

Fourth Sunday in Lent - 19 March 2023

Thought for the Week

'Rejoice Jerusalem' are the first two words of this weekend's entrance antiphon; rejoice in Latin, *Laetare*, gives the day its traditional name 'Laetare Sunday' - somehow 'Rejoice Sunday' doesn't seem to have quite the same ring to it! We are halfway through Lent, and, for a day, the deep purple of the vestments changes to rose (or pink); there is a sense of relaxation and hope before the second part of Lent and the approaching solemnity of Holy Week, Christ's Passion and death.

The readings are encouraging, with hints and echoes of the baptism and confirmation which our RCIA Catechumens and Candidates will celebrate at Easter; David is called from caring for his sheep to be anointed with oil and the spirit of the Lord stays with him; the psalm reminds each one of us that 'the Lord is my shepherd' and 'near restful water he leads me', and a blind man is cured when he washes off the paste of spittle and dust applied to his eyes by Jesus, in the waters of the Pool of Siloam.

The water washes away the darkness of the man's blindness as Jesus brings light into the world; in the words of St Paul, we as Christians, are 'children of light.' The light that the blind man saw for the first time since birth was not only that of the sun which warmed him and us but also that of Jesus who announces himself as the 'light of the word'; a light symbolised by the Paschal candle - the 'light of Christ' - lit on Easter night and for every baptism.

We hear of eyes opening to see clearly for the first time and we also hear of Christ's compassion and love, first in curing the blind man but also when Jesus returns to him when the blind man and his parents have been treated harshly by the Pharisees. On occasion we are challenged as to where Christ is in our own time; surely it is in each one of our acts of compassion and love in his name by which we allow his light to pierce the darkness of today, something for which we can truly rejoice.

Stephen Patterson

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Friday from 10:00 - 16:00. All welcome.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's:

Saturdays: 11:00 - 11:30 and 17:30 - 18:00.

Tuesdays: 18:00 - 18:30

The Rosary

The Rosary is prayed after the 12:00 Mass each Friday, please join us.

Mass Times + Intentions 18 - 26 March

Sat 18	18:00	Sr Teresa Keogh - RIP
Sun 19	09:30	Bill Johnston - RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	People of the Parish
Mon 20	10:00	Mary Hanranhan - RIP
Tues 21	18:30	In Thanksgiving to Jesus
Wed 22	10:30	Patrick Sharkey - RIP - Funeral
Thur 23	09:00	Francis Holland - INT
Fri 24	12:00	Karl Franziska Ehrhart - RIP
Sat 25	18:00	Patrick McCoy - RIP
Sun 26	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Stephen Bowley - RIP

Parish Diary 18 - 26 March

Sat 18	10:00	First Holy Communion Prep - Church
	10:00	Talk on The Easter Triduum by Dr Judith Thomas St Mark's
	11:00	Meeting for Catechists - P/C
Sun 19	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	15:00	Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Mon 20	18.30	Catenians - P/C
Tue 21	10.30	UCM Meeting - P/C
	12:30	Windsor Christian Action - Interviews - P/C
	18.30	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	19:15	Alpha Reunion & RCIA Session on Prayer - P/C
Wed 22	09:30	Morning Prayer
	17:30	Mini Vinnies P/C
Thur 23	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	13:00	Mass Readings Explained - P/C
Fri 24	12:30	Soup Friday - Lenten Lunches - P/C
	18:30	Stations of the Cross - Church
Sat 25	14:30	Mother and Toddler - P/C
Sun 26		NO - Parish Tea & Coffee today
	12:00	Blessing of Rings at 11:00 Mass, followed by Marriage Prep and Lunch - P/C
	15:00	Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Fr David's Diary

Mon 20	13:00	Visit to Mill Hill Fathers
Thur 23	11:00	Deans and Co-ordinating Priests Meeting
	17:30	First School Governors
Fri 25	10:00	Leadership Team

Offertory

S/O - DD £ 1,848.08 Envelopes £387.15 Loose £636.91
CAFOD Lenten Alms - £346.46

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

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Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

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Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

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Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

LENT

Soup Friday / Lenten Lunches

Each Friday during Lent, soup will be served in the Parish Centre after the 12:00 Mass

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday from 24 February, at 18:30 at St Edward's

Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Each Sunday at 15:00 during Lent from 26 February, at St Edward's

Penitential Service

This will take place at St Edward's on Saturday 1 April at 10:00.

