



### ASHES TO ASHES? by Canon Peter Stodart



Two formulas are offered for the words to be used as our foreheads are marked with ashes on Ash Wednesday. One is "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return". This has encouraged many to believe that we wear the ashes to remind us of our death and decomposition. Indeed we are encouraged to think sometimes of our death, but we should focus not so much on the subsequent decaying of our earthly bodies, rather, on the hope of subsequent heavenly joy.

The other formula is "Turn away from sin and believe the Good News!", inviting us to reflect that our Lenten exercises are designed to help us enrich our earthly lives. We do this by humbling ourselves before God so that we can be more open to the graces He wants to shower upon us here and now. In Old Testament times, when people wanted to express their humility in a symbolic way they would wear sack cloth instead of clothes and dirty their skin with ashes from the fire place. Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy recalls that custom, although we feel it would be

inappropriate in our modern society to go to the extreme of dressing in bin bags!

Of course, Ash Wednesday is only the first day of Lent. It is important to plan how we are going to make the whole season of Lent a time of turning from sin and believing the Good News. The Lent Pledge forms are available in the porch to help us do that.

*May God bless all our Lenten efforts and make Lent a time of genuine renewal for us.*



### FASTING by Siobhan O'Connell



Since the earliest days of the Church, there has been some form of Lenten preparation for the great feast of Easter and fasting has always been a key element.

Fasting can mean abstaining completely from food and drink or limiting the amount we eat, as we do on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is practiced by many world religions. Traditionally, Jewish people fast on six days a year – not eating or drinking. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims are called to fast from dawn until dusk, which is very challenging during the long summer days. Fasting in various forms is practised by Hindus and Buddhists. For Christians of many denominations, fasting is seen as an

integral part of the practice of their religion.

Even in our relatively secular society, some people with no religious beliefs still give up something for Lent or have a "Dry January" or a "Sugar Free February". It is as if, deep in our psyche, humans recognise the need for the contrast between denial and indulgence and the physical and spiritual benefits of a change in our lifestyle.

#### Why is fasting so important for Catholics?

We are called to fast as a spiritual discipline. Self-denial is essential to being a follower of Christ. The act of fasting can free our bodies and minds from the worldly desires that distract us from spiritual matters. Learning to do without, especially when the sacrifice is made on behalf of another, can also bring home to us, in a small way, the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day and it can lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

As a child, I remember giving up sweets and chocolate for Lent. I remember the anticipation of being able to eat a chocolate egg on Easter Sunday. Never did chocolate taste so delicious! Back then, I don't think I grasped the spiritual significance of fasting but I did recognise the value of denying myself something I enjoyed. The money saved went into the box for Lenten alms in the church. Fasting for me is still an integral part of Lent. I don't enjoy it and find it hard to keep going but I know I will be the better for it.

**SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B PSALTER WEEK 2  
PARISH MASS BOOK**  
**Readings: from page 137**  
**Preface: from page 68**

## THIS WEEK

### SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> St Scholastica

9.00 am Holy Communion Class - Hall  
10.35 am Talk on Human Trafficking - Hall  
4.00 pm Holy Communion Class - Hall

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Yr B Ps Wk 2 Day for the Unemployed

#### OUTREACH Poor Parishes (formerly Needs of the Diocese)

Just as we cannot live without oxygen so the Diocese of Southwark cannot discharge its many duties and responsibilities without money. We as a parish are fortunate to have many blessings. Please help those parishes within our diocese who are less fortunate. Please use the Gift Aid envelope dated 25th February from your pack.

### TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup>

Noon Tuesday Lunch Club - Hall  
8.00 pm RCIA Fr Peter's Room

### WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins. Ashes will be distributed and Lenten Pledges collected at all Masses.

