

The Presbytery, Mallard Close, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5HU UK

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27 February – 7 March 2021

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Patrick Zammit

Tel: 01322 279955

PARISH PRIEST (EMERITUS):

Fr Michael Leach

PERMANENT DEACON:

Rev Michael Dale

PARISH SCHOOL – St Anselm's

Headteacher – Mrs Laura White

Tel: 01322 225173

Saturday	27 Feb	6.30pm	First Mass of Sunday: Michael McDonagh – Stevens
Sunday		8.00am	Fr Hans Wittmer RIP 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)
	28 Feb	10.00am	Bill O'Keefe RIP (Ann.)
		12 Noon	FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
		5.00pm	William Mahon RIP (Ann.) Foundation Mass
Monday	1 Mar	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – Deliverance from the Pandemic
		9.00am	Douglas and Nora Whiffin RIP ST DAVID (Patron of Wales)
		4.00pm	Reception of the body of Mr Michael Minton
Tuesday	2 Mar	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – Deliverance from the Pandemic
		9.00am	Fr Peter McPolin RIP (Ann.)
		10.00am	Requiem Mass: Mr Michael Minton RIP
Wednesday	3 Mar	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – Deliverance from the Pandemic
		9.00am	Mavis Joan Taylor RIP – Bernard and Maria Taylor
Thursday	4 Mar	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – Deliverance from the Pandemic
		9.00am	Phyllis Louisa Oldham RIP (Ann.)
Friday	5 Mar	8.30am	EXPOSITION & ADORATION – Deliverance from the Pandemic
		9.00am	Joe Connor RIP – J Crowley
Saturday	6 Mar	10.00am	James Gordon Alexander Bentley RIP (Ann.)
		12.00pm	Baptism: Chimerika Michelle Onwutoba
		2.00pm	Baptism: Chetanna David Odemena
		6.30pm	First Mass of Sunday: Archbishop Peter Smith RIP (Ann.)
Sunday	7 Mar	8.00am	Christopher Rocke RIP (Ann.) 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)
		10.00am	Bill O'Keefe – Nora
		12 Noon	FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
		5.00pm	Holy Souls

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: ON REQUEST

DAILY EXPOSITION: Mon to Fri 8.30am - 9.00am

TEA ROTA: ON HOLD

CLEANING TEAMS: TBC

RIP ANNIVERSARY: James Hannaford, Jim Brady, Maureen Kelleher, James Freeman, Graham Doyle, Peter Tierney, Douglas Whiffin, Eileen Ryall, Dorothy Reddy, Angela Mary Galea, Mary Jeffries, Loozek Szymanski, Josef Rolek, Patrick Brennan, Fr Peter McPolin, James Fernandez, Franciszek Gorka, Emily Brinkley, John Read, Phyllis Oldham, Kevin Belford, James Bentley, Miriam Paget, William Smith, Ann Busted, Jeanne Neagle, Christopher Rocke, James Flynn, Arthur Byrne, Margaret Chitty, Francis Doyle – May they rest in peace.

LENT: FASTING: What is fasting within a religious context? I would like to touch upon the history of, the purpose of and the practice of this subject.

Since fasting preceded Christianity and Christian practice, one begins to look at the Judeo-Christian tradition. In a quote from the evangelist Mark, we are given a glimpse of the practices in the Jewish tradition. One day when John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting some people came and said to him (Jesus) "Why is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast but most of your disciples do not?" Jesus replied, "Surely the bridegroom's attendants would never think fasting while the bridegroom is still with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they could not think of fasting. But the time will come for the bridegroom to be taken away from them and then on that day they will fast.

Christ not only reinforced the practice of fasting but made it more spiritual when he said, "When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do; they pull their long faces to let me know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face so that no one will know you are fasting except your father who sees all that is done in secret; and your father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

Not eating and not drinking could be seen as a means of atonement, as with Yom Kippur, but it could also clear the way for an expected meeting with God. Moses, for example, fasted prior to going up the mountain to meet with God and receive the Ten Commandments.

Before Lent, groups of Christians fasted. In the second century there was talk about fasting leading up to Easter. It was Peter I of Alexandria in the fourth century who connected Christian penitential (still not Lent) fasting to Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness.

For many, the word Lent means fasting. We fast in imitation of Christ to get close to God the Father. Let us hope to find inspiration from the words of scripture quoted above. May Christ continue to be our inspiration by his teaching.

MICHAEL MINTON RIP: We are all saddened to hear the passing of Michael Minton recently. Just shortly before he went into hospital, Michael wanted to make a donation to his favourite charity, Vision Aid Overseas, as he was worried that with the pandemic, they would need more donations for their important work. Before he was able to make his own donation he was taken ill and shortly after passed to his eternal reward. Please help make one of his last wishes a reality and consider donating whatever you can to this worthy cause. We have set up a just giving page to donate through (<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Vision-Aid1>). However, if you would like to make a cash donation, please leave in an envelope marked 'Vision Aid Appeal' and leave with Fr Pat. Thank you for your generosity.

THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: (Retiring collection) This retiring collection helps the Society of the Protection of Unborn children in their work. This will take place this weekend.

PERU: During the period of fasting and abstinence we often save money from such practice in the hope that others will gain. Money saved often goes towards a good cause. In this instance, I would like to suggest to any parishioner to put such money towards the Parish Peru Project. This year we have been unable to offer the usual support due to the pandemic. The Peru Box will be reinstated in the church to receive donations. Speaking to Fr Alex by phone, he mentioned the difficulties they are having in Peru including his parish. Peru, as a nation, received only 700,000 jobs for a country with 32 million people. The parish clinics depend on people like you. Every penny counts. If you wish to contribute you may use the box in the church or leave your donation at the presbytery. Any donation, no matter how small, will be very much appreciated.