



Ordinariate and Parish Church

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

9th March 25

In the gospel reading today, we hear that in the midst of all our troubles God hears us and will lead us into the promised land of peace if only we are prepared to follow him. There is no temptation which cannot be overcome if we are open to the spirit who tells us Jesus is Lord whom God raised from the dead. God, through the risen Jesus is always with us as in the Old Testament, he rescued the Jews out of their bondage in Egypt.



Lent has begun! How's the fast going? The first days are always the toughest: stick with it. If you haven't started yet, tomorrow is not too late! It's pointless giving up something you know you will not manage – whatever you decide, give up something. Don't think that Lent is for other people: it's for you!

Sundays are not included in the Fast! How could they be? They are Resurrection Days. And Sunday begins at vespers on Saturday night! However, the Church says you don't have to not fast, if you don't want to.

Stations of the Cross, each Friday at 7pm during Lent– the traditional seasonal devotion. *All welcome!*

Hora Sancta - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each weekday 30mins before and 30mins after the lunchtime Mass. Come and be with the Lord. He'll love to see you!

Set the alarm on your mobile to remind you at 3pm on Fridays to unite yourself with the Lord's Passion. Remember that the Lord died then, and pray the *Our Father*.

Try in Lent to be more faithful to what the Church asks. An hour fast before receiving Holy Communion. No meat on Fridays.

Try in Lent to be involved and active in the life of the parish. Could you be a catechist, Sunday school leader, server, chorister, IT guru, weekday sacristan...to name a few...

Evensong on Wednesday this week at 19.00 a great treasure to be shared. If you have never been, come to this ancient liturgy.

Cleaners come each Saturday morning. Come and lend a hand. Thank you to all those who come so regularly.

Called to Bear Fruit. Thank you to those who have already submitted a response. There's still time.

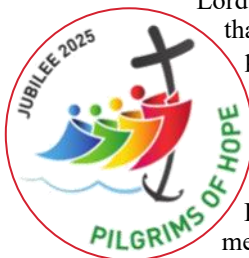
Extra Lent Mass times. For the early risers, Wednesday 08.00; and for the day the Lord died, Fridays 18.30

The Lectors' day of recollection is not just for lectors. If you would like to come see May or Lesley today.

The Suicide Bill is at the committee stage. Keep this in your prayers, consciousness and MP's in-box!

An Islamophobia blasphemy law committee is being suggested by the Deputy Prime Minister. Get informed christianconcern.com

Pope Francis is grateful for your prayers at this time. *God bless the Pope!*





Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Wednesday, with the penitential Rite of Ashes we began Lent, a Season of spiritual renewal in preparation for the annual celebration of Easter. But what does it mean to begin the Lenten journey? The Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent illustrates it for us with the account of the temptations of Jesus in the desert. The Evangelist St Luke recounts that after receiving Baptism from John, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil” (Lk 4: 1).

There is a clear insistence on the fact that the temptations were not just an incident on the way but rather the consequence of Jesus’ decision to carry out the mission entrusted to him by the Father to live to the very end his reality as the beloved Son who trusts totally in him. Christ came into the world to set us free from sin and from the ambiguous fascination of planning our life leaving God out. He did not do so with loud proclamations but rather by fighting the Tempter himself, until the Cross. This example applies to everyone: the world is improved by starting with oneself, changing, with God’s grace, everything in one’s life that is not going well.

The first of the three temptations to which Satan subjects Jesus originates in hunger, that is, in material need: “If you are the Son of God command this stone to become bread”. But Jesus responds with Sacred Scripture: “Man shall not live by bread alone” (Lk 4: 3-4; see Dt 8: 3). Then the Devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth and says: all this

will be yours if, prostrating yourself, you worship me. This is the deception of power, and an attempt which Jesus was to unmask and reject: “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve” (see Lk 4: 5-8; Dt 6: 13). Not adoration of power, but only of God, of truth and love. Lastly, the Tempter suggests to Jesus that he work a spectacular miracle: that he throw himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple and let the angels save him so that everyone might believe in him. However, Jesus answers that God must never be put to the test (see Dt 6: 16). We cannot “do an experiment” in which God has to respond and show that he is God: we must believe in him! We should not make God “the substance” of “our experiment”. Still referring to Sacred Scripture, Jesus puts the only authentic criterion of obedience, conformity to God’s will, which is the foundation of our existence before human criteria. This is also a fundamental teaching for us: if we carry God’s word in our minds and hearts, if it enters our lives, if we trust in God, we can reject every kind of deception by the Tempter. Furthermore, Christ’s image as the new Adam emerges clearly from this account. He is the Son of God, humble and obedient to the Father, unlike Adam and Eve who in the Garden of Eden succumbed to the seduction of the evil spirit, of being immortal without God.

