



St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church

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OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER 24th March 2019

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C : Weekdays - Year 1

1st Reading: **Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15** Psalm: **102**

Psalm Response: **The Lord is compassion and love.**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10:12** Gospel: **Luke 13:1-9**

Fr Gerard writes on Lent and Devotions

Most of us, including myself, have never prayed a prayer of transformation. Too often, when we pray, we pray for tweaking. We want God to tweak this and tweak that, to save this friend, and to help me win the lottery. Let's be honest. We don't necessarily want our lives transformed. Transformation may seem attractive in a moment of blissfully holy idealistic exuberance or at a moment of crisis, but the everyday reality is that we like to distance ourselves from the inner work required to bring about such a transformation. To be sure, we want some tweaking, but not transformation. We want to leave that to the pious people, but not really for me. The desire for tweaking is selective and selfish.

Transformation is total and selfless. We pray for tweaking - and then we wonder why God doesn't answer our prayers. The reason is simple: God is not interested in tweaking. God is in the business of Transformation. He wants to turn your life upside down, like he has for me since my brain operation, which, as it turns out, is right side up. If you want to see something incredible in your life then Lent is perfect for you to start praying for that transformation. That's a prayer God will answer. That's what Lent is all about. Anyone can give up chocolate and Facebook and non-essential pleasures. But conversion is what the Lord wants.

So how do we do it? We open our hearts to the Lord, and give Him every part of our life, the good and the bad. It's hard but it works, and we have the Church which is our Mother to help us in this time of transformation. We are blessed to have so many Lenten devotions, including the CaFE Reflection course. I know that life is busy and it's hard to add in more stuff. But these Beautiful Treasures of our Church will help us.

Adoration is all about being in His presence, spending time with our Best Friend and our Saviour.

And from 6pm on Friday 29th March to 6pm on Saturday 30th March we have 24 Hours for the Lord and the opportunity to spend time with Him.

In Gethsemane Jesus asked His disciples: "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are the Psalms supplemented with hymns, scripture readings, and other prayers and antiphons celebrating the Church's Liturgical Year and the Saints' days.

Together with the Mass, it constitutes the Official public prayer life of the Church. The Liturgy of Hours also forms the basis of prayer of all Christians around the world. And it covers the world in prayer, and love, and Jesus.

The Stations of the Cross are 14-Steps of Devotion that commemorate Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 Stations, or 'stopping places' focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The Stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, a specific event from Christ's last day is recalled and meditated upon.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation : A Sacrament is the outward sign of an inward grace, and Confession is particularly helpful during Lent in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The basic requirement for a good confession is, like the "Prodigal Son", to have the intention of returning to God and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest. Sadly, modern society has lost a sense of sin. As a follower of Christ, I must make an effort to recognize sin in my daily words, actions, and omissions. Confession is not about being told off. It is about being reminded that God loves us and wants to give us the grace to fight the wrong in our life. Please try to come to these wonderful opportunities for grace. Let the Transformation happen.

"I love You, Jesus, my Love, above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will."

Fr Gerard Update: Fr Gerard is making good progress and is responding well to his current medication. While his parents are away, and under the care of his health professionals, he is presently staying with Fr Richard Biggerstaff at West Moseley where he celebrates Mass each day.

Mass Intentions

As a Parish we are extremely grateful to Fr Dominic O'Hara for regularly supplying our three weekend Sunday Masses at St Hugh's during Fr Gerard's period of recuperation. Nonetheless, without an available priest to celebrate the Parish's scheduled weekday Masses, we have potentially lost seven opportunities for parishioners to request Mass intentions during the week.

Mass Intentions which were scheduled for a weekday Mass are being moved, and are noted accordingly in the newsletter.

It is a requirement of the Church for all ordained pastors to offer a Pro Populo Mass for the People of their Parish each weekend. This, of course, reduces to two the number of Masses available for request Intentions. Fr Gerard has offered to celebrate the Pro Populo Masses for the parishioners of St Hugh's, thus enabling three weekend Masses to be available for request Intentions. Under our present circumstances, we have been asking parishioners to please consider 'sharing' Mass Intention times, and everyone has been very understanding and in agreement.

