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**Newsletter for the week commencing 28th February 2021**

**Second Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

**First Reading: Genesis 1-2: 9-13; 15-18**

**Psalm 115 Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 8: 31-34**

**Acclamation:** **Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard: “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!” Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

**Gospel**: **Mark 9: 2-10**

**Communion antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we looked at fasting as a tool for spiritual growth. This week we can reflect on another ‘Pillar’ of Lent, the value of almsgiving. We often think of almsgiving as giving money to our favourite charity, which is a good thing to do.

Almsgiving is a very powerful spiritual practice that frees us from being attached to money or trying to find our happiness through the accumulation of possessions.  Through almsgiving accompanied by prayer I can begin to have a right attitude towards money.  The money I have is a gift that is there for me to do good with.

Generosity is a fruit of life in the Holy Spirit. During Lent I can reflect on areas in my life where I might really be able to show generosity to Jesus. Generosity begins with giving my best to Jesus. As I grow in my relationship with him, I become aware of the needs of others. Perhaps Jesus is counting on me to share what I have with those in great need. Whatever I decide to do it must always be accompanied by prayer and reflection.

Almsgiving as a spiritual practice means being intentional about our giving.

I’m giving this out of love for Jesus. Those who are generous have a profound sense of gratitude to God for all the gifts they have received.

The giving that is most pleasing to Our Lord is that which comes from the depths of our heart and involves the giving of myself.

Resources for spiritual growth through alms giving:

[Almsgiving and Atonement for Sin](about:blank)

[4 Reasons for Almsgiving](about:blank)

Best wishes

Father Behruz Rafat

“We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.” –

Saint Vincent de Paul



Christ Carrying the Cross Martin Schongauer. 1475–80

**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:** Pat Baker, Jim Maloney, Mary Bridgeman, Irena Lacka, Mary Jackson, Brian McGinty, John Wolfe and Jennifer Ansell.

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| **This week’s services (28th February – 6th March 2021), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** | | | |
| **Sunday 28th Feb**  10 am Mass  12 midday EF Mass (Latin) | **Second Sunday of Lent (B)**  *People of the parish* | **Thursday 4th March**  10 am Mass | Feria  *Allen Davis RIP* |
| **Monday 1st March**  10 am Mass | St David, Bishop & Patron of Wales | **Friday 5th March**  10 am Mass | Feria  Women’s World Day of Prayer |
| T**uesday 2nd March**  10 am Mass | Feria | **Saturday 6th March**  10 am Mass | Feria  *Leeper Intentions* |
| **Wednesday 3rd March**  10 am Service of the Word and Holy Communion | Feria | **Sunday 7th March**  10 am Mass | **Third Sunday of Lent (B)** |
| **No flowers during Lent** | | | |

Friday 5th March is designated the “**World Day of Prayer”**, a day when a service of prayer is held, put together by the women in a community somewhere in the world. This year it is the turn of Vanuatu.

Normally one of the churches in Tenterden holds the service in their church, led by women from the local churches, and members of all the local churches, men as well as women, are invited to attend and take part. This year it’s US!

However, because of COVID-19, having consulted the other churches, it has been decided to postpone the service until May (date to be decided) and then hold it in our beautiful church with refreshments etc afterwards.

SO…watch this space!

**Next 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.