Mass at 7.30 & 10.00am, 12.30 & 8.00pm  
Noon until 2pm Bread & Soup Lunch - Hall  
7.00 pm Stations of the Cross

### SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

10.35 am Writing/Signing Cards for Prisoners of Conscience - Hall

### SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Lent Yr B Ps Wk 1

4.00 pm Stations of the Cross

**OUTREACH L'Arche** is an international organisation which brings people with and without learning disabilities together in communities. There are ten communities in the UK providing high quality support to over 200 adults with a learning disability. For more information, please see [www.larche.org.uk](http://www.larche.org.uk)

## CONTACTS

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## Mass Times

### Sunday Masses

Sat 5.30 pm Vigil Mass

Sun 8.00 am

9.30 am Family Mass with Music Group & Children's Liturgy

11.15 am Sung Mass with Traditional Choir

5.45 pm

### Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 7.30 & 10.00 am

Wed: 7.30 am, 12.30 pm

7.30 pm Extraordinary Form Mass (1st Wednesday each month)

4.30 pm Burrswood (2nd Wednesday each month)

Fri: 7.30, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Sat 8.00 and 10.00am

### Reconciliation

Sat 10.30 -11.30 am. 4.30 - 5.15 pm. Also by appointment.

Evening prayers of the Church with Benediction - This Sunday 4.00pm.

**Stations of the Cross - Starts Wed 12th Feb. 7pm** Will be on Sundays 4.00pm and Wednesdays at 7.00pm throughout Lent.

**Eucharistic Adoration Monday** 6.30 am - 8.00 pm

**Tuesday and Thursday** 6.30 am -1.00 pm, **Friday** 6.30 am - 9.00 pm

**Monday- Friday** the church is usually open from 6.30 am until at least 8.00 pm

## ROSARY INTENTION

For all victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, that they may be freed.

### Prayer Groups

**Cenacolo** Thurs, Blessed Sacrament, 2.30 pm

**Charismatic** Tues, Church, 8.00 pm

**Christian Meditation** Tues, Hall 2.00 pm

**Mothers Prayers** Tue, Meet Room 3 10.45 am

### Choir Practices

**Music Group** Thurs 8.00 pm

**Traditional** Sun 10.30 am

### Uniform Groups

**Rainbows** Wed 4.15 pm

**Brownies** Wed 6.00 pm

**Guides** Wed 7.00 pm

**Senior Section** Wed 7.00 pm

**Beavers** Thurs 4.15 pm

**Cubs** Thurs 6.00 pm

**Scouts** Thurs 8.00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE** - The groups listed above meet **every week at the same time and on the same day**. Any alteration will be shown in the diary section of the newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\* **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES** \*\*\*\*\*

**Church Hall - Tues** 4.15 pm, & **Sat** 9.00 am & 4.00 pm

**BAPTISMS** - We are pleased to welcome **Lorena, Lucia, Isabelle & Charlotte** to our parish community. There are leaflets entitled "Your Baby's Baptism at St Augustine's" in the church porch. Contact Jean Dunne, (01892 309062) and Jean will send you a baptism preparation pack.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** the repose of the souls of **Michael Bassett, Pauline Teague, Marie-Therese Feeley, Jim Rice, Odile Curty, Yeldo Varghese, Dorothy Swain, Margaret Priestley, Madelaine Gillah, Carol Stapley, Alex Chauvin, Ken Robinson, Denis Hellier.**

Please also remember the sick and housebound in your prayers.



## Lenten pledges

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February. At all Masses on that day a basket will be placed in front of the altar to collect your pledge stating your intention to carry out an act of charity or self-denial during Lent. Please take one of the forms in the porch, complete it and bring it to Mass on Ash Wednesday. The pledges will be locked away until the Easter Vigil, when they will be burned in the bonfire. Masses with distribution of Ashes will be At 7.30, 10.00, 12.30 & 8.00pm.

HALF TERM – ASH WEDNESDAY  
THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA MASS AT  
ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH AT 10AM  
FOR OUR PARENTS AND CHILDREN FROM ALL  
THE SCHOOLS

There will be Stations of the Cross on Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday in Lent at 7 p.m. and every Sunday in Lent at 4 p.m. (instead of Evening Prayer).

