

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP
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Website: www.saintedmunds.net
Parish Office 020 8650 0970
Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm



23 February 2020
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

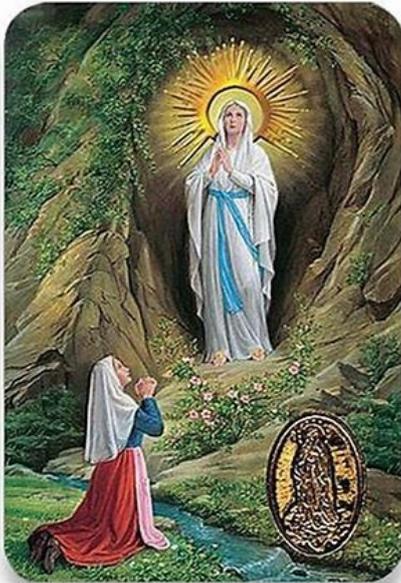
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Second collection today is to assist HCPT volunteers

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



Years ago I watched one of the standout films of my childhood, *The Song of Bernadette*, based on the book of the same title by Franz Werfel. It is the story of Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl and her encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary in a grotto outside her hometown of Lourdes in 1858.

Little did I know that a decade after watching the film I would be visiting Lourdes with two friends. It was February 1981, the weather was bright and brisk and I won't

forget the shock to the system as I was submerged in the healing waters by the grotto.

However, it was my second visit the following year that had a more profound impact on my life. On this occasion it was an HCPT pilgrimage and I was one of thousands of helpers looking after physically and mentally disabled children. The work was challenging and there were times when I felt decidedly out of my depth. Ultimately though, it was richly rewarding and I found myself returning year after year. Admittedly, I didn't quite know what to expect at the beginning of each week as I prepared to get to know the child in my care but whatever came my way I took comfort from the fact that I belonged to a very supportive group (Group 47) with just the right blend of experience and enthusiasm. Of course, there was always the gentle support of our Heavenly Mother and St Bernadette to get us through a demanding week.

All of this would not have been possible of course if we didn't have the money to pay for it and so at various times throughout the year members and associates of Group 47 would be involved in various fundraising events which covered the cost of the flight, hotel accommodation and spending money for the week.

At most of our Masses this Sunday either Sofia Sims or Isabel Walsh will be speaking to you about their forthcoming HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter and will be asking

for your financial help. I'm sure you will respond as generously as you can. I will never forget my many experiences at Lourdes and I hope these girls will feel the same in years to come.

Incidentally, as it was the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th Feb, last Sunday those who came along to the newly formed Watch and Pray Film club enjoyed *The Song of Bernadette*. Watching it as an adult I realise that it sails very close to sentimentality at times but to my mind it still has the capacity to draw the viewer into a compelling story of faith, innocence and obedience. There was hardly a dry eye in the house and I'm sure I wasn't alone in feeling uplifted as I left.

Fr Steve



An extract from the message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2020

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

WITNESS AND WORSHIP

13 March at 7.30 pm

We welcome you to join us for this evening of praise and worship starting at 7:30 pm in our Church, where we will have guests sharing with us testimonies of their inspiring journeys of faith. Please keep this evening free so you can gather with us in prayer, before an uplifting time of fellowship and refreshments in the Hall across the road. We look forward to having you with us! More details to follow. In the meantime if you have any questions please speak to Joseph or Fr. Steve.



THE ANGELUS

The Angelus will be said at the end of all Sunday Masses except the 11am Mass where there is already a Marion hymn in place.

For 7.30am and 8.15am weekday Masses the Angelus will be said.

At 10 am Masses the Angelus is said at the end of the rosary before Mass.



It's time to bring in your Missio boxes for emptying. Please take them to the Sacristy and leave them with one of the clergy. Do not leave them at the back of the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY

A reminder that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

FRIDAY PENANCE

Every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. Our bishops believe that it is important for us all to be united in a common identifiable act of Friday penitence. Church law requires that Catholics abstain from meat or some other form of food and that this is accompanied by prayer.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PARISH PRAYER GROUP

7.30 pm in no11 Village Way

Friday 28 February

(The last Friday of each month)

All are warmly welcome to come and join us for PRAYER, PRAISE and sharing of GOD'S WORD, from which Words of Knowledge and Prophecy may grow.

