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**Newsletter for the week commencing 7th March 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.**

**First Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17**

**Psalm 18 Response: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 22-25**

**Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**Gospel**: John 2: 13-25

**Communion antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

Our third and final ‘pillar’ of Lent is prayer.  There is so much we could say about prayer, there are many excellent books on the subject and the last part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is devoted to the subject and is widely regarded as a masterful resource.  See Christian Prayer from paragraph 2558 onwards.

St Therese of Lisieux, that most reliable teacher on the spiritual life described prayer in this way:

“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. (St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Manuscrits autobiographiques, C 25r.)”



Therese around 1888

During Lent we have the opportunity to grow in our understanding of prayer and to deepen our prayer life. Many people have found it helpful to have a guide in their journey such as a book or to follow a course.

If you are interested in sharing resources that you have found helpful do get in touch. Perhaps there is a particular book or devotion which really helped you to grow in prayer and which may be beneficial to others. Perhaps you use one of the many excellent resources available online and would like to share that with others. I’m sure that in the post-COVID period our parish can once again be a centre of prayer, devotion and worship.

Resources for Prayer

Catechism on Prayer <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P8Z.HTM>

Father Schmitz  <https://youtu.be/yk8In-6KUGc>

Fantastic resource for those who want to go deeper <https://spiritualdirection.com/>

Best wishes, Father Behruz Rafat

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: David Lloyd-Thomas RIP**

**Those ill or infirm:** David Green, Charlotte Elliot (daughter of Maureen Davidson), Jennifer Jorden, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Anne Knox, Marie Josee Masters, Naomi Mitchell, Alfred Holmesdale, Philip Goodwin and Peter Cox.

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| **This week’s services (7th – 14th March 2021), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** | | | |
| **Sunday 7th March**  10 am Mass  12 midday EF Mass (Latin) | **Third Sunday of Lent (B)**  *People of the parish* | **Thursday 11th March**  10 am Mass | Feria |
| **Monday 8th March**  10 am Mass | Feria  *First anniversary: Marie Josee Masters (husband Bryan)* | **Friday 12th March**  10 am Mass | Feria |
| T**uesday 9th March**  10 am Mass | Feria | **Saturday 13th March**  10 am Mass | Feria |
| **Wednesday 10thMarch**  10 am Service of the Word and Holy Communion | Feria | **Sunday 14th March**  10 am Mass  12 midday EF Mass (Latin) | **Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)**  **Laetare Sunday** |
| **Flowers for Mothering Sunday (14th March) - Frances** | | | |

**White Flower Appeal**

On Sunday 14 March we have the SPUC White Flower Appeal at the 10am Mass.

As you know SPUC have been involved in protecting the lives of unborn children for many years.   There will be an opportunity to contribute to the work of SPUC through a retiring collection.

**THIS Sunday 7th March** **Father Gabriel Diaz** will come and preach at Holy Mass and afterwards **he will be available** **for confession** in the parish centre. I know many parishioners appreciate the opportunity to go to a visiting priest so I hope you will feel safe enough to make the most of this for Lent.  Father will wear a mask during the confession and I have arranged for a barrier that will also enhance the safety.

**Biography of Father Gabriel**

Fr Gabriel was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After a degree in philosophy in the Pontifical University of Argentina he entered in the seminary and was ordained priest in 1991.  He has a licence from the Holy See in order to serve communities of the Byzantine rite (Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian).  After ten years of work in his diocese as a teacher in the seminary and as episcopal vicar for Education he came to Europe and was for ten years in charge of the Russian Catholic Parish in Paris. He has been living in England the last seven years working in research about the history and spirituality of eastern and western worship traditions.