### COULD YOU WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME ?

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a great blessing as those who Adore regularly will tell you. Would you be able to spend one hour in silence with our Lord during the week ? We need parishioners who could commit either on a weekly basis, or as reserves, especially on Mondays or Fridays.



As the Apostles asked Our Lord where he lived he replied Come and See !

If you think you could and would like more information please contact :

Suzan Ekrem 07514 094427, 01892 543136 or ask at the church

### Healing Service

led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

8pm Tuesday 13th March

An Evening of Healing and  
Encountering the Lord's Presence  
Join us in the Hall afterwards for  
refreshments

For more info Stefanie on 01892 542 245  
or email stefaniedawn61@gmail.com



### A BIG THANK YOU

I thank Frs. Peter, Lixon & Josaphat and all the parishioners. For all the Masses, prayers, thoughts, emails, get well cards, and your concern. It's been a long haul, but I will be back this weekend

Deacon Kevin

### THANK YOU FROM MAUREEN ELVERY

Maureen would like to thank everyone who sent cards and flowers and for all the prayers and calls and good wishes during her illness.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.

Pope Francis

### OFFERTORY

Offertory	£846.50
Offertory GA	£502.60
Outreach	
Hospice in the Weald	£812.51
Cafod	£27
Mitapeeap	£41.70
Thank you for your generosity.	

### Bread & Soup Lunches



Everyone is invited to share a simple lunch of homemade soup and bread on

Ash Wednesday 14th Feb, from 12.00 until 2 p.m

Volunteers are invited to provide soup or help on the day; please contact Laurie TW 525046 or the Office.

### Relationships & Sex Education Consultation

The government are consulting about changes to the teaching of sex and relationship education in schools.

There is an online survey to complete.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/life-skills/pshe-rse-call-for-evidence/>

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 12 February 2018.

The Catholic Education Service provides information about their current policy of Relationship and Sex Education.

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/relationship-sex-education>

### CONSCIENCE MATTERS IN THE WORKPLACE

A CONFERENCE AND AGM FOR THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

TWICKENHAM. TW1 4SX

14th APRIL 2018 (AGM 15th APRIL)

This conference seeks to address the recent movement towards the exclusion of those with specific moral standards from the workplace. contact - cygnetdoc@aol.com

### Faith in the Questions – the Science and Faith Debate

St James', Tunbridge Wells will be hosting Riding Lights Theatre Company as part of a national tour focusing on the interface between science and Christian faith -

'Faith in the Questions'.

St James Church 20th February, beginning at 7.30pm

There will be a one-act play, "Counting the Clouds", followed by a panel discussion with practicing scientists. Tickets are free and available from Riding Lights at <https://ridinglights.org/faith-in-the-questions/> or by phoning 01904 613000.

Riding Lights Theatre Company with New Wine present their new production

'Where Adventure Begins'

which encourages us all to think about how we promote faith and discipleship within our families.

TW Baptist Church on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 from : [www.new-wine.org/adventurebegins](http://www.new-wine.org/adventurebegins).

Children, families and youth workers are very welcome as well as grandparents, aunts and uncles and anyone who has contact with children!

### QUIZ NIGHT

St Dunstan's Church Hall

Saturday 17th February

from 7 pm for prompt start at 7.30 pm  
Tickets £10 per head includes a chicken or vegetarian curry – own drinks and glasses.

Tickets available at the door or from  
Caroline on 01892 528 004

### Sunday Counters Needed

Can you spare a couple of hours once every few weeks?

Some of our longstanding volunteers are retiring from counting the Gift Aid envelopes, and we need new volunteers to join one of the three teams.



## Almsgiving by Laurie Clegg



Each year the Church sets us on the path of preparation for Easter, forty days in imitation of the forty days Christ spent in the desert preparing for the challenges he was to face in his ministry. Christ prayed and fasted and we have him as our model, so how does almsgiving fit in?

