

Christ the King Newsletter

Focus of the Week

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As in previous years the Stations of the Cross will be recited **each Friday in Lent**.

Options are **10.15am** (followed by 11am mass) and **6pm** (followed by time of adoration).



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A new formation course in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will begin 16 March and will run one Saturday per month for six Saturdays (except August). It will be held at St. Matthew's Parish in Northwood. This is the beautiful Montessori-based religious ed program we run here at Christ the King for children 3-6. As a few of our own parishioners experienced here two years ago, the formation offers insights into the religious life of the young child, theological background in scripture and liturgy, and practical details in how we can help children listen to God. Please speak to Nancy Wood in the parish for more information.



Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom

When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily upon them. In the desert, they received the "Ten Words" as a thoroughfare to freedom. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realise how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (Hos 2:16-17). Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.



The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. The first step is to desire to open our eyes to reality. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and hears: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them" (Ex 3:7-8).

I ask you two questions: "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9) and "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Our Lenten journey will be concrete if we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh. A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. A model of growth that divides and robs us of a future. Earth, air and water are polluted, but so are our souls. True, Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Let us find the courage to see our world, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this. For faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2024

Notices of the Week

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

As believers we are called to membership in a faith community, and to a life of service using the gifts, fruits and charisms offered through the Holy Spirit.



Partnership between the parishes of Christ the King Cockfosters and Mary Immaculate and Saint Gregory the Great, High Barnet.

Tuesdays 8 – 9pm

20 February Receiving God's gift (High Barnet)

27 February Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Cockfosters)

5 March Growth (High Barnet)

12 March Transformation (Cockfosters)



LENT VIGIL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Christians are gearing up for a "no faith in fossil fuels" Lent vigil to pray that political leaders will make changes needed to address the climate crisis. The 10-day 24-hour Lent vigil outside Parliament begins on Ash Wednesday at 2.30pm. The event has been organised by a coalition of groups, including Christian Climate Action, Cafod, A Rocha UK, Christian Aid,

Green Christian, Operation Noah, the Salvation Army and Tearfund.



CAFOD - FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families. Give today and join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

To make your donation please use the Family Fast Day envelopes and enclose a cash gift or add your credit/debit card details. To boost your donation (an extra 25p for every pound) please fill in your address and tick the Gifted Aided box. You can also give online at cafod.org.uk and find out more by scanning the QR code.

To get involved and find out about volunteering opportunities with CAFOD visit Volunteer (Cafod.org.uk) or contact Beata Rozycka - brozycka@cafod.org.uk



FUNERAL



The funeral mass for **PHILOMENA SULLIVAN** will be at 11.00am on **Thursday, 29 February**.

Please pray for her soul.

ZOOM PRAYER GROUP

We still continue every Saturday at 2.30 pm with great speakers from all over the world. Recordings are available.

On 17 February it is Beth Peltola, on 24 February Jeremy Jennings, on 2 March Fiona Castle.



Newcomers most welcome. Contact peterkrau@aol.com

TIMOTHY PROGRAMME

Discover the love of God for you.

Children aged 7 – 11 years old.

Saturday 9 March 3.00 – 7.30pm

Sunday 10 March 9.45 – 11.00am Mass



www.christthekingcockfosters.co.uk

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25 May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address

and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Wednesday 10 April 2024.



SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gn 9:8-15

Ps. 24

1 Pet 3:18-22

Mk. 1:12-15.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18.

Ps 115

Rm 8:31-34

Mk 9:2-10

Contact Us

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Mass Schedule

Mon - Sat: 11.00am (except on Tuesday)
Saturday: 5.30pm
Sunday: 9.00am, 11.00am

Adoration – Confession Mon - Fri: 6.00–7.00pm

Parish Live Streaming

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