



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*



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

22nd March 2026

In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is our resurrection and our life. When we are dead through sin Christ brings us his Spirit so that we may truly live the new life of grace. We are the Spiritual brothers and sisters of Christ through God's Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.



Archbishop John Wilson is with us today for the 11am Solemn Mass. What a joy to have him visit. *Welcome Father!*

Passiontide begins today: the last two weeks of Lent as the mood intensifies and we prepare for the Passion of the Lord.

Mass times are altered the next two weeks. Keep an eye on the website or this newsletter.

Palm Sunday next week begins with the Palm Procession. We will gather in the *Low-Line* and walk with Jesus triumphantly into Jerusalem. Stewards needed.

Stations of the Cross each Friday at 19.00

The Lent Course on Tuesdays for the last session this week. 19.00 in the Long Room.

The Annunciation is celebrated on Wednesday this week. Mass at 08.00 & 13.05 It's a Solemnity in Lent!

Poor Parishes a second collection today.

The end of the Tax Year approaches. If you haven't yet, be sure to *Gift Aid* donations. Higher Tax and Super Tax payers might want to reduce their tax liability by making a large donation to MPB and gain 20pc plus, back. See Chris, our Finance chairman how it works

Do you have a role at MPB, either low level or high level requiring a DBS check? You will soon receive an invitation to a safe guarding gathering on 19th April, at 10.15

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.



At the Annunciation, the Angel's greeting to Mary is an invitation to joy, deep joy. It announces an end to the sadness that exists in the world because of life's limitations, suffering, death, wickedness, in all that seems to block out the light of the divine goodness. It is a greeting that marks the beginning of the Gospel, the Good News.

But why is Mary invited to rejoice in this way? The answer is to be found in the second part of the greeting: "The Lord is with you". If we are to understand the meaning of these words we must turn to the Book of Zephaniah, "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion.... The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.... The Lord, your God, in your midst, a warrior who gives victory" (3:14-17).

A twofold promise is made to Israel, to the daughter of Zion: God will come as a saviour and will pitch his tent in his people's midst, in the womb of the daughter of Zion. This promise is fulfilled to the letter in the dialogue between the Angel and Mary. Mary is identified with the people espoused by God, she is truly the daughter of Zion in person; in her the expectation of the definitive coming of God is fulfilled, in her the Living God makes his dwelling place.

In the greeting of the Angel Mary is called "full of grace", in Greek, *charis*, has the same linguistic root as the word "joy". In this term too the source of Mary's exultation is further clarified: her joy comes from grace, that is, from being in communion with God, from having such a vital connection with him, from being the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, totally fashioned by God's action. Mary is the creature who opened the door to her Creator in a special way, placing herself in his hands without reserve. She lived entirely *from* and *in* her relationship with the Lord; she was disposed to listen, alert to recognizing the signs of God in the journey of his people; she was integrated into a history of faith and hope in God's

promises with which the fabric of her life was woven. And she submitted freely to the word received, to the divine will in the obedience of faith.

Those who, like Mary, open themselves totally to God, come to accept the divine will, even though it is mysterious, although it often does not correspond with their own wishes, and is a sword that pierces their soul, as the elderly Simeon would say prophetically to Mary when Jesus was presented in the Temple (cf. Lk 2:35). Her faith experienced the joy of the Annunciation, but also passed through the gloom of the crucifixion of the Son to be able to reach the light of the Resurrection.

Mary is obliged to renew the profound faith with which she said "yes" at the Annunciation; she must accept that it is the true and proper Father of Jesus who has precedence; she must be able to leave the Son she has brought forth free to follow his mission. And Mary's "yes" to God's will, in the obedience of faith, is repeated throughout her life, until the most difficult moment, that of the Cross.

Mary assumes a fundamental approach in facing what happens in her life. On hearing the Angel's words she is distressed, it is the fear a person feels when moved by God's closeness, but it is not the attitude of someone who is afraid of what God might ask. Mary reflects, she ponders on the meaning of this greeting (cf. Lk 1:29). This means that Mary enters into a deep conversation with the Word of God that has been announced to her, she does not consider it superficially but meditates on it, lets it sink into her mind and her heart so as to understand what the Lord wants of her, the meaning of the announcement.

Mary does not stop at a superficial understanding of what is happening in her life, but can look in depth, she lets herself be called into question by events, digests them, discerns them, and attains the understanding that only faith can provide. It is the profound humility of the obedient faith of Mary, who welcomes within her even what she does not understand in God's action, leaving it to God to open her mind and heart. "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord"

Pope Benedict XVI
Rome 2012

Jesus has
a Passion for you



Lent Project

Single

Monthly

Select donation amount:

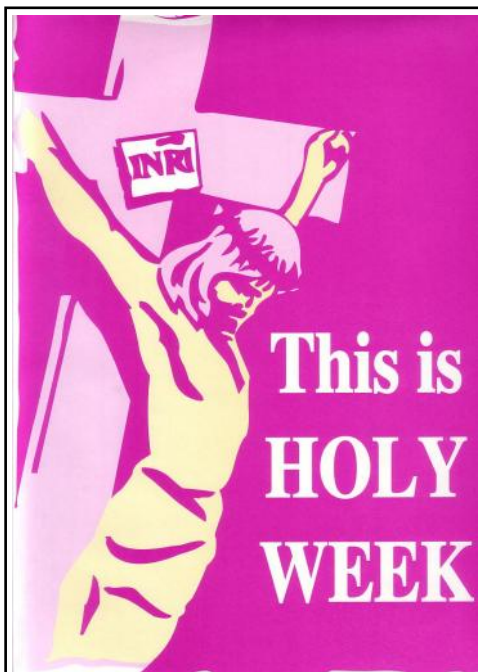
£20

£50

£100

+

Other



Take and display a poster

Easter Preparations

Cleaning Day 4th April 10am -12

Confessions

Holy Mon Tue & Wed 12.30 - 12.55
18.00 - 18.25

Holy Saturday 10.00 - 10.30
at call or by appointment

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday 09.30
11.00 start *LowLine*

Holy Mon - Wed 13.05 & 18.30
Maundy Thursday 18.30 *with Watch*

Good Friday *Stations* 14.00
Liturgy 15.00

Holy Saturday Vigil 20.30
Easter Sunday 09.30 & 11.00

EWTN 

Sky & Freesat 586

or Google: 'EWTN live'

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	09.30 11.00	Holy Souls ✕ Parishioners
Mon 23rd (<i>St Turibius</i>)		
Tues 24th <i>feria of Lent</i>	13.05	Holy Souls ✕
Wed 25th ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	08.00 13.05	Holy Souls ✕ Confessors
Thur 26th <i>feria of Lent</i>	08,00	Holy Souls ✕
Fri 27th <i>feria of Lent</i>	13.05 18.30	Holy Souls ✕ Penitents
Sat 28th <i>feria of Lent</i>	10.30†	Holy Souls ✕
Next Sunday PALM SUNDAY	09.30 11.00	Merle Walker ✕ <i>d.1992</i> Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11

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: £1,091.21 (*cash £151.21 card £360.00 standing orders £580*) €7

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

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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Donation
Station

