



St. Erconwald's Parish Newsletter

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PARISH HALL LETS: Contact Elizabeth Patten on wembley3@rcdow.org.uk.

OFFICE: By Appointment.



FIRST OF LENT, YEAR A

22ND FEBRUARY, 2026

THEME: Forty Days to Easter



On this first Sunday of Lent we have just begun our journey of forty days to Easter. We are the people of the forty days: the people of God in the Old Testament needed forty years in the desert to grow through their trials and mistakes into the People of God ready for the Promised land. Jesus spent forty days in the desert in fasting and prayer to prepare himself to make his choice to be the kind of Messiah God wanted. We today are given our forty days, too, to re-examine ourselves before God whether we want to be and are the kind of Christians God wants us to be. We look up to Jesus to see if with him and by his power we are willing to reject the temptations that try to divert us from the task God has given us.

MEDITATE: Jesus went into the desert and was tempted.

ACT: Spend time each day in your own desert of quiet time to pray for insight. Reflect on the temptations that come to you most frequently.

Each Friday we recall the events of Good Friday by fasting in some way.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

The next session for parents and children will be on **Saturday 28th February** at 10.30am in the Parish Hall.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: BACON & CABBAGE/IRISH STEW **SUNDAY 15th MARCH**



Doors open at 12.30pm. Food will be served from 12.45pm – 2.00pm. After lunch there will be entertainment by George Harte, and a raffle with some fantastic prizes. Tickets: Adults: £20; Senior: £15; Children: £10; Family Special [2 Adults & 2 Children]: £45. Children need to be accompanied by parent/guardian for the duration of the event. Please choose from Stew or the Bacon & Cabbage Meal. The ticket you purchase

will reflect your choice and it will be exchanged for the meal you have chosen on the day. *In aid of the Church Restoration Fund.* Tickets on sale after Mass

LIVE STREAMING 24/7 - FOR YOUR AWARENESS

The sanctuary area is continuously monitored via a 24/7 livestream, serving as a focal point for prayer and contemplation for congregants who are at home. Please be aware that if you are present in this area, your image and actions will be captured on the livestream.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS IF VISITING ST. ERCONWALD'S

There is a School Street in operation in our area from 8am - 9am and 2.30pm - 4pm. If you enter the following streets Carlton Ave. East, Elmstead Ave. and Princess Ave. during these times, you will receive a fine from the Council.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY



This Lent, you can answer Christ's call to love your neighbour by supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day, helping families in countries like Bangladesh and South Sudan grow food in floating gardens to survive floods, and in places like Zimbabwe use solar-powered pumps to grow crops despite drought. By eating simply and giving generously this Fast Day, you'll help more families put food on the table. Envelopes are available at both entrances to the Church.

"The Chameleons" - Radio Times - Sixty Years Young!

Join us for the start of our Diamond Anniversary Celebrations! For one night only – **Saturday 28th February at 8.00pm** - The Chameleons kick off our 60th year with a very special event at St Erconwald's Church Hall, Wembley. It's a joyful, creative celebration of six decades of performing, featuring a lively mix of scenes, songs, sketches, and surprise moments inspired by our rich and varied history. With live music adding to the atmosphere, this promises a warm, funny, and nostalgic evening celebrating 60 years of theatre. All tickets are £9.00 with unallocated seating, on site parking and a Licensed Bar. 12+ Parental Discretion advised. For details please visit: www.thechameleons.co.uk



MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm.

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the parish office by the **weekend of 11th/12th April**, with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email).

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

For children with incurable diseases.



Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

SEASON OF LENT - WE DARE TO ASK

During this season, the Church calls us to fasting and abstinence; to works of self-denial; to personal and communal worship, and to reach out to those who are less fortunate than us.



Stations of the Cross: Weekdays [except Thursdays and Saturdays] at 9.15am. Friday evening at 6.30pm followed by Mass.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass. During the exposition we will follow the booklet "We Dare to Ask" There will be Benediction at 11.00am.

