

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

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[Facebook Group: St Lawrences RC Church, Feltham](#)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th/19th February 2023

Year A, Volume 1 (Page 139): Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

22nd February - Ash Wednesday (Page 147): Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Sunday 25 February – First Sunday of Lent (Page 151): Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

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Deacons:

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Catechetical Co-ordinator:

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Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

Contact details as at top of page

Parish Office Hours: Monday 9.15am-12.15pm;

Tuesday & Thursday 9.15am-5.15pm.

Safeguarding Officer:

Helen Abiegb

Email: felthamsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Sisters:

Sr Nora Gorman, Sr Monica Killeen

Protecting your Privacy:

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on

www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

traidcraftshop.co.uk or Fairtrade.org.uk

Mass and other liturgies live streamed from Westminster Cathedral and other parishes are available at www.churchservices.tv

MASS TIMES

Sunday Mass: 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am

Monday to Friday Mass: 9.30am; Saturday Morning: 11.00am

Saturday Morning: Confessions: 9.30am to 10.45am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

Saturday Evening: 5.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

Ethnic Chaplaincies: Polish Mass every Sunday 1.00pm, Ukrainian

Mass 2nd Sunday 2.30pm & 4th Saturday 7.00pm; Malayalam Mass 3rd

Sunday 2.30pm; Mass in Tagalog 4th Saturday 3pm; Mass led by

Nigerian Chaplaincy 4th Sunday 2.30pm.

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699

Be perfect, be free

Who cannot be moved by court room scenes where a father forgives the killer of his son and wants to take care of him and help him turn out into a decent human being?

There is such a short clip on YouTube, the father embraces the criminal. He has gone beyond the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees

In the long Sermon on the Mount our Lord invites us to contemplate what it is to be perfect. "Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy." (Lev 19.2)

"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt 5.48)

The Sermon on the Mount builds on and completes the Old Law given to Moses. Beginning with the Beatitudes Our Lord is completing, perfecting the law.

But why be perfect? What's in it for you and me? Happiness. To be perfect is to be happy. It is to be truly yourself. As long as we are caught up in rivalry and retaliation, resentment and harbouring ill we are not happy. We are tangled up inside. We are not free. Our humanity is mangled, distorted.

The desire of the Lord is for us to be free. Being perfect then, being holy is about freedom and a freedom to love perfectly which makes us capable of participating in the kingdom of God, in God's gratuitous grace. That's the goal of our lives.

So we have to practise this freedom. We can become holy. We have to practise overcoming instincts which are contrary to the way of God's love. Repentance says: I wish I'd never been like that. I want to live in a new way.

In the examples of today's gospel, Our Lord proposes overcoming evil with radical generosity. Do the unexpected. Presenting the right cheek to be slapped would be presenting yourself for the worst kind of insult in New Testament times. Your enemy would be taken aback. A tunic was an undergarment. So if you offered your cloak as well the person would be taken aback. If you were forced to go a mile (like St Simon of Cyrene was forced) offer to go further.

So are we called to be doormats? Certainly not. Excessive goodness is often a rebuke, repudiating the evil. "Look what you are doing!", "do you really intend to be like this?"

This does not exclude legitimate self-defence and defence of the powerless, of one's family and goods.

What Our Lord is teaching us is that the New Law of his love goes way beyond what society might call common sense justice. As St Paul tells us: "...the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God."

As we approach Lent perhaps there is food for thought for all of us. Might the Lord be calling me to a deeper holiness, a freer and more generous life, a righteousness which is about love.

May God bless us all this holy season as he renews our faith in Jesus.

Fr David

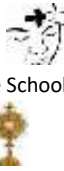
LENT 2023 AT ST LAWRENCE'S



This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from the Cardinal for Lent. Copies available at the back of church.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 22nd February Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Mass with Imposition of ashes at 9.30am (with the School), 12noon, 6pm and 7.30pm (Polish).



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed Tuesday to Friday from 8.30am-9.25am and on Monday from 8.45-9.25am., **starting Thursday 23rd February**. Also on Saturday morning from 10.00am-10.45am and Tuesday evenings from 6.00pm-6.45pm except Tuesday 21st March.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 10.00am, Saturday at 11.30pm and Wednesdays at 7.30pm (Polish).



DAILY REFLECTION BOOKLETS

My Day by Day booklets for personal daily reflection (using the daily Mass readings). Price £1.00 each. If you have not seen or used this booklet before, consider taking one for your Lenten reflection.

