

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The First Reading: ‘The Lord said to Abram, ‘leave’ ... So Abram went...’ Abram’s quiet, unquestioning obedience to God lies at the very foundation of God’s plan for the renewal of sinful humanity.

The Second Reading: The imprisoned Paul invites people to solidarity with him, as he suffers for the faith: ‘With me, bear the hardships.’ If our faith asks us to suffer, we need not suffer alone. We can find strength and hope in solidarity with others who courageously suffer for their faith.

The Gospel: Peter, it seems, is impressed at the marvellous company Jesus is keeping in this mountain-top scene. But the voice of the Father, God’s revelation, corrects his understanding. After hearing God’s voice, the attention of Peter, James and John is focussed entirely on Jesus: ‘they saw no one but only Jesus.’

BAPTISM: The second **March** class will be on Tuesday 10th in the Parish Office, No5 Berrymead Gardens, at 7pm. The welcoming Ceremony on Sunday 15th, and the Baptisms on Sunday 29th at 1.15pm.

There will be no Baptism preparation classes in **April** due to Holy Week. If you would like an April Baptism you will need to attend the March preparation classes.

Please register your attendance with the office.

2ND COLLECTION TODAY – CAFOD Family Fast Day was on Friday 6 March. As mentioned in the talk last week, your donations will enable CAFOD to continue to contribute to funding skilled experts around the world like Sister Consilia in Zimbabwe. This is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest of our global family.

Please give whatever you can, either with a loose donation or by using a Fast day envelope. More envelopes are available on the table at the back of the Church. Thank you.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT ends on Sunday 8th March. We are a Fairtrade parish, using Fairtrade tea and coffee in our church hall. Please consider buying and using Fairtrade products in your everyday lives. When we buy products with the Fairtrade Mark, we support farmers and workers in the developing world as they work to improve their lives and their communities.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY: Come and enjoy a Gaelic Coffee morning after 10am mass on Tuesday 17th March. Again we ask for your generous help in providing donations and gifts for our raffle, cakes for our cake stall, and raffle prizes. Tea and coffee also provided and all gifts can be handed into parish office. Proceeds go to SS.CC missions.

ACTON HOMELESS CONCERN are in need of volunteers with cars to do a recycling run once a week. If you are able to help please do get in contact with them.

LATEST ADVICE FROM THE DIOCESE REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS:

- Anyone with cold or flu symptoms please refrain from taking Communion from the Chalice and receive the host on the hand only.
- The placing of the host on the tongue by anyone administering Eucharist is NOT recommended as it is a potential source of transmission.
- We ask that ministers of the Eucharist sanitise their hands before and after distributing communion.
- There is no need as things stand for the sign of peace to be suspended. However, anyone with coughs and colds would be advised to refrain from shaking hands with others, and instead offer the peace verbally.
- Please remember to wash your hands regularly!

MINISTERS OF THE WORD – The God Who Speaks:

We invite all existing and potential Minister of the Word to afternoon tea in the Hall on Sunday 15th March at 4pm. Please come along to help build our team of readers and celebrate the God Who Speaks.

FIRST COMMUNION: Congratulations to those children who made their First Reconciliation yesterday. Please keep them in your prayers.

THURSDAY TEA & COFFEE: Thank you to everyone who attended the Thursday Morning Tea & Coffee during February. The money raised will go towards the Sacred Heart Missions.

CARDINAL’S LENTEN APPEAL runs throughout Lent. Please take a donation envelope from the back of Church as you leave Mass today. Envelopes can be handed in with the Sunday collection. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities focussing on: ‘Marriage and Family Life’, ‘Youth and Evangelisation’ & ‘The Church’s Service in Society’.

CTBI LENT COURSE 2020 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have produced a Lent course called “Opening the Scriptures” which fits well with our *God Who Speaks* Campaign. For more information please visit: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent>

JUSTICE AND PEACE EVENTS at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

14th March: Social Justice and Peace Forum - 10.30am-12.30pm, with Bishops Nicholas Hudson and Paul McAleenan. Focus on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Speakers from Caritas Westminster. All welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: will be held every Friday during Lent, at 3pm. All are welcome.

WALK IN CLINIC: A qualified therapist will help ease your pain every Friday 9 – 12pm at No.3 Berrymead Gardens. Free of charge.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after the 9am and 10.30am Masses.