

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The First Reading: The Call to holiness is for all God's people rather than for just a few. This is a biblical truth: Moses was asked to proclaim to the whole community that they are to be holy, as God is holy. This biblical truth has been given fresh emphasis in recent years: the call to holiness is universal.

The Second Reading: In the early part of his first letter to the Corinthians, St Paul is at pains to emphasise the limits of human wisdom. He is not opposed to sincere attempts to understand, but resists the vanity of those who seek to understand the faith without the cross.

The Gospel: Jesus, the New Moses, continues his authoritative commentary on the law given by Moses. Far from correcting or loosening the law, Jesus points to its deepest meaning. That Jesus' teaching is in perfect continuity with the teaching of Moses is made plain by the conclusion of this Gospel reading, where Jesus quotes the words given to Moses in the first reading.

BAPTISM: The **February** Baptisms will be on Sunday 23 at 1.15pm

The **March** classes will be on Tuesday 3rd & 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY this year is on Wednesday 26th February. Mass will be at 10am and 7pm that day. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

FILM SCREENING: The Medical Mission Sister would like to thank everyone for their support. The film showing raised £300 which will go towards developing their mission in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT: As you know we will soon be entering the holy season of Lent a more solemn season of preparation for the Easter Triduum. We will not hear the Gloria or the Alleluia, again until Lent is over, the colour purple will be dominant and the decoration of the church will be subdued. We will walk out into the desert with Jesus for the next 40 days. The liturgy actively holds and sustains the penitential nature of the season as begin climbing "the holy mountain of Easter." The "desert" is therefore the "icon" of Lent.

We are very grateful to the many people who bring flowers to the church to help keep it as beautifully kept as it is, always. In keeping the desert icon of lent we would ask that you don't bring flowers during the Lenten Season. Save them for the splendour of Easter. Please note we are not about the business of applying rules coldly, but of interpreting the "letter" and "spirit" of the liturgical provisions in the best possible way. In case of funerals flowers of course can be brought to church

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS COURSE: If you feel you may be called to the serve as a Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist or you would like to know more about this ministry and what is involved, we may like to attend the next course of Saturday 7th of March after the 10am mass in the parish hall. It will finish at 2pm. Please let one of the priests or the office know if you wish to attend. Bring a backed lunch on the day.

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

SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS: All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus

Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

FAITH IN POLITICS is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme which began in 2003. The scheme uniquely offers a foundation of Catholic faith and spiritual formation for those who believe they may have a vocation to public service in politics or public affairs. For more details and to apply please see: <http://faithinpolitics.org.uk/> Closing date 28th February.

THE PASSAGE - ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT: Celebrate St David's Day with us at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster, at our concert, hosted by Guto Harri on Friday 28 February at 7.00pm.

Enjoy the iconic voices of the London Welsh Male Voice Choir at a special evening of traditional Welsh music and popular classical tunes, all in aid of The Passage's homelessness services. Book online through Eventbrite. For full details see: www.passage.org.uk, call 02075921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

JUSTICE AND PEACE EVENTS:

28th February: 'No Planet B' Lent Study Group – 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. Six Fridays, 6.30-8.00pm. Facilitated by Colette Joyce. Discussion on climate and environment. All welcome. Free. To register: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/justice-and-peace-lent-study-group-tickets-91293676845

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.