



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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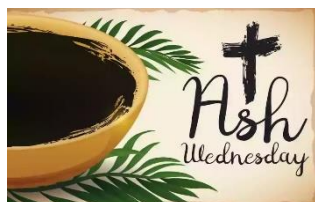
2 nd March 2025 Psalter Week 4		Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time~ Year C	
First Reading	Book of Sirach 27:4-7 <i>Do not praise a man before you hear him reason.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58 <i>He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 6:39-45 <i>Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.</i>		
Saturday 1 st March +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 2 nd March +		10.30am	Mass – (Kathleen Mullan RIP)
Monday 3 rd March <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Lynda Ferguson RIP)
Tuesday 4 th March St Casimir		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Lucille Joan Raven RIP)
THE SEASON OF LENT			
Wednesday 5 th March ASH WEDNESDAY		9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Ben Pilcher Ints.) Mass (Fr Michael Griffiths RIP)
Thursday 6 th March <i>Lent Feria</i>		6.45pm	Mass (Pope Francis – Recovery)
Friday – 7 th March <i>Lent Feria</i>		10.30am 2.30pm	Requiem Mass – Terence Cockings RIP Stations of the Cross
Saturday – 8 th March <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am	Mass – (Pope Francis – Recovery)
First Sunday of Lent - Year C			
Saturday – 8 th March +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 9 th March +		10.30am	Mass – (David, Stephen, & Adam Coleman RIP)

"Lent is a time of truth. Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves." —**St. John Paul II**

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £411.10
- Digital Collection Plate: £40.00
- Standing Orders of £507.00
- TOTAL: £958.10

This weekend we welcome Sr Asmeret who is visiting the parish on behalf of the Comboni Sisters



Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 5th March. As is usual, Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at **10am and 7pm** with the distribution of ashes at both Masses. Whilst not a Holy Day of Obligation it remains a most fitting way to begin our Lenten Journey.



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Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each **Friday** afternoon at **2.30pm** here at Our Lady's – please do come if you can.



First Thursday Club - The First Thursday Discussion Club meets **this coming Thursday**, at **7.30pm**, after Mass at 6.45pm. Veronica Tarrant and fellow members of our parish St Vincent de Paul Society will talk on the history of the SVP and the work that we do both locally and internationally in their services in the light of the Parables. We very much hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY AND SOUP LUNCH

CAFOD Family Fast Day is **Friday 14th March**. Envelopes will be given out at Masses 8/9 March and we ask you to return them the weekend of 15/16 March. This year we have also a Lenten Soup Lunch - Welcome back! A list has been placed at the back of the Church. Please sign up to confirm you will be joining us.

Parish CAFOD Support Group.



Seminars on the Holy Spirit – our parish is truly blessed to have the Sisters of the DHS as part of our parish family to inspire and guide us. During Lent we are most fortunate to have Sr Josephine Walsh, DHS leading Seminars on the Holy Spirit. All the seminars will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm – 8.45pm in the parish hall** on the following dates:

- 4th March – God's Love
- 11th March – Salvation
- 18th March – New Life
- 25th March – Growth/Repentance
- 1st April – Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- 8th April – Transformation into Christ

All are most welcome to sing, praise, thank God and experience new life in the Holy Spirit.



Gardening Club

Parish Gardening Club – There are many ways in which you can become involved in looking after and developing the parish garden. From planting seeds, bulbs, or plants in pots; tubs or the garden itself to helping to keep the grass mown - a lawn mower etc will be available all that is needed are willing volunteers to sign up please. A list is available at the back of the church. We are hoping to encourage our young parishioners to also get involved – watch this space! The parish remains very grateful to Denise who has kept the garden in good order for the last four years and we hope to build on her work.

Weekly Tip from a Parish Gardener: 'Check garden equipment, and have a clear out of old chemicals – dispose of them carefully!'



Car Parking – as you will all be very aware, there is limited car parking in front of the church which can cause problems when attending Mass at the weekend and other special occasions. The Sisters have very kindly given permission for parishioners to park within the Convent grounds but politely ask that when doing so you do not block them in or cause obstruction for their visitors. It is suggested that we only use the car park at the front of the Convent. At weekends we can also avail ourselves of the car park at the Cobbs Garden Surgery, West Street. Thank you for your consideration.

Old Missals - Do you have any of the old Sunday/Weekday Missals at home? Have you purchased a new Missal and you simply don't know what to do with your old one? Well, help is at hand! If you wish to donate your old Missal(s) we can arrange to send them to St Agatha's Parish in Zambia, where they still use the Jerusalem Bible translation of the Scriptures, in use in the UK until last Advent. Please leave any old Missals in the box in the porch.

Eighth Sunday of the Year – Scripture Reflections

From Fr Biju's desk... Jesus draws our attention to practical points of Christian living and challenges us to use our words as he used his in his preaching and healing ministry; to heal, to restore, and to bring back life, joy, and hope. Today's readings also instruct us to share our Christian life, love, and spiritual health by our words, and to avoid gossiping about and passing rash, thoughtless, pain-inflicting judgments on others, thus damaging their good reputation and causing irreparable harm.

The First Reading from the Book of Sirach teaches that what is inside us is revealed through our conversation — as the grain and husks are separated in a farmer's sieve, as the quality of the newly formed clay pot is revealed in the potter's fire, and as the size and quality of a tree's fruit reveal the care it has received from the planter. reveals our hearts.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 92) advises us to spend our time praising and thanking God for all His blessings.

The Second Reading - St. Paul advises the Corinthian Christians *"to be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain,"* instead of wasting time on useless and sinful conversations, which bring punishment instead of the victory of resurrection and eternal reward.

In today's Gospel passage, taken from the Sermon on the Plain given in Luke's Gospel, Jesus condemns our careless, malicious, and rash judgments about the behaviour, feelings, motives, or actions of others by using the funny examples of one blind man leading another blind man and one man with a log stuck in his eye, trying to remove a tiny speck from another's eye.

We should avoid judging others because no one except God is good enough to judge others. Only God sees the whole truth, only He can read the human heart. Hence, only He has the ability, right, and authority to judge. Again, we do not see all the facts or circumstances or the power of the temptation which has led a person to do something evil. Therefore, we have no right to judge because we have the same faults as the one, we are judging and often to a greater degree (remember Jesus' funny example of a man with a log in his eye trying to remove the dust particle from another's eye?)

St. Philip Neri commented, watching the misbehaviour of a drunkard: *"There goes Philip but for the grace of God."* Let us remember the warning of saints: **"When you point one finger of accusation at another, three of your fingers point at you."**

IF GOD LOVES YOU
AND FORGIVES
ALL YOUR MISTAKES,
WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE
AND FORGIVE
YOURSELF?

With our love and prayers, Fr Biju, and Deacon Peter