As Fr Gerard celebrates daily Mass, he would welcome Mass Intention requests, and thus be able to assist in fulfilling Mass Intentions sooner rather than later. Please make your Mass Intention requests to the Parish office as normal, and arrangements will be made for Fr Gerard to celebrate them as required.

Feast of the Annunciation: Following Mass at 7.30pm on **Monday 25th March**, there will be a party in the hall. Please come along and bring a plate of ready to eat food for our sharing table. Join fellow parishioners over a glass of wine - all very warmly welcome.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

From 6.00pm on Friday 29th March until 6.00pm on Saturday 30th March we will be holding a 24 hour vigil of uninterrupted Silent Adoration

At least 2 watchers per hour are needed, especially during the night. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. As in previous years, during the 24 Hours For the Lord there will be a Prayer Board for prayer intentions for the living and for the dead. Place your monetary donation in an *ordinary* envelope, marking the envelope with "**24 Hours For the Lord Prayer Intentions**", write the intention on the envelope and post it through the Presbytery letterbox.

Multiple intentions will be most welcome. Donations towards candles would also be very welcome - we get through a lot of candles during 24 Hours of Adoration!

Easter Events at Worth Abbey: Lent Retreat: From 9th to 11th April. Please see the Notice Board at the back of the Church for more rewarding information, including **Family Day at Wonersh**.

'Let It Be Done Unto Me' DVD course slightly later starting time next week

Please note that the **evening session next Tuesday, 26th March, will start at the slightly later time of 8.15pm for this week only** due to the 1st Holy Communion meeting continuing till 8pm. The morning session will be, as usual, at 10.45am. If you want to take part in our course you will be very welcome to join us at our next session. For more information see the poster in the Narthex or contact Roger (01483 481944, rogandmad.furnell@btinternet.com).

PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING LENT 2019

Tuesdays	6.30am	Morning Prayer & Adoration followed by continental breakfast
(morning)	10.45am	CaFE DVD Course : 'How Mary Helps Us to be Filled With God'
(repeat)	8.00pm	CaFE DVD Course : 'How Mary Helps Us to be Filled With God'
Fridays	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent except 29 th March
Mon 25th March		Solemnity of the Annunciation : Evening Mass with Fr Dominic followed by a Bring and Share celebration in the Hall. <i>No Lenten discipline this day!</i>
Fri 29th March		24 Hours For the Lord - 6pm Friday 29 th to 6pm Saturday 30 th March.
Sun 31st March		'Laetare' Sunday - the 4 th Sunday in Lent when the vestments are Rose.

Friends of Ahotokurom: This weekend Trudy Kilcullen will highlight the work that takes place at this rehabilitation centre in Ghana, West Africa. Friends of Ahotokurom fundraising is entirely voluntary and **every penny** raised goes directly to support the work with disabled people in Ghana through the DMJ Sisters – a UK registered charity. For more information please do take a look www.ahoto.org – please remember the needs of people with disabilities in your prayer.

Woking Refugee Support Programme: Woking Borough Council (WBC) are holding a **'Volunteer Information Afternoon' on Monday, 25th March, 1.30-2.30pm** at Knaphill Methodist Church (KMC) in order to recruit committed volunteers to assist with the integration of Syrian refugee families into Woking by helping at a 'Conversation Café' (Mondays 1:30-2:30pm), where they will have discussions on set topics to help the families feel confident about their communication skills. The Café will be held at KMC with a rota of helpers from the four main churches in Knaphill. Trained volunteers are also required to visit families in their homes to provide further 1-1 English support and to occasionally accompany families to and from hospital appointments and other events in Woking. **If you want to get involved in this worthwhile project please come along to the Volunteer Information Afternoon.** For further information contact either Hina Ashraf, Volunteer Co-ordinator (Refugees) at WBC on hina.ashraf@woking.gov.uk / 01483 743819 or Roger (rogandmad.furnell@btinternet.com / 01483 481944).

