



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*



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEXAGESIMA

8th February 2026

In the gospel reading today, we hear that Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and gives us an example in his own crucifixion. We are also, through our good works, a shining light in the darkness so that others may be guided on their journey to God. Salt of the earth and light of the world!



Palm Crosses need to be returned. Please bring them ready to be burnt for the ash on Ash Wednesday.

Pre-Lent or 'the Qesimas' continue as a reminder that Lent is near.

Shrove Tuesday, Quiz, Pancakes and burning of the Palm Crosses. 19.00 in the Long Room.

The Lent Course on Tuesdays of Lent this year. 19.00-20.30 in the Long Room. Book the dates.

This Newsletter is emailed each week. Even if you read it on-line, take one home: as well as needing the prayers, you might like to give it to a neighbour or friend; or leave it at the doctor's, dentist's, pub....or wherever.

Holy Water is available by the Sacristy. Put a stoup by your bed, or by your front door so you can make the sign of the Cross when you go to bed, get up, leave or return home. It's a reminder of your baptism.

Are you Catholic? Sometimes people never get round to being Baptised, or Confirmed or actually jumping in. *See FrC*

Keeping the Eucharistic Fast! The Church asks us not to eat or drink anything for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. It is the simplest way of preparing to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament— an hour!

Choral Evensong on Wednesday at 19.00 this week, followed by a light supper.

The Rosary Group meet most Sunday at 10.15ish, and Fridays at 19.00

Walsingham Day Pilgrimage for Lent. Have you ever been? If there is enough interest, we are looking at 21st March. £30 child £10. If you are interested see May today.

Candle were blessed last week. Thank you to those who sponsored them with particular intentions. Check the list at the back.

A second collection next week for Sick and retired clergy

Bishop Richard Moth will be installed as the Bishop of Westminster on Saturday this week 12.30 at Westminster Cathedral

The Good Counsel Ball is on Saturday this week from 18.00 a pro-life fund raising event at the Royal Park Hotel. Tickets £135 more info see FrC or Marco

Mass Intentions can be requested at any time on-line. There are also envelopes at the back. Please think ahead if you want a specific date.

Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource. The Archdiocese has launched an apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions. rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist.

Why do we have candles in Church?

Lighting of candles is a significant practice in Catholic church, originating from Old Testament times where an oil lamp was lighted to 'sustain a perpetual flame.' In The New Testament they emphasise the sacredness of this light in St Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. 'A first tent was prepared with the lamp stand, the table and the bread of the presence; this is called the Holy Place'.



This light has a precisely distinct status for it symbolises Christ who said, 'I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life.' Some relate the candle as representing Jesus as the Light of the world, but also the light and fire as representing the presence and power of God (similar to the pillar of fire that led the children of Israel in the exodus).

Candles are lit during the celebration of the Mass, carried by the acolytes (servers), burn at the shrines and are carried in procession. One is lit beside the Tabernacle to signify the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary, and to call for reverence and veneration of the faithful.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, as a person is initiated into the Church, a candle is lit from the Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ's Paschal Mystery, His passion, death and resurrection. That individual receives the Light of Christ that they may live and walk the path of God's children and sustain that flame of faith burning alive in their heart. As they receive this indelible baptismal mark, they shall encounter the Lord and be one with all the saints in Heaven when the right time comes.

Candles are lit before a statue or likeness of Christ's image demonstrating our devotion and reverence for Him who deserves our adoration and thanksgiving and who alone can absolve

our sins and return us to a more profound relationship with God. Catholics do this, not to honour the image itself, but the one it truly represents. The lighted candle symbolises a prayer offering where we present our petitions to the Lord and ask the saints to pray with us and to pray for us during our most urgent needs. This light, when kept burning, represents our longing to remain in God's companionship as we go about our daily duties at home and in the workplace. As we commemorate our sacred liturgies, sacraments and regular prayers, Christ, the Source of all Light, shall come to us and is ever present to strengthen us, instruct us, inspire us and offer us hope that His Light will under no circumstances burn out as long as we live in faith without a shadow of doubt that darkness will ever defeat us.