JOINT SERVICE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

The Women's World Day of Prayer 2023 will be held in St Michael & St Martin Church, 94 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EH on **Friday, March 3rd** at 11.00 am. Everybody is welcome to join in praying for peace in our troubled world. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

CAFOD Family Fast Day is **Friday 3rd March**, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support families around the world. This Lent, CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, 14 year old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones. Give today to help families grow in strength to adapt the climate crisis. Use the CAFOD envelope to Gift Aid your donation, which boosts your donation by 25 per cent. The QR code on the envelope is also an easy way to jump to the CAFOD website to donate online. The collection will be taken up on **Sunday 5th March**.



We also have a Coffee Morning on **5th March** after the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses which includes a Tombola stall.

Also available in the porch are some CAFOD collection boxes which you can take home and fill with your loose change during Lent. Please return any filled boxes to the presbytery by 6th April.

PASSION PLAY

There will be a play here in Church on The Passion organised by the Youth of St Michael & St Martin's Church on **Thursday 30th March at 7.00pm**. This is a free event and all are welcome/encouraged to attend.



PARISH PRAYER HOME VISIT

LENTEN ALMS – The Cardinal's Appeal

This year our Lenten Alms will go towards the Cardinal's Appeal and collections will be taken up on **Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday**. There will also be a Lenten Alms 'wall' box situated by the entrance to the sacristy. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.



CAFOD'S WALK AGAINST HUNGER LENT CHALLENGE

This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world as they overcome poverty. To find out more or take part, go to: walk.cafod.org.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 18	11.00am 5.00pm	Joe Viegas RIP Deceased members of the Furtado Family RIP
* Sun 19	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Ivy Venables RIP and her Family Jeremiah Gorman RIP Patrick Maple RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw) Mass in Malaylam
Mon 20	8.15am 9.30am	Mary Olinda D'Lima RIP (1st Ann.) Jewela D'Souza In Thanksgiving
Tues 21	9.30am 7.00pm	Lily Coutinho RIP Michael O'Keeffe RIP
Wed 22	9.30am 12noon 7.00pm 8.00pm	John Hanlon RIP (with School) In Thanksgiving – Hope Mendes Meranchi Galappathi John Hanlon RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw)
Thurs 23	9.30am	Josie O'Keeffe RIP REQUIEM MASS – SEÁN TOMPKINS RIP
Fri 24	9.30am	Janet Danladi In Thanksgiving
Sat 25	11.00am 5.00pm	Karen Puddle (Intention) Michael O'Keeffe RIP
* Sun 26	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Sebastiana Rato RIP Vitor Manuel Elias RIP Glenda & Daniel Fernandes (Personal Intentions) Mass in Polish (Msza sw) Mass led by the African Chaplaincy
Sanctuary Lamp: Louis G D'Souza RIP		

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of Khang Duc Nguyen RIP, John Hanlon RIP, Seán Tompkins RIP, Patrick Ellis RIP and Agnes Windsor (nee Nicol) RIP who have passed away recently.

Seán Tompkins RIP – His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Thursday 23rd February** at 11.00am.

Khang Duc Nguyen RIP – His Requiem Mass will take place here on **Tuesday 28th February** at 10.45am.

We also keep in our prayers all the family and friends who mourn them. May they rest in eternal peace.

OVER 50'S GROUP

The group are taking a break on Wednesday 22nd February, resume 1 Mar.

REPOSITORY

We thank those who have volunteered to look after the Repository which will be open after the weekend Masses from 26th February. Saturday 5pm – Patti Owen, Sunday 8am – Annie Burke, 9.30am – Victor Fernandes, 11am – Maria Wolanska and Delilah Fernandes. Weekdays: John/Clifton/Florie.

ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL APPEAL

There will be a retiring collection at all Masses this weekend for the new classrooms on 18/19 February. There are copies of the leaflet at the back of Church giving more details.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 27th February to Sunday 12th March. Please look out for goods displaying the Fairtrade logo in local shops and supermarkets

FLOWERS

DO NOT bring in flowers to decorate the altar or any of the statues or the side altars during Lent.

HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING – A WEEKEND FOR THE WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED from 21 – 23 April 2023 at The Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX. Beginning Experience is a ministry to the widowed, separated and divorced led by a team of trained volunteers. Their work is carried out at special weekend gatherings which encourage participants to deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. For further details please contact Freda: 01322 838415, Maura: 07795 498455 or besouthofengland@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

11-12 February 2023

Loose: £1,229.03 Envelopes: £266.85 **Total: £1,495.88**
Youth Formation and Ministry: **£167.00**

<https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=262>

HSBC Bank: **WRCDT Feltham** Sort code: **40-05-20** – Acc. No: **71095528**