



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*



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

15th March 2026



In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is our Shepherd, and King. Christ is descended from the line of David, a shepherd, who was anointed King by Samuel. Christ is our King who guides us with the tender service of a shepherd. With him by our side, we shall want for nothing even though we walk in the valley of darkness.

Additional Mass times during Lent on Weds at 08.00 and Friday evenings at 18.30

Stations of the Cross each Friday at 19.00

The Lent Course on Tuesdays of Lent. 19.00-20.30 in the Long Room.

Sundays don't forget, aren't fast days remember: Lent has 40 days not 46.

The Archbishop is coming to MBP next week for the 11am Solemn Mass. He's keen to see you, so please be here to welcome him.

St Patrick's day is on Tuesday this week, a feast in England & Wales.

St Joseph's Day is on Thursday this week, a Solemnity in all the world!

Poor Parishes a second collection next week

Keep silence in Church especially before and after Mass. It's a wonderful way to prepare and give thanks for Mass. Try it.

The Pilgrimage to Walsingham, has been postponed. The date in March didn't garner enough to make it viable; the date in May for coach hire is prohibitively expensive. We'll re-group and re-assess. OLV open

The end of the Tax Year approaches. If you haven't yet, be sure to *Gift Aid* your donations to MPB. Higher Tax and Super Tax payers should include these on their Tax Return to receive a refund themselves.

Lent Project. Fasting during Lent can be quite lucrative. The money saved by not buying alcohol, sweets or whatever soon mounts up over the six weeks of Lent. We are encouraged to add this to our almsgiving. This will be an opportunity to do a few projects which have been beyond our finances.

Only one bell is working at the moment. It seems the mechanism which makes the hammer strike the bell has jammed and needs renewing.

Live streaming has become very popular especially for those who are housebound or in hospital. We need a new camera of good quality to be professionally installed.

A Columbarium is needed as a place for cremated remains. Recently the Church has allowed Catholics to be cremated. We have a crypt at MPB which could be modified as a columbarium.

A podium for the Ambo. The box at the eagle lectern on which the readers stand was a temporary installation some five years ago, but cost has prevented a more adequate solution. It needs two steps, a handrail, in oak matching the furniture in the sanctuary.

The Long Room is in desperate need of re-decoration, and new flooring. The parish kitchen also needs bringing up to standard for today's use.

St Joseph, is the husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus and the patron of our School. His Solemnity is celebrated tomorrow.

Everything we know about St Joseph comes from Scripture. He is sometimes called the *Silent Witness*, because we never hear him speak a single word!



We know he was a carpenter, a working man, because the sceptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Mt 13:55). He wasn't rich because when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised; and when he took Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, which was only allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb. (Lk 2:24).

Despite his humble work and low means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both identify that he is descended from David, the greatest king of Israel; and the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

He was a compassionate, caring man because when he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He planned to divorce Mary according to the law but was concerned for her suffering and safety: if accused to adultery Mary could be stoned to death, so he decided to divorce her quietly and not expose her to shame or cruelty.

He was man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his

wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back.

He loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him. He loved Jesus as his own son: over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?"

He respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

He is the patron of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

He is also patron of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice.

There is more that we don't know than we do know: where and when he was born, how he spent his days, when and how he died etc. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- "a righteous man".

His Solemnity is on Thursday this week.

Saint Joseph,
patron of the universal Church,
watch over the Church
as carefully as you watched over
Jesus, help protect it and guide it
as you did with your adopted son.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

CHRISTUS MEDICUS A group for Catholic students of the healthcare professions and biosciences!

Join us for fellowship, prayer, discussion and learning!

This semester (February - April 2026), six lectures will be delivered by an exciting range of special guest speakers on the theme of:

An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics





Photo credits to Fr Laurence Jasper, KCL CP



Where?
Chaplaincy Room, King's College London, Guy's Campus

When?
Every Wednesday, 18:00-19:30 from 25th February

We welcome current healthcare and bioscience students from all London universities. To sign up, please use your university email to contact Laurence Jasper, KCL Catholic Lay Chaplain, at laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk




Lent Project

Single Monthly

Select donation amount:

£20 **£50** **£100** + Other



LENTEN GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

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Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday? Giving flowers to mothers hasn't always been the principle activity of the fourth Sunday in Lent. Traditionally the fourth Sunday in Lent, was the day those preparing for Baptism at Easter went to the Cathedral, the Mother Church, for their 'scrutinies'.

In the liturgical calendar, today was named *Laetare Sunday*: the Entrance Antiphon in Latin 'Laetare Jerusalem' (O be joyful, Jerusalem), with the colour Rose replacing Lenten purple.

And it seems a good reason to honour Our Lady who, being the Mother of the Lord, is our mother too.

Wherever your mother is, if you are seeing her or not; if you send flowers or a card; the best thing to do is pray for her, and thank God for her.

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT	09.30 11.00†	Arthur Pearson ✕ <i>d.1960</i> Parishioners
Mon 16th <i>feria of Lent</i>		
Tues 17th St Patrick	13.05	Nicholas H
Wed 18th (<i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>)	08.00 13.05	Anna <i>very poorly</i> Samuel B
Thur 19th ST JOSEPH	13.05	Members of St Joseph's school ✕
Fri 20th <i>feria of Lent</i>	13.05 18.30	Holy Souls ✕ The lapsed, that they may return.
Sat 21st <i>feria of Lent</i>	10.30†	Holy Souls ✕
Next Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	09.30 11.00	Holy Souls ✕ Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45

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

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

Last week: £1,177.96 (*cash £97.96 card £360.00 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 Representatives: Pamela Gatti, Aminata Keita & Daniela Guzzardo. www.preciousblood.org.uk/safeguarding

Holy Father's Intention for March 2026: *For disarmament and peace.* Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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, the Holy Land, Syria, the Middle East

Those who are Sick: Mary, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Amaogechi, Kathie, Norman, Dn Stephen, Fr Alan, Luke

Recently Departed: Carlo Torri

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

22 Redcross Way, SE1 1TA borough@rcaos.org.uk

0207 4073951

www.preciousblood.org.uk

Donation
Station