Please see poster at back of church for details.

CAFOD Family Fast Date – Lent Appeal

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, such as the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

The Easter Triduum

Talk by Dr Judith Thomas will be giving a talk at **St Mark's Church, Dedworth, on Saturday 18 March at 10:00.**

For Lent Help the Missionary Work of the Church

As we start Spring (*and spring cleaning!*), perhaps you will come across old and/or foreign coins buried in a drawer. Please drop them (*it doesn't matter if it is a small or large amount*) into the Parish Office, and Vic Mullan will be delighted to receive them (*or arrange collection*). During the 6 weeks of Lent, please make an effort to dig these out and the amount exchanged for these after Easter, will be sent off to assist the missionary work of the Church. Thank you.

Clergy Assistance Fund

Our Second Collection on Sunday 19 March is for the Clergy Assistance Fund, which resources the invaluable work of the Department for Clergy Team. The team of four is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, from the early days of ordination all the way into retirement. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses, and sabbaticals. It is the principal mechanism through which the Bishop looks after the wellbeing of the clergy. If you would like to give a gift to this collection, parishioners can donate using their gift aid envelopes or online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2023>.

This collection will close on 4 April. Thank you for your support.

Windsor Catenians

The Catenians wanted to draw to your attention to **The Catenian Bursary Fund**. This fund provides financial assistance to young people (between the ages of 16 & 24) via grants, to enable them to volunteer on projects - for example - as helpers at Lourdes or any project worldwide, directed at helping others. Further details can be found at www.theCatenians.com/bursary Or from mikewyldwyld@aol.com or 07908 343105. Membership enquiries can be obtained from either Mike Wyld or Philip Reynolds philipreynolds0606@gmail.com 07831 365908

Gift Aid Envelopes

Those of you who use weekly or special collection envelopes, these will be available at the back of both churches over the next couple of weekends.

Youth Updates

<https://www.lisboa2023.org/en>



Youth Leadership Team Update

The Youth Leadership team have a meeting once every 6 weeks. During our last meeting fundraising ideas for WYD were discussed along with some ideas on things that they could do with the younger children in the Parish. The Youth Leadership have also extended an invitation to host the World Youth Day group in our parish in May. Please pray for our Youth Leaders and for success in all they try to grow in our parish.

Fundraising Update

On 4 April 2023 George Williams, one of our WYD attendees and his father will take on the challenge of cycling from Old Windsor to Congresbury in North Somerset. If you would like to sponsor George's challenge, please do so at

<https://gofund.me/f39e9e9a>

If you cannot access this link for any reason please contact

youthcoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Please keep the four young people attending WYD in your prayers and look out for future fundraising events between now and July.

Confirmation 2023/24

Registration for Confirmation will be open from **Friday 31 March** with the first session to be held in June 2023.

Lost Property

Have you lost anything over recent months? If so, have you checked lost property? We have 4 pairs of glasses, 4 pairs of gloves and 4 umbrellas. Also, some drinks bottles, children's toys and cardigans. Please claim your now as they will be passed on to charity shops by the end of Lent.

Cheques in favour of the Parish

As a result of the change in legal status of the Diocese from Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust to an incorporated charity, the name is now **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**. Any cheques should be made payable to **CDP St Edward** or **St Edward** or **St Edward Windsor**.

UCM Meeting

Dr Judith Thomas will speak to members of UCM in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 21 March at 10:30. Her topic will be "Christian Faith in Japan". All welcome.

St Francis, Ascot

Fatima devotions - KSC Home Prayer Group pray The Rosary via Zoom from Monday - Friday at 13:30 from Monday 20 March to Friday 31 March. Please see Zoom details on www.stfrancisacot.co.uk (Password 'rosary')

Vacancies

Teaching Assistants - Level 2 & Cover Supervisor required for St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School Co-educational 9-13. More information: 01753 867809 - Vacancies@sterf.org.uk www.sterf.org.uk

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the recently departed:
Patrick Sharkey - His funeral will take place on Wednesday 22 March at 10:30 at St Edward's.

Tony Quirke - His funeral will take place on Friday 31 March at 11:30 at St Edward's.

Margaret Campbell - Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 5 April at 10:30 at St Edward's.