Light a candle at one of the shrines at MPB every time you visit or pass the church. When you light a votive candle, do three things: kiss it, it's been blessed; light it, it a sign of the Jesus light in the darkness; make an offering. There is no charge for the candle, however you should make a donation to cover the cost of it's replacement.

When visiting Church to pray or spend some time with the Blessed Sacrament, it is encouraging, enriching and empowering to look at a rack of burning candles in a church and can be quite moving. It's a sign that someone was there praying before you. Their prayer goes on, just as yours does, even though we must go about our daily affairs. The prayer of the Church is constant, and we just join her now and again. Jesus is the Light of the World.

Lord, may this candle be a light for you to enlighten me, in my difficulties and decisions. May it be a fire for you to burn out of me all pride, selfishness and impurity. . May it be a flame for you to bring earth into my heart towards my family and all I meet. Through the prayers of Mary I place in your care those for whom I pray (name your petitions). Though Jesus Christ who is the Light of the World . Amen.

Preparation, so any good cook, decorator, teacher, musician (delete where appropriate) will tell you, is more important than the final performance. Just the same is true when it comes to worship - to prepare for Mass can be just as important as being at Mass. Read the readings before you come; make an act of contrition; keep the Eucharistic fast; come in time to pray, read the readings, light a candle, and don't be late! Before Mass begins, invite the Lord into your heart. Oh, and keep the *Silence*



Our Lady of Lourdes

Because you are the smile of God, the reflection of the light of Christ, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, Because you chose Bernadette in her lowliness, because you are the morning star, the gate of heaven and the first creature to experience the Resurrection, Our Lady of Lourdes, with our brothers and sisters whose hearts and bodies are in pain we pray to you!

Amen



The Catholic Gentleman

Holiness does not consist in not making mistakes or **never sinning**. Holiness grows with capacity for **conversion, repentance**, willingness to **begin again**, and above all with the capacity for **reconciliation and forgiveness**.

- POPE BENEDICT XVI -



Your Palm Crosses are needed! They will be burnt to make the ash to be used on Ash Wednesday. Please return them sometime in the next few weeks.

“Remember thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return”

LIVED IN 3RD CENTURY ROME AND/OR TIERNI

BEFRIENDED AND HEALED THE JAILER'S BLIND DAUGHTER AND WROTE HER A NOTE SIGNED, "Your Valentine"

MARRIED YOUNG COUPLES AGAINST THE EMPEROR'S ORDERS

MARTYR'S PALMS, LIKELY BEHEADED UNDER CLAUDIUS II AROUND 270 AD

PRIEST, BISHOP, AND MAYBE A PHYSICIAN

LEAST DAY FEBRUARY 14

DATE MAYBE CHOSEN TO REPLACE ROMAN FERTILITY FESTIVAL OF LUPERCALIA

Saint Valentine

Join Sr. Miriam James Heidland

IN THE 2025 LENT RETREAT

On-line Lent course with WonF

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday <i>Sexagesima</i> FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	09.30 11.00†	Josue Benghiat ✕ Parishioners
Mon 9th <i>feria</i>		
Tues 10th <i>St Scholastica</i>	13.05	David Barry <i>foundation</i>
Wed 11th (<i>OL of Lourdes</i>)	13.05	William Joseph Green ✕ <i>foundation</i>
Thur 12th <i>feria</i>	13.05	Baltazar Almeida ✕
Fri 13th <i>feria</i>	13.05	Baltazar Almeida ✕
Sat 14th <i>Sts Cyril & Methodius</i>	10.30†	Baltazar Almeida ✕
Next Sunday <i>Quinquagesima</i> SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	09.30 11.00†	Clergy who are retired Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 1 Cor 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37

Sacrament of Confession. Tuesday - Friday 12.30-12.55 Saturday 10.00-10.25

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

Last week: £1,047.34 (*cash £125.34 card £202.00 standing orders £720*) €10 \$5

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 Representatives: Pamela Gatti, Aminata Keita & Daniela Guzzardo.
www.preciousblood.org.uk/safeguarding

Holy Father's 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. .

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, Amaogechi, Kathie, Norman

Recently Departed: Dave Lambert, Ruth Black Ossie Aisbitt *priest*

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

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

Fr Christopher Pearson *OLW Parish Priest*

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Donation
Station

