

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Presbytery

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**Fourth Sunday of Lent – 26/27 March 2022**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 8, 12

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT OUR LADY & ST ANNE

Vigil of Palm Sunday [Sat]	9 <sup>th</sup> April	16.45 – 17.15	Confessions 17:30 Mass
Palm Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00	Mass
Monday of Holy Week	11 <sup>th</sup> April	09:30	Mass
Tuesday of Holy Week	12 <sup>th</sup> April	09:30	Mass
Wednesday of Holy Week	13 <sup>th</sup> April	17.45-18.15 18:30	Confessions Mass
Maundy Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	19:30 up to 22:00 21:45	Mass of the Last Supper Watching Night prayer
Good Friday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 12:00 15:00	Children's Liturgy Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross Liturgy of Good Friday – church remains open until 19.00
Easter Vigil	16 <sup>th</sup> April	21:00	
Easter Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00	

### SISTERS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY/PRINKNASH PROJECT

Fr Paul will be making an appeal for the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Prinknash Project this weekend, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> /Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of March (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent). There will be a second collection towards the appeal. Cash or on the contactless machine. More information can be found at <https://stbarnabassociety.org.uk/sistersbvm>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### EASTER FLOWER DECORATIONS

Following the success of the Christmas wreath making, an evening making Easter door decorations has been planned. Bring your own flowers of choice and Paul will guide you in making a fabulous decoration. Indulge in a cheeky glass of wine and an evening of fun.

Date: Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> March; Time: 7.15pm

Place: Cenacle; Cost: donation of £25

Message Tina [07753 605 972] to secure a place.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY - MORE LEADERS WANTED

We are looking for more people to join our leaders' team. You don't need to have children yourself, just a love of God's word and a desire to share it with the children of the parish. Sessions take place during the 10am Sunday Mass. Full support and DBS check provided. Interested? Talk to a current leader or email [childrensliturgy.stannes@gmail.com](mailto:childrensliturgy.stannes@gmail.com)

### PARISH INCOME

Feb Contactless Sun. offering:	£ 520.00
Feb Building Fund:	£ 105.00
Standing Orders:	£2935.00



**OUR LADY'S LAMP**  
This week's lamp is lit for:  
**Rayan Grestiak**

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 Cycle C

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

Taken from <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>

## Mass Intentions for Fourth Week of Lent

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year C

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> March	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00	Blessings for Janka Grestiakova

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March No Mass  
*Monday of the fourth week of Lent*

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March No Mass  
*Tuesday of the fourth week of Lent*

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March No Mass  
*Wednesday of the fourth week of Lent*

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March No Mass  
*Thursday of the fourth week of Lent*

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 12 noon Stations of the Cross  
*Friday of the fourth week of Lent*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April No Mass  
*Commemoration of St Francis of Paola, Hermit*

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year C

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	17.30	Kay McLaughlin
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.00	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP

Rosary before Saturday evening Mass