Almsgiving is an essential part of our preparation, the purpose of which is to set ourselves right with God, and to prepare us for our ministry. It is recognizing that all that we have comes from God and that we have a part to play in ensuring that all God's children partake of his bounty. In the words Christ

taught us we pray that God might give us our daily bread; it is a communal prayer, not a personal prayer, it is a prayer that everyone shall have enough to eat. Doing what we can to ensure that no-one goes hungry is part of our ministry.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not just for Lent, but during this season they should be taken up with more fervour. It is a time for stock-taking. In deciding how we live our lives, how far do we follow the *live simply* principles, living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor? When the household bills have been settled and the needs of the family seen to, what do we choose to spend our surplus on? How much real happiness do we and others get as the result of our choices? The object of the stock-taking is to choose a change or changes that will directly benefit those who are less fortunate than we are or to enable us to make a donation to some good cause.

**There is an easier way. Give up something for Lent and put what you save into the Outreach collections.**



## Spring Cleaning for Freedom

So many of us have accumulated much more than we need. It bursts from our cupboards, overflows our shelves and clutters our lives. Lent might be a wonderful time to deliberately release ourselves from the many "things" we own by cleaning out all our clutter from our cupboards, whether actual and spiritual; to simplify our lives helping us come closer to our God.



On one level, this is ridding ourselves of things we don't need, or things that we hated to part with except that they are so "out of date." Certainly, many of us have many things that are "extra" or "unnecessary" for us, but could be wonderful for those who can't afford to buy clothes in a shop. Another level of this journey into personal freedom is to ask ourselves how much I really do need. How many sweaters do I want to choose to have? How many jackets, T shirts, dresses, shoes? How much jewellery? How much sports equipment? How much electronic paraphernalia and books or CDs? We have so much of so many things in our lives. If we could get as serious and as deeply into this as we desire, what fruit we would bear!

This is not "should I get rid of what I don't need?" This is different, more faith-filled and takes us into giving up 'good' stuff - perhaps stuff we are attached to - because we want to experience the exercise of freedom. We do this because we sense that we are not free in some areas that are tremendously important for us, important for our salvation, and growing in freedom before the things of our lives can be a great grace.

This freedom, too, will place us in greater solidarity with those who find such great happiness and joy in trusting in God, while having so much less than we imagine we could survive on.

What else might we do, that fits with my circumstances and the needs around us and in the world?

Taken from Creighton University's Online Ministries' Praying Lent web site,

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/cleaning.html> Used with permission

Edited for St Augustine's newsletter

You are invited to join us for another Parish Social Event which promises to be a 'Dickens' of an evening!

### BERTIE PEARCE

A Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star.

Bertie will give his much acclaimed talk on **Charles Dickens - The Man, His Life and His Characters**



In this wonderful entertaining evening Bertie Pearce looks at the life and places of Dickens while interspersing the events with readings of his works.

Dickens brought into the world a staggering array of wonderful characters with orphans, starving children, misers, murderers and abusive school teachers among them. People such as Mr Micawber, Fagin and Abel Magwitch remain in one's literary psyche long after the books are put down.



Without giving too much of the show away beforehand. We promise you a wonderful light hearted enlightening and entertaining evening with full audience participation and good company. It will be a truly Dickensian experience.

**Friday, 6th April 2018 - Please bring your own drinks  
Commencing - 7.15 for 7.30 pm  
start with Fish and Chip Supper  
Tickets £10 from the Parish Office**

Images courtesy of: [www.pinterest.co.uk/source/dailyclean.salebooks.com](http://www.pinterest.co.uk/source/dailyclean.salebooks.com), [www.BertiePearce.com](http://www.BertiePearce.com), [www.fromoldbooks.com](http://www.fromoldbooks.com).

## Retreats 2018

This year we shall be going to Douai Abbey and to Clare Priory in Suffolk.



**Douai** - is from 24-27 July and we shall travel by minibus.

**Clare** - We are very fortunate that Fr Don Coleman, previously of this parish, has offered to lead our retreat, which will be from 2-5 October. It is expensive to stay there so we shall be sharing cars.

The cost for each retreat is expected to be about £199. I will be taking reservations later in the year but if you are interested do keep these dates free.