

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Third Sunday of Lent 14/15 March 2020

“We have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour
of the world.”

John 4, 42

THE SEASON OF LENT

The Lent course on the theme of 'The Church' continues on Monday evening @ 19.30 in the Cenacle. This week Fr Patrick will be exploring 'Two Models of the Church'.

Everybody welcome to as many or as few evenings as you can make.

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

We are now implementing stage 2 of the guidance on coronavirus and following these instructions:

- please wash your hands for the recommended 20s before coming to Mass and when you get home
- hand sanitiser is available in the narthex and more will be follow when available
- handwash is available in the toilets
- water stoops have been removed
- hymn books and Mass books have been removed - readings and hymns are combined with the newsletter. Put the newsletter in your own bag or the bin on the way out. Those left behind will be recycled.
- If you have cold or flu-like symptoms please consider staying away from services in church.

PIETY STALL

Easter cards are now available at the piety stall. Come and browse.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £104.00 Loose £604.31
Standing Orders £1,120.00
CAFOD - will be counted next week

CYCLING FUNDRAISER

Are you interested in joining a team fundraiser for Our Lady & St Anne's refurbishment project?

Can you cycle 35 miles at a leisurely pace supported with free food and drink stations?

If so, we invite you to join the Team OLSA Ride on Saturday 25th April.

Contact the parish office for more information.

OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Federation of St Anne's and St Martin's Primary Schools are looking for new Foundation Governors. If you would be interested in finding out more about the role then please contact the Chair of Governors at CoG@stmartins.reading.sch.uk

LOCAL HISTORY - PROFESSOR BRIAN KEMP MEMORIAL LECTURE

- Friday 20th March - St Laurence's Church (next to the Town Hall) by Dr Adrian Alies on 'The Heraldry of Reading Abbey'. At 7.30pm - free.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH

Catholics in China We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

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.

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

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A – Matthew): With the wettest February on record in the UK we are keenly aware of how destructive water can be: images of flooding in Yorkshire and in the Severn valley, the destruction of homes and businesses, are truly heart-breaking. And yet after last CAFOD Family Fast Day Sunday, we are also familiar with the effects of drought, with fertile fields turned into deserts, with wells that are dry and river beds with but a trickle of water. Our alms may well go to people whose livelihoods have been destroyed and whose children suffer de-hydration as a result of their being too little water. So, water as a destructive force, water as a life-giving element are notions with which we are familiar. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus claimed that everything was in a state of flux, nothing was ever for two succeeding moments the same, all was fluid, flowing. It is a powerful image for life, particularly for the fleeting hold we have on it, as the Ash Wednesday rituals remind us. Today in the OT God becomes for the thirsty Hebrew just set free from slavery the source of life-giving water. Today too in the NT we are privileged to over-hear the long conversation between Jesus and the woman at Jacob's well. She came in search of water (to drink, to cook, to wash, to accomplish her household tasks) and Jesus introduces himself as the source of living water. These images in today's liturgy foreshadow the powerful symbolism of the Easter Vigil when not only do we this year celebrate the Baptism of a catechumen but also renew our own baptismal vows once the paschal candle, symbol of the risen Christ, has been plunged and then raised out of the water we have just blessed.

First Reading (OT): Exodus 17, 3 – 7: Moses faced a lot of hostility in the desert, the freshly emancipated Hebrews were angry with him and some even regretted the departure from Egypt. Moses was afraid for his own safety. And yet God showed himself to be provident and merciful. He gave them manna and now slaked their thirst with water from the rock. They wanted to stockpile! And yet we pray just for our daily bread, for what we need today. We make this request trusting that God will also provide for tomorrow.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 5, 1 – 2. 5 – 8: Faith, hope and charity are considered by the Church the theological virtues, supplementing the four cardinal virtues, prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice. The former virtues flow out of God himself and are given to us through the Spirit. They reveal to us something of the nature of God.

Gospel: John 4, 5 – 42: This meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well is reported only by John. The gospel relates a lengthy conversation. Was there a stenographer present, were the words reported by a fly on the wall? How, writing at the end of the 1st century, was John capable of reporting this conversation, especially given that only Jesus and the woman were present. This is no verbal report of an actual conversation, rather the elaboration of a series of theological themes central to the Gospel of John.

Masses and Intentions

Third week of Lent

Saturday 14th March 10.00 Brian Zamorano
Lent feria

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday	14 th March	17.30	Eddie Moran
Sunday	15 th March	10.00	Iris Heffernan intentions
		18.30	People of the parish
Monday	16 th March	09.15	Toni Contardi RIP
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Tuesday	17 th March	09.15	Martin Joseph Ward RIP
<i>Feast of St Patrick</i>			
Wednesday	18 th March	09.15	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Thursday	19 th March	08.00	Anna O'Rourke RIP
<i>Solemnity of St Joseph</i>			
<i>husband of Bl. Virgin Mary</i>			
Friday	20 th March	12.00	Stations of the Cross
		12.30	Anne Bergen
<i>Lent feria</i>			
Saturday	21 st March	10.00	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Lent feria</i>			

Year A

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	21 st March	17.30	Eilish Hilliard
Sunday	22 nd March	10.00	People of the parish
		18.30	Joan Jiggins RIP

Year A

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