



# Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Michael, Uxbridge

5th Sunday of Lent (B), 21st March 2021

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## Parish Diary

**Saturday 20th March** Lent Feria

**10am** Isabel Ernest (14th Ann)

**11am** Stations of the Cross#5 (Zoom)

**4pm-4.30pm** Confessions

**5pm** Pat Stanley (RIP)

**Sunday 21st March**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

**8am** Dan Sullivan (RIP)

**9.30am** Emilia Ashenuga (RIP)

**11am** Pro Populo/St Joseph (tx)

**Monday 22nd March** Lent Feria

**9.30am** Brian Jones (RIP)

**6pm** First Communion Class#10

**Tuesday 23rd March**

Lent Feria/Nat Day of Reflection

**9.30am** Connie Dodd (RIP)

**10am-11am** Private Prayer

**12 noon** Minute's Silence

**6pm** Ignatian Prayer

**7pm-8pm** Private Prayer

**Wednesday 24th March** Lent Feria

**9.30am** Rebecca Potter (RIP)

**Thursday 25th March**

**Annunciation of the Lord**

**9.30am** Holy Souls

**Friday 26th March** Lent Feria

**6pm** Megan D'Souza (b'day int)

**7pm** Parish Evening Rosary

**Saturday 27th March** Lent Feria

**10am** Rose Fogarty (RIP)

**11am** Stations of the Cross#6 (Zoom)

**4pm-4.30pm** Confessions

**5pm** Keith D'Souza (int)

**Sunday 28th March**

**Palm Sunday**

**8am** John Joseph Dempsey (int)

**9.30am** John Cleary (RIP)

**11am** Noel Freeman (int)

To access our livestreamed Masses

please visit our website or go to

YouTube and type in 'Uxbridge Parish'

**Sanctuary Lamps** burn this week for

Julie Chandna, RIP (Blessed

Sacrament); Subhash Chandna, int (Lady Altar)

The church is now open for communal worship. Masses will continue to be available online in the usual way. **Seats need to be booked, as before, either in person or through Eventbrite.** Please check the schedule on this newsletter. Please remember that we still have to wear masks, observe social distancing and avoid mingling with each other inside and outside the church. This applies to you even if you have received the vaccine!

**Planned Giving Boxes** are now available for the next tax year. Please see a member of the Finance Committee after Mass, at the back of the church (around the area of the Confessional) to pick up your new set. If you would like to transfer to standing orders, please let us know! Thank you for your ongoing support.

**National Day of Reflection and Prayer for COVID-19** This Tuesday (23rd March) has been designated as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown. The bishops have asked that we pray this day for all those who have died, for the bereaved and for all those who have suffered through illness, stress, financial disaster, etc. We also pray in thanksgiving for the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many, for our health workers, scientists and community leaders, for all the blessings we have personally received. We pray too with hope as we look forward to the future. Our church will be open for private between 10am and 11am and between 7pm and 8pm (at 8pm we are encouraged to participate in a doorstep vigil of light). Please remember also the minute's silence at midday.

**Thursday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation**—although we are usually closed that day we will, by exception, have Mass at 9.30am to celebrate 'Lady Day'.

**Holy Week Schedules** are now available. We are thankful that Holy Week this year is different from 2020, when everything had to be celebrated behind closed doors. In line with guidance from the Bishops' Conference, many of the Holy Week ceremonies are simplified and shortened this year—so, for example, there is no Washing of Feet or Altar of Repose on Thursday evening and no Easter fire before the Vigil. We have taken the difficult decision to hold the 3pm Good Friday Service only online, for everybody's safety, since numbers are normally very large and the seats in our church too limited. There is no easy way to allocate tickets and myself, Angela and the Parish Team have decided that this is the fairest course of action in these exceptional circumstances. However, as you will see, the church will be open for much of the day and evening for private prayer, with Stations of the Cross at 9.30am, time for confessions and several virtual services. Naturally, many people will want to attend as many services as possible. Let us all be mindful of the needs and desires of others and please try to follow some of the services on line, where appropriate, so that we maximise our seating capacity. Thank you!

**Stations of the Cross** We will have Stations of the Cross on Zoom each Saturday in Lent at **11am**. Simply type in the link and join in (this is then transferred to our YouTube channel). The Zoom link changes each week—so for Stations#5 (20th March) it is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81616330162?pwd=dmNKQzBQT0psUIF1Q3c4SjU4OG40dz09>  
Meeting ID: 816 1633 0162  
Passcode: 770574. Stations#6 (27th March) is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89474183534?pwd=YmR0U1FvTHZEV1VoVGJtRTNoZ2gwUT09>  
Meeting ID: 894 7418 3534  
Passcode: 168903

**Confessions** will be heard in the church on Saturdays in Lent between 4pm and 4.30pm. Alternatively, an appointment can be made, in which case confession is heard outside the church or presbytery (due to cleaning requirements). Please do not ask for confession immediately before or after Mass, since Fr Nicholas needs to attend to other matters at these times. Thank you.

**Ignatian Prayer Group** on Zoom meets on Tuesdays at 6pm and lasts for about 45 minutes. If you are not already on the list and would like to join, please let us know!

**Friday Evening Rosary** Why not tune in on Friday evenings at 7pm on YouTube for 20 minutes, so that we can pray the Rosary together? You can send us inten-

### A Prayer for Lent

Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in this struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wis-

dom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Children's Liturgy** led by Mark and Sylvia. This popular group for 3-7 year olds meets each Sunday during termtime at 10am on Webex. The link is sent out weekly. Please let us know if you would like to join in with your child.

**Mass Attendance Card** If your child will be needing a priest's reference (CCP) for a school later this year (Nursery, Reception or Year 7 application), please make sure you are engaging regularly in the life of the parish (either by coming to Mass in person or watching online and leaving a comment). Your week-by-week practice can be written on a Church Attendance Card—please come and collect a new copy if you need one.

**Mass Intentions** Please be aware that we are currently booked up until May. Please contact us if you would like to book a Mass.

**COVID Tests** Hillingdon residents without symptoms can now get a free test at the Civic Centre (or The Beck Theatre, Hayes). These must be pre-booked: please visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/community-testing>

**COVID Vaccine** Fr Nicholas and Angela received their first dose recently and only had mild side effects, as expected. Pope Francis has spoken of the vaccine as an 'ethical action' and the Vatican has reminded us that Catholics can

receive all types of vaccine in good conscience. Please do sign up for yours if you are invited to do so! For more info, see the Coronavirus section on [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)

**In case you are admitted to hospital** please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Alternatively contact Fr Nicholas.

**Point to Ponder:** 'Today's Gospel invites us to turn our gaze to the Crucifix which is not an ornamental object or a clothing accessory — abused at times! Rather, it is a religious symbol to contemplate and to understand...I may think: "How do I look at the Crucifix? As a work of art, to see if it is beautiful or not? Or do I look within; do I penetrate Jesus' wounds unto the depths of his heart? Do I look at the mystery of God who was humiliated unto death, like a slave, like a criminal?" Do not forget this: look to the Crucifix, but look within it.' (Pope Francis)



### Parish Priest

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