Rite of Penance: Every Saturday between 4.30pm and 5.00pm.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION WITH ABSOLUTION Friday 27th March at 7.00pm.

LENTEN APPEAL 2026: Helps fund vital projects across our Diocese, including: Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Education. Donation box and envelopes are available on the display by the Blessed Sacrament. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. [Please do **not** use the Card Readers in Church]. Thank you for your generosity.



LAURENCE'S LARDER: Please leave your donations in the boxes provided by the Lady Chapel. Thank you for your donations.



REPOSITORY: A selection of Lenten Books, Statues, various sizes, Rosaries, Crosses, Cards for all occasions. If you require assistance please ask any of the Repository helpers.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Tuesday 10th March at 11.00am. Followed by soup and rolls.
[This Mass is for everyone especially the sick and the elderly
There will be **NO** 9.30am Mass]

WE DARE TO ASK

As we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter, we are asked to explore the depth of what baptism truly means. During Lent there will be a series of talks looking at ways of living our baptism, reflecting more on the fact that we are baptized and called to grow daily in becoming more like Christ as we journey towards our heavenly Father. The Lenten Talks will take place on **Wednesday evening 7.00 – 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.** All are welcome.

QR CODE

Don't use cash? Prefer to make your offering by phone?
Scan the QR code with your smartphone.

[If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



CHURCH CLEANING

If you have any spare time please do come along and join us after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesday mornings to help clean God's House.

LITURGY FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT - Psalter Week 1

All services can be followed online: <https://www.churchservices.tv/wembley3>

Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.00am/11.30am Masses are recorded

[Licensing Permission: One Licence: A - 735446; CCLI: 1698960]

Sunday 22nd February: 1st of Lent, Year A [10.00am/11.30am] **Readings:** 1st

Reading: Genesis 2.7-9,3.1-7; Psalm: 51; 2nd Reading: Romans 5.12-19; Gospel: Matthew 4.1-11. **Intention:** 10.00am: Mary Foster [RIP, A]

11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 23rd February: Lent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Leviticus 19.1-2,11-18; Psalm: 18; Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46. **Intention:** Jimmy Rowlette [RIP]

Tuesday 24th February: Lent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm: 33; Gospel: Matthew 6.7-15. **Intention:** Terry Lonergan [RIP]

Wednesday 25th February: Lent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Jonah 3.1-10; Psalm: 50; Gospel: Luke 11.29-32. **Intention:** 9.30am: Robbie Sullivan [RIP]. **Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament , Reflection and Benediction at 11.00am.**

Thursday 26th February **NO SERVICE**

Friday 27th February: Lent Feria CAFOD Lent Fast Day [9.30am/6.30pm]

Readings: 1st Reading: Ezekiel 18.21-28; Psalm: 129; Gospel: Matthew 5.20-26. **Intention:** Fred Gwyther [RIP]

6.30pm: Meditative Stations of the Cross. Followed by Mass. Intention: Special Intention.

Saturday 28th February: 2nd of Lent, Year A [5.30pm] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Genesis 12.1-4; Psalm: 33; 2nd Reading: 2Timothy 1.8-10; Gospel: Matthew 17.1-9. **Intention:** People of the Parish.

Sunday 1st March: 2nd of Lent, Year A [10.00am/11.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Genesis 12.1-4; Psalm: 33; 2nd Reading: 2Timothy 1.8-10; Gospel: Matthew 17.1-9. **Intention:** 10.00am: Mary and Richard Govan [RIP, A]
11.30am: Teresa Cummins [RIP]

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - [for those who have asked to be remembered]



We keep in our thoughts and prayers: Angela Tora, Claudette Roby, Magdalene Davis, Sue McGovern, Cathy Singer, Martin Geary, Susan Bradley, Radwan Naffa, and Yves Remedios.

We remember also those in Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and Brook House.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

[based on a prayer of St Alphonus Liguori]