

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
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First Sunday of Lent 29 February/1 March 2020

“Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights.”

Matthew 4, 1 - 2

THE SEASON OF LENT

The parish Lent Course on the theme of 'The Church' commences on Monday 2nd March at 19.30 in the Cenacle.

Wk1: 2nd March The Church

Wk 2: 9th March The Church in the OT

Wk 3: 16th March Two models of the Church

Wk 4: 23rd March Two models of the Church

Wk 5: 30th March The Church and the Great Schism

Wk 6: 6th April The Vision of the Church at Vatican II

Come to all or just the ones you can make.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Teresa Barneicott and Hazel Bell.

Teresa's Funeral Mass will take place on Tue 3rd March at **St William of York** church at 11.15am (46 Upper Redlands Rd, Reading RG1 5JP).

Hazel's Funeral Mass will be here at Our Lady & St Anne's on Monday 9th March @ 11.30.

Our sympathy to their families and friends at this sad time. May they both rest in peace.

THANK YOU for the £1,150 banked this week from bingo & donations handed to Mary over the last few months. £400 has been spent on a set of vestments for the parish.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, Sat 29 Feb/Sun 1st March, a second collection will be taken for Cathedral Maintenance.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £157.50 Loose £461.22

Bingo money & donations £1,510.00

Standing Orders £1,120.00

FROM FATHER PATRICK: Now that I am back working on a full schedule, yet with due respect for the demands of the recuperation process, I would like to thank again all the members the parish family who supported me in their prayers, in the cards they sent me and in the many tokens of affection I have received over the past few weeks. Thank you so much! **Father Patrick**

It is important that, should you know that a Catholic neighbour or relative is unwell and/or would appreciate receiving Holy Communion at home or a visit from the priest, that you please let Father Patrick know. Deacon Hugh Anscombe is very kindly visiting the house-bound at present and it is Father Patrick's hope that he can visit all parishioners who are confined to their homes during the course of Lent. He will administer to them the Sacrament of the Sick. But, please make him aware of those who could benefit from a visit. Thank you.

TAIZÉ PRAYER AND SOCIAL

Children aged 7 (school year 3) and up together with a parent or guardian are invited to join us for a Lenten gathering in the cenacle at 6:30pm on **Friday 6th March**.

For further details and to RSVP please contact simonandhilarysmart@gmail.com.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY is on Friday 6 March.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to Royal Berkshire Hospital all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to receive Communion or see a Priest.

All arrangements are 'patient led'.
Tel 0118 322 5111.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy> or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

First Sunday of Lent (Year A – Matthew): Today we accompany Jesus into the desert. Since Ash Wednesday we have been maintaining a Lenten observance appropriate to our age, health and circumstances. We are aware that every day we face temptations and we are conscious that the Lenten invitation to conversion of heart is one which, when we respond to it wholeheartedly, implies changes to our lives. Even though traditional Lenten observance involves changes to our outer behaviour and people can observe what we are doing or refraining from, it is inner conversion that matters. We are living in a fast-changing world, we are easily made to feel insecure, temptation is ever present, fed on our fears. One of the greatest temptation in the present age is that we might lose our trust and faith in God. Lent's spiritual challenge is to us to deepen our faith in God and to put our trust totally in him.

First Reading (OT): Genesis 2, 7 – 9. 3, 1 – 7: It is the temptation story in this reading which arrests our immediate attention, especially in the light of the Gospel narrative recounting Jesus' temptation episode in the desert. But this passage also contains one of the two creation stories, in particular that of us human beings. On Ash Wednesday we were reminded that we were created out of dust and that ultimately into dust we shall return. God has fashioned us with his own hands. Dust itself is without form, it slips through our fingers, it is lifeless. And yet in God's hands, dust can be transformed into the hardest stone, and the human being is created. Out of nothing we have been fashioned into something, each a unique person, each infinitely precious to God.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 5, 12 – 19: This excerpt from Paul's great letter to the Christian community in Rome presents us with a summary of the salvation drama. Through one man (Adam – all humanity) sin entered the world, the relationship established by God at the dawn of creation had been fractured; and through another man, born from above but still one who called himself Son of Man, the victory over sin was won and the relationship with God restored.

Gospel: Matthew 4, 1 – 11: Is this story one of temptation, like we might be tempted by a chocolate éclair early in Lent when we had decided to forego chocolate for forty days, or is it one of being put to the test, an existential trial? In the OT all the great figures, Abraham, Moses and Jeremiah, had been put to the test by God. Indeed the author of the Letter to the Hebrews saw in this temptation episode in the life of Jesus a temptation which was subsequently to come to the assistance of others when they too were tempted. There has been a great debate recently over the way Pope Francis approved an alternative wording to the last phrase of the Our Father: "and lead us not into temptation." This Gospel narrative today helps us to think afresh about the role of temptation in our lives and what it did for Jesus.

Masses and Intentions

First Week of Lent

Saturday 29th February 10.00 Fr Jim McGloin RIP
Saturday after Ash Wednesday

First Sunday of Lent

Year A

Saturday 29th February 17.30 People of the parish
 Sunday 1st March 10.00 Joe Kennedy
 18.30 Repose of holy souls

Monday 2nd March 09.15 Teresa Barneicott RIP
Feast: St Chad

Tuesday 3rd March 09.15 Our Lady & St Anne
Lent feria

Wednesday 4th March 09.15 Bridget Millauer
Lent feria

Thursday 5th March 08.00 Repose of Holy Souls
Lent feria

Friday 6th March 12.00 Stations of the Cross
Lent feria 12.30 Repose of Holy Souls

Saturday 7th March 10.00 People of the parish
Lent feria

Second Sunday of Lent

Year A

Saturday 7th March 17.30 Kath Turner RIP
 Sunday 8th March 10.00 Zinaida Vjaterere
 18.30 Bridie O'Sullivan RIP

Confessions:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30 16.45 - 17.15
Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30
Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45