

## 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Mass book: p164

Preface: The Man Born Blind p72

Eucharistic Prayer: II p24

9.30am	Hymns are on the back of this Newsletter.		
11am	<b>Gathering:</b> 475 <b>Gloria:</b> Nil Gloria <b>Sanctus:</b> 576 <b>Post-Communion:</b> The Lord is my Shepherd	<b>Entrance:</b> 883 <b>Gospel Accl.:</b> 200 <b>Memorial Accl.:</b> Save us Saviour <b>Final:</b> 341	<b>Kyrie:</b> Lord have mercy... <b>Offertory:</b> 749 <b>Communion:</b> 433

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

### Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 14	18:30	First Mass of Sunday Alan Mode RIP
Sun 15	09.30	✠ <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</b> Patrick Travers - Well Being
	11.00	Kofi Agyeman - Dwommoh RIP
Mon 16	09.30	Philomena Antony - Birthday Blessings Rosary
Tue 17	09.30	Cardinal Arthur Hinsley RIP Rosary
Wed 18	09.30	Angela Mc Carvell - Get Well Rosary
Thu 19	09.30	Josephine & Albert Lowell RIP Rosary
	12:00	Wedding of James Scannell & Barbara Neri
Fri 20	09.30	Esther Constatino RIP Exposition
	19:00	Stations of the Cross
Sat 21	09.30	Vivian Ball RIP
	18:30	First Mass of Sunday Margaret Loftus RIP
Sun 22	09.30	✠ <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</b> Samuel Lowell RIP
	11.00	Divine Mercy Intention
	12:30	Baptism of Uchekukwu Eze, Sobechukwu Eze, and Chukwuebuka Linus-Urewuji.



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

### Prayer Requests

If you request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish Newsletter. Please send an email to: [gregoryackron@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:gregoryackron@rcaos.org.uk).

### Please Pray for the wellbeing of:

Geoff Brady, Margaret Ann Baker, Henry & Philomena Hutcheon, Nkechi Roberts, Germani Vemalaragni, Steven Pearce, Carol Bonehill, Kamila Silke, Elizabeth De Masi, Matilda Ogutu, Irene Clarke, Denise Sullivan, Bridget Carberry, Pat Travers.

### Please Pray for those who have died recently:

Ann Maria Jalees, Sam Lowell, Tony Rawsthorne, Adam Taylor, Iris Scott, Heather Browne, Sally Kennedy, John McSweeney, John Kennedy (Esther Bell's brother), Kathleen Edkins.

### Sick & Housebound

If your neighbour or anyone you know is unable to attend Mass because of poor health, please inform Fr Gregory and he will take them Holy Communion.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7.00pm.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Lent there will be confessions before and after all Masses, except on Sunday.

## 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. A mass will be said after Easter dedicated to them.

Please mark your envelopes "Easter Flowers" and write the name(s) of those being remembered in block capitals.

Please post your envelope at the parish house.

## Catholic Women Praying Together (CWPT)

Join CWPT Group at Our Lady & St. Philp Neri Church every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month, after 11am Mass. See you all there.

## Sydenham Catholic Social Club

Just nearby in Watlington Grove - 2 minutes walk.

Available for hire at weekends, during the week for celebrations, funerals, any special occasions or business use.

Call Mags on 07930 889632

The Club opens for drinks and socialising with friends at weekends. Come and join us on Fridays at 7-11pm, Saturdays 4pm to 12.00am (live music) and Sundays 12.00 noon - 11pm.

## Gift Aiders

When you use Gift Aid envelopes for first, special and second collections, you must write your Gift Aid number on the envelope. There is a supply of envelopes at the back of the church.

If you have forgotten your number, please email the treasurer on [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

## Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

The Holy Week Rota is now available in the church porch for those who have not received it by email.

## SDC Bible Study Meetings

Join us for our weekly SDC Bible group meetings on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. These are hybrid meetings so some join online on ZOOM while others meet in person at the SDC House at 38 Ryefield Road, Upper Norwood SE19 3QU. Meetings include reflections, readings and prayer. The main focus this year will be on the theme of the BIBLE TIMELINE.

To join us online go to the Zoom website at [pwa.zoom.us/jc](https://pwa.zoom.us/jc) and enter the Zoom ID: 4454292726.

All are welcome. For more information email us at [sdcmmeetings@gmail.com](mailto:sdcmmeetings@gmail.com)

## Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

I warmly invite you to join me on this year's SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026 A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers.

Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/>

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026>

For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) or Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk))

or myself, Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

## Poor Parishes

Next week's second collection will be for the poor parishes in the diocese which enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

## Church Toilets

Please **DO NOT** flush nappies, baby wipes, and ladies hygiene products down the toilet. Instead please place these items in the white bin. Thank you.

The only thing allowed is toilet paper. Anything else causes blockages which puts the toilets out of action.

Thank you

Last Week	Average Week Standing Orders £406		
<i>Offertory:</i>	Gift Aided: £152	Not Gift Aided: £462	
<i>Mass Count:</i>	Sat (45)	Sun 09.30 (75)	11.00 (127)

## Second Collection

<i>Last week:</i>	None
<i>This week:</i>	Parish Development Fund
<i>Next Week:</i>	Poor Parishes

## Donate

*Gift Aid:* Tax payers, please sign up, using the white envelopes at the back of the church, so we can claim 25p for every £1 donated.

*Card:* Card Machine in Church Foyer or [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

*Standing Order:* Email Treasurer for details.

*Cheque:* Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

## Contact

<i>David Simpson</i>	Treasurer: <a href="mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk">sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk</a>
<i>Steven Pearce</i>	Secretary: Working from Home <a href="mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk">sydenham@rcaos.org.uk</a>
<i>Margaret Doherty</i>	Catholic Club: 07930 889632

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COLLECT**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*Amen*

**FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 22**

**R. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul.
2. He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort .
3. You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.

**SECOND READING – Ephesians 5:8-14**

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

**GOSPEL – John 9:1-41**

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

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Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*