

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 15 February 2026 Yr A

The retiring collection is a diocesan collection for the Clergy Support Fund.



ASH WEDNESDAY IS UPON US!

And with it the start of Lent. Let me quote from our bishops: "Lent is a 40-day fast – a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It's a time when we can prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ's death. Our observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Week. The astute will notice that it is more than forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, as Sundays do not count – Sunday is always a day to remember the Resurrection and to rejoice in that, so you can even have a day off your Lenten penances! Some find that this helps us persevere to the end while others, knowing themselves, think it is wiser to do penance until Easter arrives. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Many would also see it as a period to do some spiritual reading, and we all should see it as an opportunity to go to confession, at least once.

Fasting

According to the US Bishops Conference: "Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays in Lent (*in England and Wales, all Fridays unless a solemnity*) are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. (*Medical reasons may also excuse fasting*). When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards." (*The italics are my comments*).

Let me return to what our own bishops say. "Ash Wednesday is a doorway into the Lenten season. The ashes themselves come from the burned palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration: thus bringing us full circle to our last celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are called to turn away from sin, to repent and to believe the Good News of our salvation through Christ.

Receiving ashes – an outward sign of an inner step

As we cross this threshold we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. "We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God."

I will end with one more quote from Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth:

"Lent is a spiritual springtime. It's a joyful season, as the Roman Liturgy puts it, a time when God wants to give us new grace and new life."

Lenten Blessings. **Father Andrew**

PANCAKES

This Sunday after the 9.30am Mass we will be serving pancakes in the hall.

Do come to the hall and have a treat.

The Light of Christ Catholic Charismatic Prayer Meeting will join with the parish community in the church on Ash Wednesday:

06.15pm	Stations of the Cross.
07.00pm	Holy Mass
08.00pm	We will meet in the parish hall for informal prayer meeting.

Christian Meditation

Every Monday – except 2nd Mondays.

Quiet Monday – 2nd Mondays at 5.30 in the Hall

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

This starts at St Edmund's with a short service at 11.00 am before proceeding along the High Street to Beckenham Green where there is a second short ecumenical service.

As usual the organisers are asking for volunteers to help marshal the walk and to act as stewards on the Green. If you think you might be able to help please email davidjohnson127@talktalk.net with your name and contact details.

300 CLUB

The winners of the February draw which was made at last week's Vigil Mass were:

£100	Jan Banfield
£50	Andrea Hixson
£25	Joseph Watchorn

Congratulations to them all.

MASSES

Sun 15 Feb	Sixth Sunday
6.00 pm VIGIL	Dan Walsh RIP
8.00 am	Grace Friend-Pereira
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am	Ints of Mary Bradford
5.30 pm	Rita Howard RIP
Mon 16 Feb	Feria
10.00 am	Theresa Murphy
Tues 17 Feb	Feria
10.00 am	Family of Margaret Paes RIP
Wed 18 Feb	Ash Wednesday
A day of fasting and abstinence	
There will be imposition of the ashes at all Masses.	
10.00 am	Margaret Kelleher & Family
10.40 am	Stations of the Cross
12.00 pm	Rosamund Wood RIP
6.15 pm	Stations of the Cross
7.00 pm	Chris Kelly RIP
Thurs 19 Feb	Feria
10.00 am	Sandy Baron RIP
6.00 pm CLAVER	Adoration
Fri 20 Feb	Feria
10.00 am	Christopher Carroll RIP (1st anniv)
3.00 pm CLAVER	Stations of the Cross
6.15 pm	Stations of the Cross
7.00 pm	Dec'd member of the Panglose & Brelu-Brelu Families
Sat 21 Feb	Feria
10.00 am	Margaret Baker RIP
6.00 pm VIGIL	Antonio & Maria RIP
Sun 22 Feb	The First Sunday of Lent
8.00 am	Caroline & Ray Cosham RIP
9.30 am	Jackie Shiel RIP
11.00 am	For the people
5.30 pm	Ints of the Pinkett Family

There is Adoration after morning Mass Monday to Saturday, unless otherwise announced.

RECONCILIATION

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 – 11.00 am and 5.00 – 5.55 pm, and usually during Adoration

DIARY

February

26th Funeral of Angela Calder at 11.30

May

16th Parish Spring Fair

CAFOD

Next weekend Cafod will be making its Lenten Appeal and will be handing our envelopes for you to take away and return the following week.

Please pray for the recently deceased: Aurelio Spinola, Angela Calder, Margaret Lilley, Marc Frederick Vinay, Gordon James Walsh.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Jaqui Lee, Terence McNamara, Michael Duffett, Ken Phelps, Anthony Faller, John McGrath, Joseph Brady, Eileen Blackeby, Michael Dilworth, James Dempsey, Theresa Kennedy, Terence Keeley, Margaret Wilkes, Mary Dunne, Kenneth Meyrick.

We pray for all who are in ill health, for their families and for their carers: Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Paul Hixson, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Djasrabe, Margaret Brocklehurst, Leyla Pattison, Janice McIntosh, James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Linda Magness, Charles, Joyce Edwins, Chris Elgar, Rose Elgar, Maureen Pinkett, Catherine McLaughlin, Albie Houghton, Sean Lacey, Peter Antony Jones, Margaret Mattison, Elias Tchamba.

LENTEN SERVICES

Stations of the Cross and additional Masses in Lent

On Wednesday mornings, 10 am Mass will be followed by Stations of the Cross at 10.40am.

On Friday evenings there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:15 pm, followed by Mass at 7.00 pm.

Each week Stations of the Cross will be led by members of our parish groups. Thank you to all of them for doing this. For those unable to attend, there will be copies of the Way of the Cross at the back of the church so you can walk the way in your own time.

There will be Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent in the chapel of the Claver Convent at 89 Shortlands Road, Bromley BR2 0JL

PARISH SPRING FAIR

The Parish Spring Fair takes place on 16 May. If you are considering giving up alcohol for Lent, we are happy to help. The hospitality committee will be collecting donations of unopened bottles (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) at all Sunday Masses on the weekend of 21st-22nd February. These will be kept for the bottle stall at the Spring Fair. Trolleys will be at the back of Church at all masses to receive your donations.

Printer We currently have no working photocopier or large format printer in the office. Please make alternative arrangements if you usually rely on us for printing. We are so grateful to St George's who are printing the newsletter for us.