Lent is like a long “retreat” in which to re-enter oneself and listen to God’s voice in order to overcome the temptations of the Evil One and to find the truth of our existence. It is a time, we may say, of spiritual “training” in order to live alongside Jesus not with pride and presumption but rather by using the weapons of faith: namely prayer, listening to the Word of God and penance. In this way we shall succeed in celebrating Easter in truth, ready to renew our baptismal promises.

May the Virgin Mary help us so that, guided by the Holy Spirit, we may live joyfully and fruitfully this Season of grace.

Benedict XVI

*St Peter’s Square,
First Sunday of Lent,
21 February 2010*



A LENT QUIZ

- 1 How many years did Moses and the Israelites spend in the desert while seeking to reach the Promised Land?
2. How many days did Our Lord spend in the desert in prayer and fasting before beginning his public ministry?
3. How long is Lent, excluding Sundays?
4. Mid-Lent Sunday is also known as Laetare Sunday. What other day is it?
5. Ash Wednesday was the first day of Lent, and the day before that was Shrove Tuesday. What does the word "Shrove" mean?
6. During Lent, we have some Solemnities on 19th and 25th March. What are they?
7. On Ash Wednesday we received ashes on our foreheads. What is the link between the ashes and palms of Palm Sunday?
8. Thursday of Holy Week is Maundy Thursday. What does "Maundy" mean?
9. After Maundy Thursday is Good Friday. What's the next day called?
10. When a priest hears confessions, what does he wear?
11. What was the name of the Apostle who betrayed Our Lord?
12. And the name of the Apostle who denied Our Lord three times but was sorry and wept bitterly, and went on to do great things?

No peeking! 1) 40 years 2) 40 days 3) 40 days 4) Mothering Sunday 5) "Shrove" refers to being "shrive"n" forgiven of our sins. 6) St Joseph & the Annunciation; 8) It comes from the Latin "Mandatum" meaning a command or mandatory, a new commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" (9) Holy Saturday (10) A stole, symbolising his authority as a priest worn at Mass, over the alb beneath the chasuble 11) Judas 12) St Peter



Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day
7 June 2025
The Friars, Aylesford .

Led by
 Archbishop
 John Wilson,

A day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun.

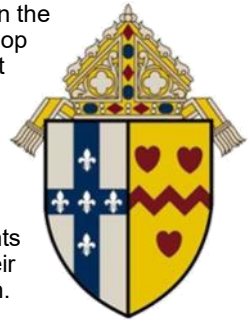
There will be lots of activities, for children as well as for adults. This will be the centrepiece event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral to The Friars (2-6 June 2025).

rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025.

Put it in the diary

All my Hope, Ordinariate Festival

Coventry, Precious Blood & All Souls
 Tuesday 20th - Thursday 22nd May
 Fr David Butler, priest & hermit will offer several reflections on the theme of Hope. Bishop David will be present throughout.



Bookings via the Ordinariate website
 There is a fee of £30pp to cover food and drink. Participants will need to book their own accommodation.

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS OF WORD ON FIRE [\(LEARN MORE\)](#)

Don't miss your chance to *Journey through Lent* with
FR. BONIFACE HICKS

JOIN THE RETREAT

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday <i>1st SUNDAY IN LENT</i>	09.30 11.00	Ron Hillier ✕ <i>d.1995</i> Parishioners
<i>Mon 10th feria</i>		
<i>Tue 11th feria</i>	13.05	Natasha ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Wed 12th feria</i>	08.00 13.05	David Skeoch <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>d.2016</i> Angelika Hugues ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Thurs 13th feria</i>	13.05	Pope Francis <i>elected 2013</i>
<i>Fri 14th feria</i>	13.05 18.30	Ken Burrows ✕ Murry Goulstone ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Sat 15th feria</i>	10.30†	Holy Souls ✕ (Nov)
Next Sunday <i>2nd SUNDAY IN LENT</i>	09.30 11.00	Jezef Bolloak ✕ Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Genesis 15:5-12.17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28-36

Sacrament of Confession. Tue-Fri 12.30-12.55 Sat 10.00-10.25 *and at request*

† **Mass in the Ordinary Use** of the Roman Rite

Last week: £925.50 (*cash £85.50; card £120.00; standing orders £720*) **Thank you!**

Safeguarding. The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 03330 509296

Holy Father's Intention for March 2025: *For families in crisis*

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Live-streaming is done regularly for the Solemn Mass. The earlier Mass on Sunday and weekdays are not live-streamed.

For your prayers:

In priestly formation: Br Philip Gerlomes OP

Peace: In Ukraine, in the Holy Land, Syria

Those who are Sick: Mary, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Hermon, Amaogechi, David, Pope Francis

Recently Departed: Kay Cunningham; Josue Benghiat, Murry Goulstone

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

YouTube: [youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge](https://www.youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge)

Fr Christopher Pearson *OLW Parish Priest*

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