Weekly Donations: Gift Aid for the Parish can be arranged through weekly envelopes or by standing orders. If you use the envelope system you need to collect your envelopes as you leave church **today**. If at present you are not a Gift Aider please consider this if you are a taxpayer or someone in your house pays tax, the Parish will receive 25p from the Government for every pound you donate, that increases your donations by a massive 25%. If interested, please see Ian or Alison as you leave church.

Parish Retreat in September 2019: We will have a Parish Retreat in the House of Prayer in **West Mosley** from the 24th to 27th of September. The cost is £180 pounds and it's for 11 people or 16 if you go as a married couple. The Retreat will be about spending time with Jesus and Mary. The Sisters and Fr Gerard will help to guide, to give talks, to spend one to one time. There will be silence and contemplation, together with confessions, Mass and Adoration. If you would like to participate in this Retreat please give your name and payment to the parish secretaries.

St Hugh's Baby & Toddler Group

Fridays at 10am in the Parish Hall. Toys, craft and snack provided. Only £1 per child.

ONE THOUSAND ROSARIES for Fr GERARD

Heartfelt thanks for all the prayers which are greatly appreciated and need to be sustained as Fr Gerard recuperates. So far **1190 Rosaries** for Fr Gerard's return to complete health have been prayed. Please continue praying and recording each complete Rosary prayed. Rosaries recorded on the Parish Facebook page will be recorded in the Book by the Parish Secretary.

On the pages at the back of the Book please write your personal messages to Fr Gerard, perhaps include a favourite quotation, or an extract from a poem.

Our aim now is to fill the Book from cover to cover with prayed Rosaries and Messages to be presented to his family, together with the card which has been made.

Appreciative thanks to a wonderful, supportive, and caring Parish.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	25	Mar	Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity : <i>No Lenten discipline this day</i>
Tue	25	Mar	Morning Prayer & Adoration at 6.30am followed by continental breakfast
Tue	26	Mar	Lenten preparation - CaFE Reflection course in the Parish Hall - 10.45am & 8.15pm
Thu	28	Mar	RCIA meeting in the Parish Hall at 8pm
Fri	29	Mar	24 Hours For the Lord commences at 6pm
Sat	30	Mar	FHC First Reconciliation from 10.30am to 2.30pm

LITURGY TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Third Sunday of Lent - Sunday 24th March 2019

Sat	23	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Thanksgiving - Andrew Larkham
Sun	24	9.30am	Morning Mass	For the recovery of Fr Gerard
Sun	24	11.30am	Morning Mass	Fatima Moraes de Raga RIP
Mon	25	9am	No Mass at School	*****
Mon	25	11am	No Mass	*****
Mon	25	7.30pm	Annunciation of The Lord	Mary Hirth RIP/Don Dunne RIP
Tue	26	6.30am	Morning Prayer & Adoration followed by light breakfast	
Tue	26	10am	Tuesday 3rd week in Lent	Deceased Members: McHugh Family
Wed	27	7pm	No Mass	*****
Thu	28	9am	No Mass at School	*****
Fri	29	10am	Morning Prayer and Rosary	
Fri	29	6pm	24 Hours for the Lord - No Stations of the Cross	
Sat	30	10am	No Mass	<i>Alice Ledger RIP moved to 6th April</i>

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent - Sunday 31st March 2019

Sat	30	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	For all of the Parkinson Family
Sun	31	9.30am	Morning Mass	For the People the Parish
Sun	31	11.30am	Morning Mass	Get Well Soon Derek Newton

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.45pm - 6.10pm on Saturdays

Vespers and Adoration - 6.00pm Sunday

Offertory Collection (cash & standing orders) last weekend: £1,213.02 Many thanks.



THE MEMORARE:

“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.”