Please bring your Bible.

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?

Many of us will be asked this question over the next few days but instead of giving the reply of 'chocolate' or 'alcohol' how about embracing the pope's wish that we do more to care for our environment.

Go vegetarian two days a week.

Have two car free days a week.

Reduce the time you have the shower running.

Don't keep the tap running whilst you are brushing your teeth.

Stop buying bottled water

Take your own cup into the coffee shop

I am sure that you can come up with your own ideas.....

HOLY SATURDAY - BLESSING OF FOODS

For the last two years we have welcomed families, mostly from central and eastern Europe, to our service of Blessing of Foods. We have been helped and encouraged in this by Agata Bogunia and her family, who sadly for us have returned to Poland.

We need help if we are to continue with this service, so if there is anyone from these parts of the world who could come forward to organise this important celebration would they please contact Deacon Sean as soon as possible.



SISTER ROSALIE



Salesian Sisters welcome a new arrival! The Salesian Sisters at 25 Village Way are delighted to say we now have Sr. Rosalie from our province in the Congo. Sister has come to join us in our mission of giving hospitality to four destitute Asylum seekers. She is keen to practise her English so please do speak to her! She is finding the cold weather difficult to get used to; I am sure a warm St. Edmund's welcome would help her feel more at home!

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season Lent which for us all is a time of penitence and preparation for the Paschal Mystery.

During Lent we do not have flowers in the church and musical instruments are used only to support the singing in church. (Laetare Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent is an exception to this and is also known as Mothering Sunday)

The word **alleluia** will not be said in church until Christ has risen.



Friday, March 6 at 11.00 am

You are invited to join with Churches Together in Beckenham at St John the Baptist Church, Eden Park Avenue, **11am on Friday 6th March**. A light lunch will follow the service.

As we participate in this service we are part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. We will be joining with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme of Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk. You are all welcome.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Diocesan Celebration

Aylesford Priory - Saturday 27 June

Our new Archbishop John Wilson has invited parishioners from all over the diocese to join with him to celebrate this special Year of the Word. There is a poster on the board near to the Sacred Heart statue. At this stage we are just asking for you to put your name there if you are thinking about going so we can gauge the level of interest. If it is high we will organise a coach for the parish. Please sign up soon as with all the diocese on the move that day we will need to secure a coach soon.



Friday 28 February

The Dilworth family's annual quiz in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care

Tickets £15 to include a light supper

Please see details on how to book on the poster in the porch

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Close to a thousand parishioners **now** receive this weekly newsletter online. This has enabled us to reduce the print run by half. If you would like the newsletter sent to you in this way please send an email to the Parish Office.

Thursday March 5 - 5.30 pm
St Gregory's Catholic School, Reynolds Lane,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9XL
Tel: 01892 527 444

E-mail: johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com

Students from Catholic secondary school sixth forms in Tunbridge Wells, Chatham, Maidstone, Nunhead and Upper Norwood are taking part in the Province 7 heat of the national Catenian Association public speaking competition. The judges include Mgr Matthew Dickens, the Vicar General of Southwark Diocese and Barry Mizen.MBE There will be a presentation about the Jimmy Mizen Fund. Refreshments available.



VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Theme: Discernment and Vocation

Date: 28 Feb - 1 March 2020

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, a chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit their website www.fcjsisters.org

BOOK AN MOT FOR YOUR SOUL

Saturday 29 February

10.00 - 3.00 pm

Salesian House, 47 Surrey Lane SW11 3PN

The Salesians invite you to a change of heart this Lent and to experience an MOT for your soul. There are leaflets about this in the porch. Please take one and consider joining them for the day.

CAP MONEY COURSE

Mondays March 2, 9 and 16

7.30 - 9.00 pm

The Neighbourhood Church, Cromwell Road BR3 4LW
The church is running a free course to help you manage your money better, and to learn to budget, save and spend well. All are welcome.

