



## Parish Newsletter 2nd Sunday in Lent Year A

### Mass Intentions

28<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 6) Zofia Kanicka & Family (SI, for blessing)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Frank Taliana (RIP) Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 7)	8.30am	Edith Fox (RIP)
Monday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 8) People of the Parish		
Tuesday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 9) Radoslaw Wasilewski (SI)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 10) Lorraine C. Allen (For healing)
Thursday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 11)		
Friday	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 12)	10.00am	Caroline Berry (RIP)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 13) Joseph Dawood Thomas (RIP)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Hayley Wright (RIP) Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 14)	8.30am	Dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące (Holy Souls)



### Transformation

The point of the Christian exercise is transformation - to find spiritual value in all that we do. Every good deed informed by Faith has spiritual value. Today's readings speak to us of this need to establish balance between the divine and the human in our lives.

**Genesis 12:1-4** Here we are introduced to circumstances governing the covenant - agreement - between God and the Chosen People in which, in return for their loyalty, the faithful would be granted fulfilled living in terms of the good things of life - a land of their own and prosperity.

**Timothy 1: 8-10** St. Paul takes this promise and translates it into more fundamental concepts, namely, immortality and ultimate union with the source of life made possible by the merits of Christ.

**Matthew 17: 1-9** The Transfiguration effected a total transformation in Christ and in the Apostles. For Christ, the future course of his mission became clear - he must go to Jerusalem, suffer, die and be resurrected. This conviction also served to deepen the Apostles' commitment to him. For us, too, transformation can be triggered by some extraordinary event in our lives, results in conversion.

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest

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## HALLS BOOKING

**Our Lady of Fatima Hall** [olfharlow@gmail.com](mailto:olfharlow@gmail.com) 07425633193

**St Thomas More Hall** [cruzblessen@gmail.com](mailto:cruzblessen@gmail.com) 07399846607

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM:** Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

**CHURCH CLEANING:** OLF Church – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm **Team C** (FHC English Parents Group)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Practice for the Polish children Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30 pm.

For the English children Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30 pm.

**RCIA:** The next meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6pm in the Presbytery.

**This week second collection is for CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day was on Friday 27th February 2026.**

Your support this Family Fast Day will help more of our neighbours grow enough to eat.

## LENT

**During Lent Friday's Mass** at Our Lady of Fatima will be at 7.00pm followed the Stations of the Cross and at St Thomas More Church will be at 10.00am followed the Stations of the Cross.

**RETREAT in Preparation for the Parish Reconciliation Service**

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at St Albans School at 7.00pm.

**LECTURES 2026:** Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall

The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?" This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood.

Talk 2. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints.

Talk 3. Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society.

## THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Gaffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

On 7 March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Wanstead **the 2026 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day** will take place, and all parishes are encouraged to send representatives. This Networking Day is designed to bring together parishioners, clergy, school staff, catechists and those actively engaged in social justice, offering space to connect, share good practice and learn from one another across the Diocese.

## Social and Fund Raising

Save the date: We have decided to hold our own International 5 aside men's football tournament on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Please register your team with Clara or Kay. Further details will follow in due course.

**Pray for the sick:** Josie Cronin, Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lamb, Noreen Wright, Grace Fisher, Kathleen Evans, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Mary Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanislaw Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, Mat Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Slota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alica and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls:** Maria Kunicka, Margaret Sackett, Frederick Pipkin, Gwendoline Middlecoat, Mgr David Manson, Ks. Józef Mituś, Fr Władysław Wichniarz MS, Joseph Dawood Thomas, Patricia Delahunt, Mary Patterson, May Aitken, Thomas Mulligan, Romualda Ratajczyk, Bp Thomas McMahan, Frank Taliana, Maria Cooper, Alice (Dow) Insch, Nick Cronin, Tony Poole, Mathew Joseph, Helen Noyo Owie, Br Wojciech Durlak MS, Fr Augustyn Hamielec MS, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Our sympathy and prayers to Lilianna Huggins on the death of her father (RIP).

## What Is Lent?



**Lent** is the penitential season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. It is set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. His victory is our renewal, our "spring" — which is the meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word, "lengten" or Lent and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

**Historically**, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

**Holy Week** is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called **the Triduum** or **Pasch**—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

**Sombre colours** such as purple or ash gray are most appropriate for Lent. Shiny objects and flowers removed from the worship area.

The **Stations of the Cross**, also known as Way of the Cross, is a 14-step Catholic devotion commemorating Jesus Christ's final day on Earth, focusing on His Passion and death. It is commonly observed during Lent on Fridays and Good Friday, where Christians pray at each station, typically represented by artwork in churches. The Stations of the Cross is one of the simplest, yet powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus.

Our journey through Lent can be compared to the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land. It can be a season of grace – not an abstract journey, but a concrete path that involves seeing the world as it is.

Our Lenten journey will be concrete if we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh (slavery). A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. It divides us and robs us of our future. There remains within us desire to cling to idols that paralyse us, as Israel was paralysed in the desert.

Lent, however, is a "**season of grace, a time of conversion,**" where the desert can become "a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery.