEY DATES FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2025

### LENT 2025

- **Ash Wednesday** – 5th March (Masses at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM)
- **Stations of the Cross** – Every Friday at 7:20 PM (after 7:00 PM Mass)
- **Lenten Reconciliation Service** – 5th April, 5:00 PM onwards, followed by Mass

### HOLY WEEK 2025

- **Palm Sunday** – 13th April (10:30 AM Procession & Mass)
- **Maundy Thursday** – 17th April (7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper & Washing of the Feet)
- **Good Friday**– 18th April
  - **2:00 PM** – Outdoor Way of the Cross
  - **3:00 PM** – Passion Service

### EASTER 2025

- **Easter Vigil** – 19th April (7:00 PM followed by refreshments)
- **Easter Sunday** – 20th April (10:30 AM Mass followed by refreshments)



**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - LITURGICAL COLOUR: VIOLET. YEAR: C(I).****Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 26: 8-9**

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**Penitential Act:** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**The Liturgy of the Word****First reading****Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18**

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.' **The word of the Lord. All reply: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15.****The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? **℟: The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

O LORD, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me. Of you my heart has spoken, 'Seek his face.' **℟: The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek; hide not your face from me. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. **℟: The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

**℟: The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

### **Second reading**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. **The word of the Lord. All reply: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! **From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'** Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Gospel**

**Luke 9:28b-36**

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

**The Gospel of the Lord: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Creed:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Holy, Holy, Holy** Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**The Mystery of Faith:** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free..

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Jesus Lamb of God**, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (4)  
Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**Lord, I am not worthy** that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**Communion Antiphon: Mt 17:5** This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

### "Called to Bear Fruit" Reports – Submission by March 30

If you have been assigned to present a group report for the "Called to Bear Fruit" initiative, please submit your report by March 30. Individual submissions are also welcome!





MY LENTEN JOURNEY  
WITH JESUS - KIDS

**Children's Lenten Journey Booklet**  
 We have prepared a special booklet: "My Lenten Journey with Jesus – Children's Edition." Please collect one for your children. Those who complete the most tasks will receive a reward! The entire parish community is invited to participate in encouraging and supporting the children in their Lenten journey.

### Altar Servers' Practice – March 21 at 5:30 PM

Dear Altar Servers, it is time for us to strengthen our discipline and commitment. **A mandatory practice session is scheduled for March 21 at 5:30 PM.** This will be an intensive session, after which lighter practices will follow. All servers are expected to attend without fail. It is specially to prepare us for the Family Mass on March 30 (Mother's Day Mass).



### Friday Way of the Cross

To encourage more participation, Friday Mass has been moved from 10 AM to **7 PM, followed by the Way of the Cross.** We invite you to join as a family, especially young families, to bring children and help them grow in the Lenten journey. Let us walk together in this Lenten season with prayer, sacrifice, and service!

### Parish Registration Update

Thank you for being a part of our parish community! We are **updating our Parish Registration Form both online and on paper.** We prefer online registration to ensure accuracy and reduce administrative work. Kindly update your details to stay connected.



## Easter Raffle Draw - Supporting Our Children's Play Area!



Our enthusiastic teenage volunteers are taking charge of the Easter Raffle Draw ticket sales! 🙌👏

Be part of the excitement—tickets are just £1 each, and there are five large hampers and plenty of Easter prizes to be won! 🎁✨  
Every ticket sold helps develop the children's play area on our church campus.



The raffle draw will take place on after the Easter Vigil Mass. Look out for our youth team selling tickets and grab yours before they're gone! 🌟

All counterfoils, monies, and unsold tickets should be returned by 6:30 pm on 19th April 2025. Thank you for your support! 😊

## Special Thanks for the Generous Support

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Michael Ferncombe and family (Cappagh Group) for their continuous and generous support to St. Ann's Parish. The company has provided **two skips, assisted in clearing, and agreed to supply topsoil for garden areas and repair tarmac patches - all free of charge.** Their unwavering generosity and commitment to the Church are deeply appreciated, and we remain truly grateful for his support in enhancing our parish environment.

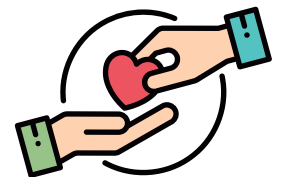


## Lenten and Easter Sponsorship Opportunities

During Lent and Easter, several essential items are purchased for the church.

If you would like to sponsor any of these items.

- Easter Jesus Statue - **Nimasha & Aaron Family**
- Easter Candle – **£85 - Donated by Immacula & Canute family**
- Altar Candles (24) – **£100 - Donated by Sr Ursula**
- **Palms for Palm Sunday – £40**
- Bread & Wine for Mass (2 months) – **£100 - Donated by Ivy and family**
- **Children's Lenten Activities & Prizes – £100**
- **Washing of the Feet (12 Members' Gifts) – £120 (£10 per person)**
- **Electrical Works of our parish - Liam Martin**



## ST ANN'S READING ROTA FOR SUNDAYS

Role	16th March	23rd March	30th March
1st Reading	Beatrice Beim	Liam	Bernard Brenninkmeijer
Psalm	John Mutaasa	Adrian Dharshan	Nimasha Yusuf
2nd Reading	Nida Mathew	Judith Nirupa	Daniel Mokwena
Bidding Prayer	Cyril Thomas	Julissa	Christobel Al Hachache
Offertory	Almina & Luna	Ada & Maya	Dahlia & Jolie

## ST ANN'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR WITH MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Intention	Celebration
Sunday 16/03	10.30 am	Una Elizabeth McCormack (Birthday)	2nd Sunday of Lent
Monday 17/03	10 am	Valentino Anthony & family	Lenten Week
Tuesday 18/03	7.00 pm	Marcina Elton & family	Pilgrims Mass
Wednesday 19/03	10 am	Thelma Magtalen Singh	Lenten Week
Thursday 20/03	No Mass		
Friday 21/03	7.00 pm	Max Cockings RIP	7.20 - Way of the Cross
Saturday 22/03	12 Noon	Leonie Brenninkmeijer RIP	Pilgrims Mass
	6 pm (Vigil)	Antonio Giavara RIP	3rd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 23/03	10.30 am	Fr James Raj (B/D)	3rd Sunday of Lent



Donate - St Ann's

Sunday Loose Collection: £ 287.50

### FOR ST ANN'S CHURCH OFFERING

Account Name: RCAS Kingston Hill

Account Number: 79124429

Sort Code: 60-50-01, Bank: NatWest

Contactless Card Payment: £ 315.00

Thank you for being part of our St. Ann's family.  
Let's pray for one another and for the growth of our parish family.