Places can be booked by contacting hello@neighbourhoodchurch.org

Masses this week

Monday 24 Feb		Feria
7.30 am	Church	In honour of our Blessed Lady
10.00 am	Church	Bernard Martin RIP (anniv)
7.30 pm	27 VW	Adoration
Tuesday 25 Feb		Feria
7.30 am	Church	Mary Reynolds RIP
10.00 am	Church	The Dennis family & their lost babies
Wednesday 26 Feb		ASH WEDNESDAY
		A day of fasting & abstinence
8.15 am	Claver	Ints of Sr Aine
9.00 am	Challoner	Christina Redmond RIP
9.00 am	St Mary's	Ashes service
10.00 am	Church	Ann Twomey RIP
12 noon	Church	Anthony Leonard RIP
6.45 pm	Church	Stations of the Cross
7.30 pm	Church	Lindsay Pollard RIP
Thursday 27 Feb		Feria
7.30 am	Church	Fr Seamus Hetherton RIP
10.00 am	Church	Kitty O'Donoghue
8.00 pm	Claver	Adoration
Friday 28 Feb		Feria
7.30 am	Church	Michael Dilworth RIP
9.10 am	St Mary's	Wellbeing of Eva Perjest
10.00 am	Church	For all persecuted born & unborn children
3.00 pm	Claver	Stations of the Cross
7.00 pm	Church	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29 Feb		Feria
8.15 am	Claver	Ints of Sr Aine
10.00 am	Church	Wellbeing of Nicholas Harrington
Confessions		
10.30 - 11.00am and 5.00pm - 5.55pm		
6.00 pm	Church	Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP
Sunday 1 March		First Sunday of Lent
8.00 am	Church	Noel Fitzsimons & Wayne Fitzsimons RIP
9.30 am	Church	Cecil Barnes RIP
11.00 am	Church	Richard Graves RIP
4-5 pm	Church	Altar Servers' Course
5.30 pm	Church	James Logan RIP
7.00 pm	Church	For the people

The Rosary is prayed from 9.40 every Monday - Saturday, before the 10.00 am Mass and following these Masses there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

DIARY DATES

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30 - 6.15 pm -except on Bank Holidays. Please note the need to arrive promptly and to observe the discipline of silence.

Open door for the bereaved on the first Thursday of every month from 10.30 am to 12 noon in no11

Law Surgery every second Monday of the month in no11 at 7pm

Prayer Meeting last Friday of the month in no11 at 7.30pm

Refreshments in no11 after 10.00 am Mass on Tuesdays

FEBRUARY

Fri 28 Prayer Meeting in no 11

Sat 29 Contemplative Saturday - no 11, 11 am-noon
Please note the need to observe the discipline of silence

MARCH

Fri 6 World Day of Prayer - 11 am St John's Church, Eden Park

Sat 13 Service of Witness 7.30 pm in Church

Readings for 1st Sunday in Lent (A)

Psalter wk 1

Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

Psalms 50

Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Fr Francis who gave such an inspiring appeal last week-end waved Gift Aid envelopes at the congregation. This was so that those of you who are tax payers could use them to add an extra 25 pence for each pound that you donated. Thirty four of the envelopes used had no name on them SO NO GIFT AID COULD BE CLAIMED. If these envelopes had carried a name and address Fr Francis's charity could have claimed an additional £58.38.

The collection last Sunday came to £1686.13 with a further £1933.76 through ChurchSuite and standing orders.

The collection for the Missionary Society of St Paul in Nigeria raised the amount of £1915.26, which is a wonderful demonstration of your generosity in a week when many people were away over half term and the mass attendance was very low due to the exceptionally bad weather.

We pray for those who have died recently: Anne Lymbery, Margaret Milan, Brian Beirne and Jackie Lee

We pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Anthony Earley, Kieran Fleming, John Chilton, Kevin McGuinness, Bill McConnell, Georges Sinon, Paul Morris, Mary O'Keefe, Arleen Vince, Raymond Tesnière, Anthony Osei, George Halpin, Terry Davies, Margaret Fennessy and Sarah (Sally) Share.

We pray for the sick: Angela, Bernice, Rob Burns, Emma-Jane, Fr Leon Carberry, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, Leah Clent, John Crouch, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Cecil Dutton, Ann Elmer, Felicity, Erika Geddes, Chris Grant, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Jerry Jacob, John, Ellie Jones, Mary McGrath, Eddie Mitchell, Barbara Moyce, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Claire Shelton-Jones, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, Siobhan, Helen Solley, Angela Stolle, Patricia Weal and Charlie Wynn.