

Lent is a time when we share the desert with Jesus. Time to fast, pray and sacrifice.

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16 March – 23 March 2025

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Patrick Zammit

Tel: 01322 279955

PARISH PRIEST EMERITUS (Retired):

Fr Michael Leach

PERMANENT DEACON:

Rev Michael Dale

PARISH SCHOOL – St Anselm's

Headteacher – Mrs Laura White

Tel: 01322 225173

Saturday	15 Mar	<u>10.00am</u> <u>6.30pm</u>	Somitra Bahu RIP – Berlyn and Infanta FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY: Margaret Stapleton RIP – Hogan Family
Sunday	16 Mar	<u>9.00am</u> <u>10.30am</u> <u>4.00pm</u> <u>5.00pm</u>	Terry Clarke RIP – Carmel & Chris White FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Stations of the Cross Bridget Ward RIP - Family
Monday	17 Mar	<u>8.30am</u> <u>9.00am</u> <u>12.00am</u>	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH Gerald Wall RIP – P. Wall Marriage: Willie Benedict Donovan and Bridget Joan Casey
Tuesday	18 Mar	<u>8.30am</u> <u>9.00am</u>	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH Dee Pal Fernando RIP – Mary and Julian Bowen
Wednesday	19 Mar	<u>8.30am</u> <u>9.00am</u> <u>6.00pm</u> <u>7.00pm</u>	EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH Joseph Francis RIP – Renee Francis - 7.00pm CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL - 8.30pm LENT TALKS Talk 2: I Believe in God The Father – Laura White
Thursday	20 Mar	<u>8.30am</u> <u>9.00am</u>	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH Noel Labouchardiere RIP – E. Labouchardiere
Friday	21 Mar	<u>8.15am</u> <u>8.30am</u> <u>9.00am</u> <u>3.30pm</u>	DARENT VALLEY HOSP: MASS: Rita Nancy Foster RIP (Ann.) EXPOSITION & ADORATION - FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH Romualdo Gurjao RIP - Family Stations of the Cross
Saturday	22 Mar	<u>10.00am</u> <u>6.30pm</u>	Mary Downing RIP (Ann.) FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY: Thanksgiving: Grace Iloanya – Grace Okafur
Sunday	23 Mar	<u>9.00am</u> <u>10.30am</u> <u>4.00pm</u> <u>5.00pm</u>	Paul Coleman RIP – Debbie Planner Knights of Columba Stations of the Cross FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

CLEANING TEAMS: 16.3.25 Filipinos 23.3.25 Julia & John Murphy 30.3.25 Bijo Joseph 6.4.25 Karen & Steve Coleman 13.4.25 Polish Team

CAFOD: Family Fast Day: This weekend, any envelopes for the CAFOD Family Fast Day will be collected.

The F.F. envelopes have been attached to the newsletter. If you missed your envelope, there are spare ones at the back of the Church.

LENT TALKS: You will be pleased to learn that the first parish Lent Talk was well attended. The first talk was an introduction to this series. Mr Kevin Barry gave a very detailed exposition and background of the Creed. He laid the foundation for the other five talks. I very much would like to encourage as many parishioners to attend. By attending, it will be more than a refresher. Definitely there is a great deal for one to learn. These talks will help with the Sunday liturgy when we come to celebrate the Eucharist and recite the Creed as an integral part of the Sunday Mass. The talk for this week is: "I Believe in God The father." The speaker is Mrs Laura White. After the talk, one has the chance to ask questions.

PARISH MASS BOOK: The Parish Mass Book (Year C) is on order thanks to a parish benefactor. These books are not to be taken away. The advantage of having such books will encourage greater participation in the celebration of the Eucharist.

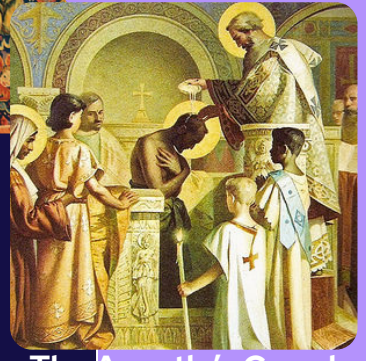
DIOCESAN COLLECTION OF POOR PARISHES: This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poor parishes in our diocese. This collection will take place next weekend.

