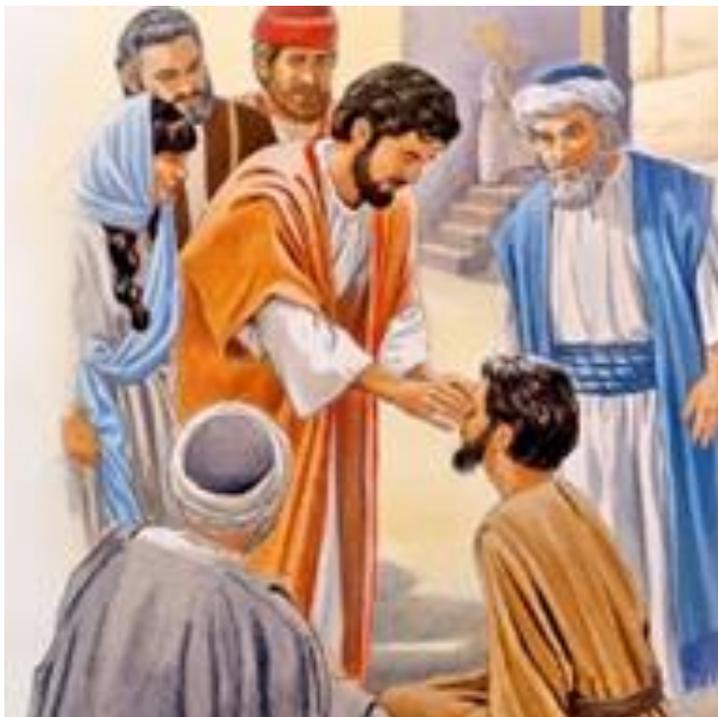


# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Fourth Sunday of Lent 21/22 March 2020**

“You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of the light.”

Ephesians 5, 8

## THE SEASON OF LENT

Unfortunately, the Lent course has had to be cancelled.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

All public Masses have been suspended as of the evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

- ❖ Fr Patrick will video a Sunday homily for each weekend which will be available on the parish website.
- ❖ A limited newsletter will continue to appear on the website with Fr Patrick's thought and the Mass intentions. Fr Patrick will offer Mass privately each day for the intentions that have been requested.
- ❖ As we are no longer able to gather for Mass, there are many opportunities to access live-streamed Masses online if you wish to do so.
- ❖ CTS are establishing a [daily blog](#) with suggestions of resources that may help.
- ❖ A leaflet with suggestions about what to do when you can't get to Mass is available on the parish website.
- ❖ Please let the office know if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or are self-isolating so that we can keep in touch by phone.

## CONFIRMATION MASS

Reluctantly, Bishop Kenney has had to defer the Confirmation Mass that was due to happen on 1<sup>st</sup> April. A new date will be publicised as soon as it is known.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid	£74.00	Loose	£ 313.56
Standing Orders			£1,120.00
CAFOD			£ 1,088.03

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

Happy Mother's Day to all Mums and families.



## 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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A – Matthew):** This Sunday marks the half-way point on our Lenten journey. I remember that at a time when people took Lent seriously the town of Hasselt had what they called “half-time on Lent” on this fourth Laetare (Rejoice!) Sunday. For those of Irish heritage, St. Patrick’s Day fulfils the same role. And yet, the serious intent of our Lenten pilgrimage remains very much in mind. We are on a pilgrim journey and even if we press the pause button at this half-way stage, the more demanding part of the pilgrimage lies ahead. As the days lengthen and as we yesterday (21 March) passed the vernal equinox, we know how much we value light. The words with which Paul encouraged the Ephesians might have been directly addressed to us: we were in darkness once, now we are entering into the light. We encounter a blind man born blind who had his sight given to him by Jesus. We are all blind to many realities, we are all very confused by the way the spread of the Coronavirus has impacted on our day-to-day lives, questions we never expected to have to confront are to the forefront of our minds all day. It is good that Jesus, who presented himself as light of the world is here with us to shed light on our paths. And that is a very good reason to rejoice on this 4th Sunday of Lent.

**First Reading (OT): 1 Samuel 16, 1. 6 – 7. 10 – 13:** The kings of Israel had various understandings of themselves, of their relationship with God and of their responsibilities in regard to their people. They were sometimes styled son, servant, light of Israel, shield and (2 Samuel 5, 2) shepherd. David was elected king precisely because he knew the craft of shepherd and had a shepherd’s heart. The psalm with which we are most familiar is Psalm 23 and we can easily see in it the identity between God – the Lord is my shepherd – and the kingly role of stewardship, leadership, provision and protection that David and his successors attempted to provide for the people of Israel. It was as shepherd that Jesus most repeatedly self-described.

**Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 5, 8 – 14:** Light is one of humanity’s fundamental symbols. In Germanic tradition God and Light were interchangeable. In the necropolis under the Vatican we find murals, among the earliest depictions of Jesus in art, the Lord depicted as a sun-god. Paul approaches the theme of light slightly differently. He contrasts light with darkness. Light he equates with goodness, darkness with the forces of evil.

**Gospel: John 9, 1 – 41 [9, 1. 6 – 9. 13 – 17. 34 – 38:** We often ask questions about the whys and wherefores of apparent misfortune. Whose fault was it that this man is blind? Can it be ascribed to some sort of guilt? Jesus uses this blindness to reveal God’s power and love. The paste Jesus uses to smear the eyes of the blind man reminds us of the ash we all had imposed on our foreheads on the first day of Lent. We are challenged to remove the self-imposed blindness that prevents us from seeing and confronting our true selves. We too need to be cured of our blindness, to see ourselves in our divinely bestowed dignity as well as in our weakness. .

# Masses and Intentions

## Fourth week of Lent

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.00 Repose of Holy Souls  
*Lent feria*

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Year A

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 17.30

Eilish Hilliard

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10.00  
18.30

People of the parish  
Joan Jiggins RIP

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 09.15  
*Lent feria*

Noreen Mansfield

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 09.15  
*Lent feria*

Claire Hallers

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 09.15  
*Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord*

Repose of Holy Souls

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 08.00  
*Lent feria*

Repose of Holy Souls

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 12.00  
*Lent feria* 12.30

Stations of the Cross  
Rhona Flower RIP

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10.00  
*Lent feria*

Paul & Angèle Doncarli

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Year A

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 17.30

Eilish Hilliard

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 10.00  
18.30

People of the parish  
Repose of Holy Souls