



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 10th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	4th Sunday of Lent 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:45 Prayers for Ukraine	
	Mother's Day 12:00 Parish Celebration	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Prayers for our parish	
Mon 11th	Lent: Week 4 09:15 School Mass	
Tue 12th	Requiem Mass 10:00 Pat Cowsill	
13th	Lent: Week 4	
Thu 14th	Lent: Week 4 12:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
	Seeking Sacraments 19:00 Meeting	
Fri 15th	Lent Week 4 06:30 Mass & Breakfast	
	Lent Week 4 09:15 School Mass	
	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
	Requiem Mass 13:45 John Boyle	
Sat 16th	Parish Community 09:30 Church Clean	
	Stations of the Cross 11:00 Children's Version	
	Sacramental Programme 11:00 Meeting 5	
	Lent Week 4 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
Sun 17th	5th Sunday of Lent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	5th Sunday of Lent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments & CAFOD Walk	
Holy Hour 14:00 Prayers for our parish		

COME BACK TO ME

The first reading compresses a huge and important period of the history of the Jewish people. We hear of them lapsing into sin and defiling their own Temple. As a consequence, enemies invade, burn down the Temple, capture the people and deport them to Babylon. In the psalm we heard the cry of the Jewish people in a foreign land: "By the waters of Babylon there we sat and wept."



However, just as God moved the heart of Pharaoh in the earlier captivity in Egypt, so God influenced the heart of King Cyrus and told him to build a Temple in Jerusalem again and let the Jewish people return to their own land. What a great homecoming it must have been!

As we prepare for Easter, a good way to approach Holy Week is as a sort of homecoming. We will hear again the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and then of his Resurrection. Just as Jesus himself returned to his followers who had fled in fear and literally left him for dead, so we too have the opportunity to celebrate again the event that gave birth to the Christian faith: the Resurrection.

In the Gospel reading about Nicodemus, ideas of light and darkness are very important. Another way to picture our homecoming is of moving from the darkness of ignorance and sin to the light of Jesus who is the "Light of the World."

God bless, Fr Kevin.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

I would like to wish all the wonderful mothers in our parish a happy Mothering Sunday. We are blessed to have so many mothers in our community and thank you in particular in all you do within your families and within the parish. May God continue to bless you richly in your vocation which you share with Mary, the Mother of God. This year, Mothering Sunday falls on "Laetare Sunday." "Laetare" means, "Rejoice!"

PARISH "BIG LENT WALK", SUNDAY 17 MARCH

Our parish will do the "Big Lent Walk" next Sunday, after the 10.30 Mass. We will leave from outside Sacred Heart Church at 12.00. All are welcome, but please note that anyone under the age of 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. We will not be able to include any younger ones who turn up unaccompanied. This promises to be a great parish occasion so please do support, whatever the weather.



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Sacred Heart: Sunday 10th March
St. Francis: Saturday 16th March

HOLY COMMUNION

It is not permitted by the Bishops of England and Wales to receive Holy Communion by "intinction." "Intinction" means dipping the consecrated host into the Precious Blood in the chalice before consuming. Intinction was permitted in limited ways during the pandemic but is no longer permissible. If the teaching of the Church cannot be followed, then Holy Communion will revert to being offered under one kind only. Please show the greatest respect and reverence to the Sacrament.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Families with children preparing to make their First Holy Communion are reminded that the next Saturday session is on Saturday 16 March at 11.00. Please arrive at least ten minutes early to register, to be ready to make a prompt start.

EXTRA DEVOTIONS IN LENT

- ✕ **Fridays 06:30**
Early Lent Mass with breakfast.
- ✕ **Saturdays 11:00**
Stations of the Cross
- ✕ **Sundays 09:15**
Adoration & Confession
- ✕ **Sundays 14:00**
Holy Hour
- ✕ **Sunday 17th**
Big Lent Walk
- ✕ **Tuesday 26th**
Reconciliation Service
- ✕ **Friday 29 March**
Walk of Witness



RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Let us pray for new parents and grandparents, that they may manifest the love and mercy of God to their children and grandchildren. **Lord hear us**

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Murphy
Permanent Deacon: Davie Nalikata
Administrator: Minna Moffatt-Feldman

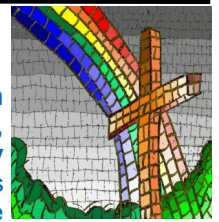
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YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience. If interested email jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

LGBTQ+

The next Salford Diocese Mass in fellowship with brethren who identify as LGBTQ+, their friends, families, and supporters will be celebrated on **Sunday March 17th at 18:00 by Canon Paul Daly**. This space is inclusive and diverse. There will be the opportunity to meet and chat after Mass. All are welcome. St. Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Street, M15 6BW. Allow time to park in the local area, and note that the venue is accessed by stairs.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

MASS INTENTIONS:

The greatest prayer we can offer is the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. If you would like a mass to be offered for a specific intention, detail this and enclose an offering of £10 or more in an envelope (noting if it should be kept private). Pass this to Fr. Kevin or place in the offertory basket.

ANNIVERSARY: JOHN ROTHWELL (6TH)

SPECIAL INTENTION: ONE

MOTHER'S DAY MEMORIES: KATHLEEN McCOURT

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

AMBER McCOURT, ELIZABETH SENGHORE, LENNY, JOHN AND MARJORIE FISHER, MAGGIE JOYCE, SHEILA DOWNEY, TOMMY LOFTUS.

MERCY BROTHERS CARITAS FUNDRAISER






Clergy band The Mercy Brothers will be heading to Bolton next month for a special St Patrick's Day fundraiser. This time, the band will be joining forces with the parish folk group from St Cuthbert's for an evening of music making to raise money for Caritas Diocese of Salford. Thornleigh Salesian College, Sharples Park, Bolton, BL1 6PQ. Friday 15th March 2024 at 7pm. Tickets are £12 each (food will be included) and are available by emailing office@stcuthberts.org.uk

MASS OF SACRED CHRISM

This Mass, traditionally celebrated on Maundy Thursday, takes place this year on **Wednesday 27 March at 11.00 a.m.** and, because of renovation work at the Cathedral, will be held at **St Patrick's, Collyhurst**. The Mass involves the blessing of the holy oils and is also the occasion when priests renew their vows. Our parish has been allocated **SIX** tickets only (admission is strictly by ticket only), so please see me as soon as possible if you would like to take a ticket. However, please only do so if you are certain to attend.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND 2-3/03/24		
	Basket	£217.30
	Basket	£483.00
	Online	£183.00

Please consider switching to making your offertory contributions by **Standing Order**. Forms are available at the back of each church, or you can set up with your bank directly using these details:
TSDT SACRED HEART & ST FRANCIS GORTON,
20-55-34

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First reading: 2 Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to

build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 136(137)

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)



O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I
remember you not!**

Second reading: Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

God loved the world so much that he gave his
only Son:

everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed;

but the man who lives by the truth comes out
into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he
does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.