



<b>MARCH</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>MASS &amp; CONFESSION</b>
28 Saturday Confessions Vigil Mass <b>2nd Collection</b> 1 Sunday	18.00	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>5.15pm - 5.45pm</b> Owen O'Neill† (Jim & Yvonne Durkan & Family) CAFOD Lent Fast Day <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Luke & Liz Gorman (Turner Family)
	10.30	People of the Parish
	18.00	CAFOD Lent Fast Day
<b>2nd Collection</b> 2 Monday	10.00	<b>Feria - Eucharistic Service</b>
3 Tuesday	10.00	<b>Feria - Bernard Dunn Private Intention</b>
4 Wednesday	09.20	Station of the Cross
	10.00	<b>Feria - Kathleen Dollman† (Dollman Family)</b> 10.30am-11.15am
Confessions 5 Thursday	10.00	<b>Feria - Elizabeth Pollitt† (Emma)</b>
6 Friday	09.20	<b>Feria - Women's World Day of Prayer</b> Station of the Cross
	10.00	Evangelist Tiernan (Josie Boxall) & Anointing of the Sick
	19.00	Station of the Cross
7 Saturday Confessions		<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Vigil Mass	18.00	<b>5.15pm - 5.45pm</b> Dec members of O'Hare/Durkan families† (Durkan Family)
8 Sunday	10.30	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> People of the Parish
	18.00	Brian Buultjens† (Buultjens Family)

Live Streamed Mass Links are available on our website: [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**SECOND SUNDAY (Year A) 1st MARCH**

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

**1st Reading:** A reading from the book of Genesis 12:1-4a

**Responsorial Psalm R:** May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

**2nd Reading:** A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8b-10

**Gospel Acclamation: R: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**  
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.  
**R: Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Gospel:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

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



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**SECOND SUNDAY (Year A) 1st MARCH**

Dear Friends,  
On this Second Sunday of Lent, the Scriptures speak to us about journey, trust, and transformation.  
In the first reading, God calls Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's house for a land that He will show him. Abram does not know where he is going; he only knows who is calling him. That is faith. Lent is a similar journey for us. We are invited to step away from what is comfortable or sinful and move toward God's promise. We may not see the whole path clearly, but we trust the One who leads us.  
In the Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain and is transfigured before them. His face shines like the sun, and his garments become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear, representing the Law and the Prophets, pointing to Jesus as their fulfillment. Then the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son... listen to him." The disciples fall in fear, but Jesus touches them and says, "Rise, and have no fear."  
This moment of glory comes just after Jesus has spoken about his coming Passion. The light of the Transfiguration does not remove the cross; it prepares the disciples to endure it. In our own social setting - marked by financial strain, insecurity, health concerns, and uncertainty about the future - we also need moments of reassurance. We need to remember that suffering and confusion do not have the final word. Christ's glory is real, even when hidden.  
St. Paul urges Timothy not to be ashamed of suffering for the Gospel. Following Christ requires courage. In a society that often values comfort, success, and self-promotion, discipleship calls us to faithfulness, sacrifice, and hope.  
For us as a parish community, Lent is our mountain experience. Through prayer, fasting, charity, and the Eucharist, we encounter the Lord more deeply. Strengthened by that encounter, we return to daily life renewed - to our families, workplaces, and neighbourhoods - carrying the light of Christ.  
May we listen to the beloved Son, trust God as Abram did, and walk this Lenten journey with confidence, knowing that beyond the cross lies the glory of Easter.  
Every blessing,  
Fr Emmanuel

**Pope's March prayer intention: For disarmament and peace.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER** - Intentions for Lent:

Candidates for the Sacraments (*especially on the Sundays*)

The Needy and Hungry of the World (*especially on Lent Fast Day, first Friday of lent*)

Penitents and Wanderers

Women (*especially on Women's World Day of Prayer - First Friday in March*)

**Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral.** Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer Lenten season. Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next retreat is 15th-17th May 26 in Maidstone, why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)

**A Day With Mary** is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March (9.45am to 5.00pm). Full details at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

**Sign-up** to the Catholic Union's free [Weekly Briefing](#) an essential and free newsletter for any Catholic. They also offer parishes and schools weekly topical [Bidding Prayers](#). If you would like to support Catholic Union's vital work, you can [donate here](#).

**PARISH NEWS**

**Funeral: Julian Micallef** St Thomas' Church Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am, followed by committal at the Garden of England Crematorium at 1.00pm. Please remember his family and friends in your prayers, may he rest in peace, Amen.

**Collection:** With grateful thanks for the generosity of our parishioners and visitors the total collection figures for 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February £823.00 and Alma Mater "SPUC" £263.00.

**Parish Draw Club** Congratulation to the winners of our February draw: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Catherine Cleall £20.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - John Morley £15.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - Joannes Joseph £10.00.

**During Lent** there will be **Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9.20am and Friday evening at 7pm (*please sign-up to lead stations at rear of church*).

**Legion of Mary praesidium**, 63 London Rd, after 10.30am Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

**Sunday CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection - "Love your neighbour as yourself".**

This Lent, Live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions - such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Bless others with your support via CAFOD envelope or donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope)

**New Readers** If you are interested in reading at Mass please stay behind after 10.30 Mass this Sunday to speak with Fr. Emmanuel. This is a great way for parishioners to take a more active role in the Mass

**We Need Your Help** Each year, the Catholic Association Pilgrimage (CA) is responsible for coordinating the welcome and care of our 'assisted pilgrims' - those on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes who have particular care and support needs. The CA is appealing for parishioners who might want to come to Lourdes as an assisted pilgrim, or as a volunteer helper in order to help provide the support that our assisted pilgrims need. All are welcome and all have an important contribution to make to the community that we form during our pilgrimage week. For more information visit: [catholicassociation.co.uk](http://catholicassociation.co.uk) or see posters at the rear of Church.

**My Lourdes Story: Why One Week Changed my Life** (and why you should come too) is a brief account by one of our parishioners. Please take the time to read it if you feel you would like to go but are not sure what to expect. You can find copies at rear of Church or via a link on our website.

**LENTEN TALKS 2026: 'A Journey of Sacramental Joy' - reflecting on the Sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ and the grace of God given to those who receive them.**

Every Tuesday evening during Lent at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. A light supper of soup and a roll will be served at each session. Parents of children receiving First Holy Communion and Confirmation are encouraged to attend.

**Anointing of the Sick - First Friday (6th March)** after the **10:00 am Mass** This sacrament is for anyone who is sick, elderly, weak, or in need of God's healing and strength.

**World Day of Prayer 2026 (WDP) Service - 6<sup>th</sup> March**, 6pm at St Thomas's Church, followed by a gathering in the Parish Centre, please bring a plate of food for sharing, all welcome to come along and join us. We would especially like to encourage young family and children to attend this year, a children's activity sheet will be available for them.

**Save the Date** 15<sup>th</sup> March Confirmation Mass at 2pm, main celebrant, Bishop Paul. 21<sup>st</sup> March RCIA & Parish retreat at Aylesford. Further details of all events to follow.

**PARKING** - Please be considerate to all our neighbours when parking for Mass, ensuring your vehicle is not causing serious road obstruction or blocking drives, Thank you.

To donate online, please scan the QR code.

Thank you for the generosity of our Parishioners and Visitors

