

CALLED TO SERVE THE SICK



Sickness and the pain of illness are part of our lives. It could be the actual pain; or the frustration of not being able to do what we used to do; or the experience of having to rely on other people.

We all react differently. One way is to see ourselves walking the same path as Jesus. We can try to be one with him in our heart and mind. Indeed, with encouragement we can truly offer up our suffering to our heavenly Father, in union with Jesus, for all the needs of the world. That really brings home the point and power of our morning offering each day!

Support:

Mass with Anointing of the Sick: WEDNESDAY 13th March at 11.00am. Followed by soup and rolls. [This Mass is for everyone especially the sick and elderly]

- ◆ During Lent Fr. Anthony will be visiting the sick and housebound. If you, or if you know of anyone who is in need of a visit, please contact Fr. Anthony or the Parish Office.
- ◆ If you are a carer looking after family suffering with Dementia [including Alzheimer's] the Wembley Dementia Carers Support Group meet in the Parish Hall alternate Mondays from 1.00pm - 3.00pm For further information please contact Frank Arrojo on 07867 903917 (email frankj.arrojo@gmail.com).

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

In the light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also state that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.

PRAYER



Lord God, open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. Give us a deep love for you that we might see your love at work in this world, and that we might go and do likewise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LENTEN SEASON



Lent is a special time for us Christians. A time of grace, of conversion, of renewal and of healing through prayer, penance and alms giving. During this season we are invited 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.

PRAYER

Through prayer we show our need of God, and that we believe in His power. Prayer means saying: "I am not self-sufficient, I need you, You are my life and my salvation." When praying we present ourselves before God, who knows our needs and is full of love towards us, and our relationship with Him [and with one another] grows.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday: 9.30am; Friday: 9.30am and 7.00pm.

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; 9.00am and 11.30am [family]

Stations of the Cross: Weekdays [except Thursdays and Saturdays] at 9.00am. Friday evening after the 7.00pm Mass.

Rosary: Weekdays after the morning Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after 9.30am Mass. This is an opportunity to pray and reflect in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. During the exposition we will be reflecting on the theme "Rejoice and Be Glad". There will be Benediction at 11.00am.



St. Erconwald's Church

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A LENTEN JOURNEY "No one Beyond Reach"

AN INVITATION AND WELCOME.

A very warm welcome.



We are delighted to offer you this free leaflet which we hope you will find interesting and helpful.

During our Lenten journey we ask ourselves: "What is God's will for us?" So, let us use this Lent and pray that we may become more aware of God's plan for us.

The theme for our reflection this year is "No One Beyond Reach".

Week 1 "The temptations of Jesus" [Luke 4. 1-13]: Sin and what it means for me and for society.

Week 2 "The Transfiguration" [Luke 9. 28-36]: Hope for the future

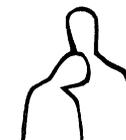
Week 3: "The Tower at Siloam" [Luke 13.1-9]/"The Samaritan Woman" [John 4. 5-42]: Being open to the new and the unexpected [judging others]

Week 4: "The Prodigal Son" [Luke 15. 1-32]/"The Man born blind" [John 9. 1-41]: Different ways and choices [ability/inability to respond].

Week 5: "The Woman caught in Adultery" [John 8. 1-11]/"The Raising of Lazarus" [John 11. 1-45]: Redemption and Salvation [God's grace transforming our lives].

Outlined in this leaflet are some opportunities that are offered during this Lent in our parish of St. Erconwald and also in the Diocese of Westminster.

Thank you for your support and have a good Lent.



ALMS-GIVING

Lent Fast Day: Friday 15th March

CAFOD "No One Beyond Reach" is the theme of this year's Fast Day. Will you do something amazing this Lent Fast Day? This Lent you can live simply so that others can simply live. Please visit www.cafod.org.uk/lent

St. Laurence's Larder and Open Kitchen [Christ Church, Brondesbury NW6]

Supporting single men/women who are Homeless, Living in B&Bs or Housed Hostels. Offers a twice weekly three course meal [Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11.30am—3.00pm]. Each guest is also offered a take away evening meal. For more information contact: Stephen: stepspc@mac.com



THE PASSAGE

THE PASSAGE Our mission is to provide resources which encourage, inspire and challenge homeless people to transform their lives. Visit: www.passage.org.uk

Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal:

Helps in the evangelization and formation among young people; promotion and strengthening of marriage and family life and our service within society. For more information please visit www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

Caritas:

Has a service to support and develop volunteering in the diocese. Please visit the website www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer where you can find a role for you. Alternatively contact us directly by emailing caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk or by telephone 0207 798 9063 or 077 3818 3833.



FASTING AND ABSTINANCE

Ash Wednesday [6th March] and **Good Friday [19th April]** are days of fasting and abstinence. On these days the Church asks us to abstain completely from eating meat and enter into the mystery of Christ's passion and death by fasting. **Each Friday** throughout the year, we recall the events of Good Friday by fasting in some way.



WORKS OF MERCY

are practices which Christians perform as an act of both penance and charity.

Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences,

Suggestion: Either commit to memory the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, or read more fully the teachings of a Saint renowned for mercy. Use these as an inspiration for your own life of mercy.

REPOSITORY

We have a wonderful selection of books, booklets and leaflets available in the Repository. Chief amongst these "The Bible", children's and adults. "Stations of the Cross" and "Rosary books" and many Lenten Books. Perhaps you might consider purchasing a Catholic Newspaper "The Universe" or a monthly magazine such as "The Sacred Heart Messenger" or "St. Martin". Please feel free to come and have a browse or consult our staff about your requirements.

All holy Father, you have shown us your mercy
and made us a new creation in the likeness of your Son.

Make us living signs of your love

for the whole world to see.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF MERCY

Lent is a time when we examine the way we live, look beyond the surface and see once more God's presence in the world.



Pope Francis has spoken of the story of a sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. "Thanks to Jesus" he said, "God threw her many sins over his shoulder and remembers them no more. That is because this is true: when God forgives, he forgets."

"Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life. Every page of the Gospel is marked by this imperative of a love that loves to the point of forgiveness. Even at the last moment of his earthly life, as he was being nailed to the cross, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). {MM2}

We are all sinners. But God offers us unconditional love: love that we cannot earn, or buy, only receive. God wants us to be free of whatever weighs us down, whatever mistakes or wrong judgements we have made, whatever holds us back from loving ourselves and others with open and generous hearts.

RITE OF PENANCE



Saturday between 4.30pm and 5.00pm.

Service of Reconciliation with Absolution: Friday 12th April at 7.00pm.

It will be good if everyone received the Sacrament in this season of lent



The Catholic Church is made up of saints and sinners. We are called to be holy, but are part of a broken family, made up of fragile human beings who are trying to be good and more Christ-like. You and your story can help us to do this. The Church always needs renewal. Your contribution is very valuable as are your God-given gifts, and we are incomplete without them.