CONFIRMATION: Anyone over the age of twelve is eligible to enroll for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You may do so by using our enrolment form. These forms are on the table in the Church Porch. Once you fill the forms, you can hand it in after Mass or drop it at the Presbytery.

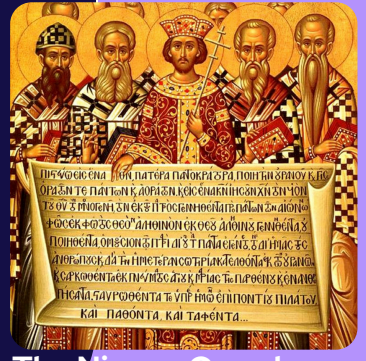
STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, the devotion of the stations of the cross takes place twice a week, Fridays and Sundays. The devotion on Fridays is led by the schoolchildren of St. Anselm's. This is open to the whole parish. The time of the devotion is 3:30 PM. On Sundays, the devotion takes place at 4:00 PM.

I BELIEVE

THE CREED: AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



The Apostles' Creed was developed in response to the needs of the early Church.



The Nicene Creed was developed to clarify doctrine.

Last week we had the first of our Lent talks exploring the theme "I Believe – The Creed." These six talks stand alone, but together they form a deeper reflection on what we profess every Sunday at Mass. These evenings are not about penance (you can handle that in your own way!). Instead, they are designed to stimulate both the mind and the heart. Today, skeptics dismiss belief as irrational, outdated, or unscientific. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our faith is both logical and transformative. Christianity is unique among world religions in its emphasis on doctrine as well as right action. From its earliest days, the Church sought to define what it believes with clarity. This gave birth to the Creeds, shaped through centuries of debate, councils, and theological reflection.

What is the Creed?

We recite the Creed every Sunday, standing as one, proclaiming our faith together. But how often do we really reflect on the words? The Creed is not a personal prayer like the Our Father or Hail Mary. Instead, it is a public declaration of faith, an act of unity with the Church past and present. This is why it is recited at key moments: baptism, confirmation, the Easter Vigil—but never in private prayer.

The Creed acts as a bridge in the Mass. After the Liturgy of the Word (Scripture readings and homily), we proclaim our faith before moving into the Eucharist. It is a moment of response, an affirmation that we accept what we have heard and prepare to participate in Christ's sacrifice.

The word "Creed" comes from the Latin Credo, meaning "I believe." But there's an important nuance: in Latin, in with the accusative case implies movement towards something. When we say "I believe in God," it is not a static statement. It expresses a journey, a movement towards Him.

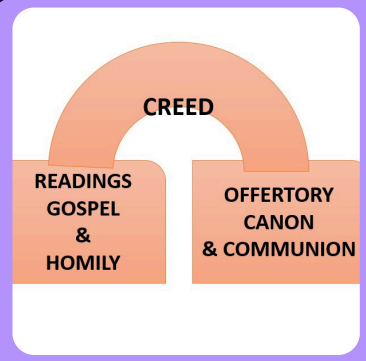
A Tale of Two Creeds

There are two great universal Creeds:

1. The Apostles' Creed – the older, simpler version, rooted in the baptismal confessions of the early Church.
2. The Nicene Creed – formulated at the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) to combat Arianism, a heresy denying Christ's divinity.

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of Nicaea, where bishops from across the Roman Empire gathered to settle one burning question: Is Jesus truly God, or merely an exalted creature? The debate was fierce, but the result was a clear doctrinal statement:

"God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father."



The Creed acts as a bridge in the mass, linking the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Watch a recording of the talk by scanning this QR code.

Join us in the Conference Centre, for the second of the six talks this Wednesday 19th March when we will be exploring the topic: 'I believe in God the Father.'

7pm - 8.30pm

'An interesting insight into our faith that we possibly take for granted. Thank you.'