

19th MARCH 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Mass Book Page 164	1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14	Gospel: John 9: 1-41	
Hymns for 11 am Mass	Entrance: 970 Communion: Hymn Sheet	Gospel Acclamation: 200 Post-Communion: 952	Offertory: 433 Recessional: 341

Christ our shepherd and king



Jesus Christ is descended from the line of David, a shepherd who was anointed king by the prophet Samuel. Christ is our king who guides us with the tender care of a shepherd. With him by our side we shall want for nothing, even though we walk in the valley of darkness.

He went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 18 18:30	First Mass of Sunday Alan Mode RIP
Mother's Day	
Sun 19 09.30 11.00	✕ FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Angelo Noto RIP Wellbeing for James & Amy Lee
Mon 20 09.30	SAINT † JOSEPH Wellbeing for Lee Johnson & Family Rosary
11.30	Funeral Mass of Martin Herrera RIP
Tue 21 09.30	Thanksgiving Mass to St Joseph Rosary
Wed 22 09.30	Wellbeing for Elena De Masi & Birthday Celebrations Rosary
Thu 23 09.30	Tony Cummins RIP Rosary
19.30	Lenten Service of Reconciliation (English, Spanish, Polish & French)
Fri 24 09.30	Cardinal Arthur Hinsley RIP Exposition
19:00	Stations of the Cross
Sat 25 09.30 18:30	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD People of the Parish First Mass of Sunday Nora Joyce RIP
Sun 26 09.30 11.00	✕ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Therese Farina RIP Birthday blessings for Esther Bell



We wish all
 Mother's a
 pleasant, peaceful
 and blessed
 Mother's Day.

The Choir invites everyone to the Hall after 11.00am mass, to celebrate Mother's Day.

Prayer Requests

If you request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish Newsletter, it will run for a month per request. Please send an email to: regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk.

Pray for our dead.

Anniversaries for March: **Benjamin Ntiamoah**
 Recently passed: **Martin Hererra, Elizabeth Seymour and Jerome O'Connor** who passed away on Saturday 4th March. His funeral will be held on 29th March at St Mary Magdalen Church in Brockley. May they rest in peace.

Sick and Housebound

If your neighbour or anyone you know is unable to attend mass because they are in poor health, please let Fr Regis know and he will take Holy Communion to them.

Lenten Service of Reconciliation

Thursday 23rd March at 7.30pm. Confessions will be heard in English, Spanish, Polish and French.

Sharing the Word

First Reading

This is the story of how Samuel identified and anointed David as the future king of Israel. The story shows the depth of God's seeing. While people look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

Second Reading

Paul tells the Ephesians that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt a life-style in keeping with their new state. They must shun the works of darkness and live as children of the light.

Gospel

On the surface this is a story about a blind man receiving sight. But on a deeper level it is a story about a man coming to faith in Jesus. The man's journey from blindness to sight symbolises the journey from unbelief to faith, which is a journey from darkness to light, as St Paul tells his converts at Ephesus: 'Once you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.'

There is a progression in the man's understanding of who Jesus is. He begins by calling Jesus, 'a man'. Then he calls him 'a prophet'. And then finally he calls him 'the Lord'. His faith grows stronger and deeper, the more he is called to defend it. Jesus the light of the world does not only give sight to the physically blind, but he also gives light of faith to the spiritually blind. And while the blind man opens more and more to the light, the Pharisees, who are physically sighted, become more and more spiritually blind. And as the blind man got sight by washing in the pool of Siloam, so we are enlightened by washing in the waters of baptism.

Easter Flowers

It is customary in this parish to make donations for the flowers and decorations for the Church at Easter in memory of the 'faithful departed'. The 09.30am Mass on Sunday 7th May is dedicated to them. Please mark your envelope "Easter Flowers", and write the name (s) of those being remembered in block capitals. Please post your envelope at the parish house.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022-23

We meet in the hall on Sun 19th Mar at 10am for, Chapter 10: Body of Christ.

Confirmation Programme 2022-23

We meet in the parish house on Sat 25th Mar at 5pm for, Session Ten: Confirmation.

Join CAFOD on the Lenten Journey 2023

CAFOD invites you to join them as we seek to make space and time to draw closer to God and our global family through reflection and prayer this Lent. Each day in their emails they will share a reflection on one of the readings of the day, stories of our global family, a prayer and a suggested action you might like to take as we prepare for Easter. Join us on this journey by signing up for the daily emails: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>.

Catholic Union Survey

An inquiry has been launched by the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights into human rights at work and we need your help to respond. We would be grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete our survey on religion in the workplace. https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/03/catholic-union-launches-religion-in-the-workplace-survey/?mc_cid=03976f0be3&mc_eid=c4a36288e2

Poor Parishes

Our collection this week is for the poor parishes, formerly, the Needs of the Diocese collection, which enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese. Gift Aiders, for those contributing towards this collection please use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please provide your gift aid number on the envelope. If you need to know your gift aid number please either email us or telephone the parish house. Thank you.

Last Week

Offertory: Gift Aided: 146, Not Gift Aided: £373

Mass Count: Sat (51), Sun 09.30 (96), 11.00 (92)

Second Collection

Last week: NONE

This week: POOR PARISHES (GIFT AID)

Next Week: NONE

Donate

Gift Aid: Tax payers, please sign up, so we can claim 25p for every £1 donated. Email Treasurer for details.

Card: Card Machine in Church Foyer or www.olspn.church

Standing Order: Email Treasurer for details.

Cheque: Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

Contact

David Simpson, Treasurer: sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

Steven Pearce, Secretary: weekdays 9^{am}-12^{noon}

sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

Margaret Doherty, Catholic Club: 07930 889632