



ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTHWOOD

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHWOOD AND NORTHWOOD HILLS

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...' [Matt 28:19]

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MARCH 26TH - APRIL 2ND)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Things are looking different.

Last week we had rose vestments and there was an air of rejoicing as we hit the midpoint of Lent. This week things have changed - we have entered the last two weeks of Lent which under the old calendar was known as Passiontide. While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Catholic Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the "domestic church" to practice at home.

But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Thirdly, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

So as we prepare for the great events of Holy Week, put the dates in your diary. Holy Week begins with ***Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*** next Sunday. Making a symbolic entry into Jerusalem with Jesus on that day we hear the Gospel telling of the passion and death of the Lord, in preparation for the coming week. Essentially, in our worship, we then enter into all the mysteries of our redemption as it were in real time, especially on the **GREAT THREE DAYS or SACRED TRIDUUM of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday**. Plan now to make these days the centre of our year and take that extra time to be at worship, especially on the days of the Triduum.

- ✘ On Thursday evening after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, come to spend time in adoration and simply stay with Jesus in his agony of prayer in the garden.
- ✘ On Good Friday come to the solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion, kept by ancient tradition at the very time of the crucifixion of the Lord.
- ✘ For families with children under 10 years approx., come to the Childrens' Stations of the Cross to help you in your teaching of your children.
- ✘ Make a priority - if you haven't before - to come to the **VIGIL OF EASTER** on Holy Saturday evening.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

CONTACT US

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Parish Office:

Contact Cheryl Myring or Siobhan Hogg

9:00 — 3:30pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Sunday School & Catechetics:

RE Co-ordinator:

Elvadia Tolputt

northwoodcat@rcdow.org.uk

Hall Bookings: contact the office or

northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

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Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn for

**God's mercy for the whole
world**

(Blessed Sacrament)

and for

Ted Stone RIP

(Our Lady)

Last Week's Offering.

Loose Cash: £421.33 Planned Giving Envelopes: £144.65 Standing Orders: £465.00 Contactless Giving £73.75
Total Offering: £1104.73

200 Club

The results of the March Draw are **1st Prize** Number 36 (£50.00) **2nd Prize** Number 40 (£35.00) **3rd Prize** Number 60 (£15.00).

Planned Giving Envelopes

Those who give their contributions to the parish can collect their new planned giving envelopes after Mass (or from the parish office during opening hours)..

Lenten Alms

This year we are supporting the Cardinal's Appeal and The Ukrainian Welcome Centre. You can place your donations for the Cardinal's appeal in the box by Our Lady. Donations for the Ukrainian Welcome Centre can be placed in the wall box under St Anthony in the porch or in a marked envelope and placed in the collection plate. Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Lunch

This Friday is our last Lenten Lunch at about 11.30. A simple lunch of bread, homemade soup and cheese and any money raised goes to our Lenten Alms for the Ukrainian Welcome Centre at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London.

Pre Holy Week Morning of Recollection

"The Master is here and wants to see you" (John 11:28) To prepare for Holy Week, a Lenten Morning of Recollection will be led by Fr. Gerard Sheehan, a noted spiritual director for priests and lay people, at St. Luke's Parish, Love Lane, Pinner on Saturday, 1 April beginning at 10:30am. Everyone is very welcome.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to remember a departed loved one in a special way, then you can make a donation of £5 towards the Easter Lilies. Their name will be placed on a list that will be on the altar under Our Lady of Fatima and a special Mass will be offered on Easter Saturday (15th April) at 10.30am for all those named on the list. Please put your names and donations in an envelope and put it in the offertory plate or post through the presbytery letterbox.

Centenary Logo Competition.

If you would like to design a logo for our centenary please submit any designs by Easter Sunday (9th April). Parishioners are then invited to judge the designs on the following Sunday in the hall after the morning Masses on Sunday 16th April. There will be a small cash prize of £25.

Centenary Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

There are still a few places left on the parish pilgrimage. Application forms can be collected from the Parish Office

Annual Mass for Matrimony

The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by Cardinal Vincent on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2023 – 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th 50th, 60th and 60+. If you wish to be part of this Mass please contact the Parish Office with your contact details. **The deadline for applications is Monday 27th March.**

Holy Week Liturgies

Volunteers are needed to read during the Holy Week Liturgies. If you would like to offer your services then please email Fr Tom on tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk.

Coronation Lunch

This will be held on Sunday 7th May 2023 at 1.00pm. Tickets are £20 per adult (£10 per child and 4 and under free). Tickets available after Mass or from the Parish Office during office hours.

Ann Woods RIP

The Funeral Mass of Ann Woods will be on Monday 3rd April at 12 noon.

Readings for Sunday Mass

First reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129(130)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

John 9:1-41

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is

dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



There are extra opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation between now and Holy Saturday.

(Please check the notice on the Confessional and in the porch for times).

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:

Those sick with COVID throughout the world, - Carol-Ann Frost, Marianne, Kathleen Clarke, Ada Barker, Ron Picardo, Vince Thapermall, Kerry Blackburn, Martha Felleppa, James Wilson, Sinead Bushnell, Hayley Duncan, Audrey Potts, Tracy Bessant, Jo Smith, Brendan Smith, Mary Tierney, Michael Keating, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, Victor & Gilda Kumarathanan, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

Muriel Honey Ann Woods, Helen Birch and all who have died as a result of war and conflict or natural disaster.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

General Stanislaus Kapanski, Tom Lynch, Kathleen Sims, John Pilborough, William Reid, Paul Clark, William Donohoe, Catherine Agnes Carr, Nellie Price, Giovanni Capitelli, Patricia Field, Giulia Visconti, Marilyn Sowten, Christina Lynskey, Agnes Slade, Margaret Power, Margaret Aveyard, Kim - Anne Holliday, Bartholomew Creedon, Breda Emmett.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (MARCH 26TH - APRIL 2ND)

SUN 26TH MAR	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
	09:00 VICTOR WONG (THANKSGIVING)
	11:15 GEOFF ALLAN RIP & JAMES O'BRIEN RIP (ANNIV)
	18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MON 27th	<i>09:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 09:40 Morning Prayer 10:00 MARY JOSEPH (INTENTIONS)
TUES 28th	<i>09:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 09:40 Morning Prayer 10:00 JOE DA CUNHA RIP
WED 29th	CHURCH CLOSED
THURS 30th	<i>18:00 - 18:45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 19:00 SHIRLEY MURRAY RIP
FRI 31st	<i>09:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 09:40 Morning Prayer 10:00 PATRICIA BACKMAN RIP (ANNIV) <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross & Rosary</i> <i>19:00 Stations of The Cross</i>
SAT 1st	10:30 SHEILA COLLINS RIP <i>11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available)</i> <i>17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available)</i> 18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
SUN 2ND APR	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
	09:00 JIM & MAURA FERGUSON (INTENTIONS)
	11:15 ARLINDO FIGUEIREDO RIP
	18:00 HELEN JERVIS (SP INTNS)

Holy Father's Prayer intention for March.

During the month of **March**, please pray that all who have suffered harm from members of the Church may find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Items for the Newsletter.

If you would like something to be in the newsletter. Please email Fr Tom (email address on front page) by 12 noon on Wednesday



You can make a donation to the parish
by using this QR code