

Mass Intentions for week commencing 21st February 2021

Sat 20 th Sun 21 st	10:00am 6:00pm 10:30am	Sts Peter Damian & Robert Southwell First Sunday of Lent (B)	Private Intention People of the Parish Domenico Naugen
Mon 22 nd	10:00am	The Chair of St Peter	Nancy & Chris' Intention
Tue 23 rd	10:00am	St Polycarp	Ann Murphy O'Connor
Wed 24 th	10:00am	Feria	Flavian D'Souza's
Thur 25 th	10:00am	St Ethelbert	Rita & Nuala Quinn RIP
Fri 26 th	10:00am	Feria	Dolores Keegan's Int.
Sat 27 th	10:00am 6:00pm	St Anne Line Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent (B)	Private Intention People of the Parish

Reflection: Emperor Nero burnt the city of Rome in A.D. 64 in order to divert people's attention from the economic collapse. He accused Christians of being arsonists. After that an era of persecution of Christians began. The evangelist Mark wrote his Gospel for the persecuted Christians in Rome, who lived in constant fear of being thrown to the wild beasts in the arena. Mark tells of Jesus' experience in the wilderness where Jesus faced wild beasts. Jesus is the innocent One but His innocence does not protect Him from conflict, from trial, from suffering and from facing His adversary. Innocence does not dispel conflict. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus is seen to face trial in the wilderness, the traditional arena of Satan. Before going public, the resolve of the innocent one is put to the test. Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. The term Satan in Hebrew simply means an adversary. In the Old Testament, it was first used to describe human opponents: when the Philistines were afraid that the young David would emerge as their 'satan', they simply meant their 'enemy'. The original meaning of the word Satan was anyone who was a dangerous opponent. Later the word came to mean one who pleads a case against another, an accuser of the people of God, the public accuser of heaven. Finally it came to mean God's Adversary, a demonic spirit opposed to God. By the time of the New Testament, Satan was understood to be the principal spirit of evil who was involved in a mighty struggle against God. After His baptism, where the Father declares Him to be His beloved Son, Jesus meets the Adversary of God. The Son must decide whether to follow the way of the Father or the way of Satan. His new beginning is a time of change and a time of temptation but it is also a time of clarification. It always helps to know who you are up against and why and who better than your enemy to help you clarify what you must oppose and what you must defend. When Jesus emerges from the wilderness of temptation, He does not leave temptation forever behind Him. The adversary will appear again and again throughout His ministry. Jesus focused on preaching God's way and for people to recognise the time has come to let God rule in their lives. If this is to happen they must repent and believe the Good News which is God's plan. Lent is a time to face the adversary within and around us. At the beginning of Lent the Church always takes us into the wilderness with Jesus to face the power that is opposed to the Gospel. The Good News is that we do this with Jesus and in the company of His followers. None of us should have to face the wilderness alone. We are all tempted; we all fail; we all sin. All of us need to hear, like Jesus, the voice of the Father that recognises us as His beloved children. When we hear that voice, the call to repent is the call to stay in the company of the one who loves us. The Gospel challenges us to change our minds about the way we think, change our hearts about the Gospel we ignore, and change our ways about habits of sin. This is a lifetime task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; He finally achieved that in His death. Lent reminds us of our need to begin again facing the enemy within us. The Good News is that when we do take the right road, it leads us to the kingdom of God.

HUMOUR: I would give up chocolate during Lent, but I am not a quitter.

St. Ann's Catholic Church



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New Parishioners: Welcome to St. Ann's Parish! Please take a Parish Registration Form from the back of the church or the website and kindly fill it out and return it to the Parish Office.

Archbishop John Wilson and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. There are also additional materials for use by parish and other groups, either in person or via Zoom/Teams or similar. If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme> where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

Lent Appeal: in the week beginning 22 February, for Family Fast Day on 26 February or at any time in Lent: The coronavirus pandemic has shown how important it is to have access to clean, safe water. During these challenging times, your donation to CAFOD's Lent Appeal is needed more than ever. With your donations to CAFOD's Lent Appeal we can reach out to communities around the world to help them thrive even in the most difficult environments. For more, please read via these links: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjtDxhOvKXs>> or <<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>>.

St John Paul II: 'In this Lenten season, Jesus calls us to follow Him on the way that leads Him to Jerusalem to be sacrificed on the cross. 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' Of course, this is a demanding and difficult invitation, but it can unleash the creative power of love in those who accept it. From the first moment of this season of Lent, therefore, our gaze is turned to Christ's glorious Cross. The author of the Imitation of Christ writes: 'In the Cross is salvation; in the Cross is life; in the Cross is protection from the enemy; in the Cross is the supernatural gift of the sweetness of heaven; in the Cross is strength of mind and joy of spirit; in the Cross virtue is added to virtue and holiness is perfected.'

Jesuits in Britain are offering - Knowing Jesus - Lent Online Retreat 2021. Follow the retreat via this link: <https://www.onlineprayer.net/>. Registration to lead Lent Groups is also still open – link on the above page. This includes an invitation to a training day. Sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources: <http://eepurl.com/hnlXAn>

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR: If you are not in the Gift Aid scheme, and if you are paying Income Tax please fill in a form available from the website and kindly complete and return it to the Parish Office. Please kindly consider changing to a monthly standing order. This saves you having to worry about cash on Sundays and also assists the Parish as the money does not have to be counted and banked weekly. All information is Private and Confidential. A big thank you to all who are supporting the Gift Aid Scheme.