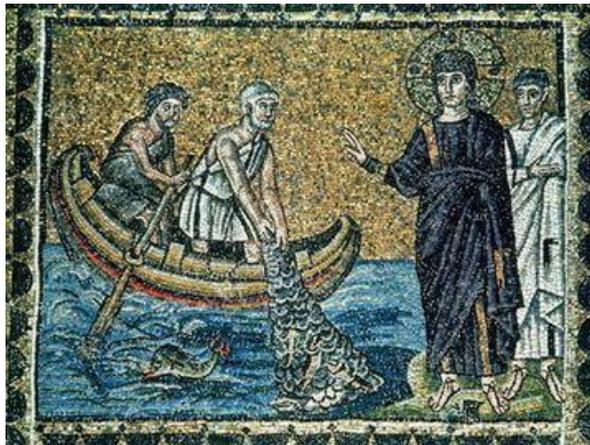


Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Wanstead

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

24th January 2021

Newsletter



"Repent and believe the good news!"

Fr Patrick Sammon & Fr Adrian Lowe

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Dear Friends

I am sure many watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Wednesday. One of the outstanding moments was the recitation of a poem composed by the young poet Amanda Gorman entitled *The Hill We Climb*. It is worth reading and reflecting on. Here it is.

When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.

We've braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,
and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.

And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken,
but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves

and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting
for one.

And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine,
but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colours, characters, and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our
differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:

That even as we grieved, we grew.

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired, we tried.

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no
one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges
we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.

It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it.

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

This effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed,

it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith, we trust,

for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.

We feared it at its inception.

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour,
but within it, we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to
ourselves.

So while once we asked, 'How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?' now we assert,
'How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?'

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be:

A country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction
and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation.

Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain:

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and
change, our children's birth right.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.
With every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a
wondrous one.

We will rise from the golden hills of the west.
We will rise from the wind-swept north-east where our forefathers first realized revolution.

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.

We will rise from the sun-baked south.

We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

In every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country,
our people, diverse and beautiful, will emerge, battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it.

For there is always light,

if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.

God Bless you and yours this week.

Keep safe and STAY AT HOME

Wash your hands and Keep 2 metres apart. Wear your mask.

For the safety of others & OBEY THE RULES.

Fr. Pat

God's Love Blows Where It Pleases

God cannot be understood: he cannot be grasped by the human mind. The truth escapes our human capacities. The only way to come close to it is by a constant emphasis on the limitations of our human capacities to "have" or "hold" the truth. We can neither explain God nor his presence in history. As soon as we identify God with any specific event or situation, we play God and distort the truth. We only can be faithful in our affirmation that God has not deserted us but calls us in the middle of all the unexplainable absurdities of life. It is very important to be deeply aware of this. There is a great and subtle temptation to suggest to myself or to others where God is working or where not, when he is present and when not; but nobody, no Christian, no priest, no monk, has any "special" knowledge about God. God cannot be limited by any human concept or prediction. He is greater than our mind and heart and perfectly free to reveal himself where and when he wants.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday 24th January	8am – People of Parish 9.30am - Patrick Donohue RIP 11.30am – Grace Peace RIP 6.30pm – Private Intentions
Monday 25th January	9am – Intentions of Bill Williams
Tuesday 26th January	9am – Holy Souls
Wednesday 27th January	9am - Intentions Diane Silcock
Thursday 28th January	9am – Intentions Cathy and Trevor Francis
Friday 29th January	9am – Funeral Mass Anthonia Fregene RIP
Saturday 30th January	9am – Joseph Burns RIP and John Burns RIP (recently deceased) 6.30pm - Intentions Terence McCann (Hassan)
Sunday 31st January	8am – People of Parish 9.30am - Mary Smith RIP 11.30am – Kitty Kelly RIP 6.30pm – Nancy Bracken RIP
	Wednesday 9am Mass and the Sunday 11.30am Mass will be live streamed via our YouTube Channel at http://tiny.cc/LOLE11

Please remember your face coverings when attending Mass and to sanitise your hands on your arrival and as you leave the church. If you have the NHS COVID 19 app on your smartphone, please scan the church QR code **every** time you visit the church.

RIP

Anthonia Fregene Funeral Mass 9am Friday 29th January

Moya Doyle Reception of body into church 6pm Monday 15th February. Funeral Mass Tuesday 16th February 10am.

Pat Hetherington Reception of body into Church 6pm Monday 1st March. Funeral Mass 9am Tuesday 2nd March

Catherine Corti Funeral arrangements pending.

Joseph and John Burns uncles of Andrew and Catherine from our community and brothers of the late Willie Burns.

Simon Eustace father of Theresa Millen from our community.

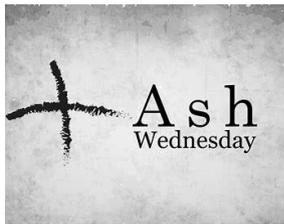
Monica Murphy sister of Anne Heaney from our community.

May they rest in peace - Our sympathy and prayers to family and friends. May the souls of the faithful departed Rest in Peace

PAT HETHERINGTON RIP Had she lived until March Pat would have been 101 years. She departed peacefully to God on Wednesday. A short time before she died, I was able to pray with her and the last prayer was Hail Mary. She was present at the opening of our Church over 93 years ago. We shall miss her prayerful and quiet presence among us. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

PRAYERS PLEASE This week can we pray for all whose anniversary of death occurs this week, for the sick and housebound, for all in our nursing and care homes, for those in hospital and all NHS staff, for our schools staff and pupils, and for all who have asked for the prayers of the community.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD. Today has been designated as Sunday of the Word of God by Pope Francis. It is designed to help people to "reawaken an awareness of the importance of Sacred Scripture for our lives as believers "The Scriptures should have a central role in the life of the believer. Pope Francis says. "A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year -Long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love if the scriptures and our Risen Lord..

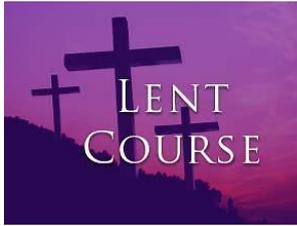


A reminder that Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent is this year 17th February. Restrictions permitting ashes will be blessed and imposed during masses on the day will be at 7am 9am and 8pm.

FATHER ADRIAN. If you wish to contact Fr. Adrian his mobile telephone number is 07856937875.

LIVE TRANSMISSION OF DAILY MASS. Thanks to Dan Parker we are this week transmitting Wednesday morning mass at 9am. We already transmit Sunday 11.30 mass. This is our first attempt at a week day mass transmission. Do join us via our YouTube Channel at <http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11>

GENTLE REMINDER With so few people able to attend Sunday Mass inevitably Church donations have dropped considerably. The parish has to go on and buildings etc have to be maintained despite the lack of income. May I ask parishioners to please if you can continue to pay your contributions and donations online, by envelope through letterbox, or by direct debit. Thank you for your continued support of YOUR church.



The Lent course will be run via Zoom this year on Tuesday evenings at 8pm. The format will be a short film (about 20 minutes) to watch followed by a discussion. You will need Internet access and an email to participate. If you are interested in one or all of the session's then please email the parish office at:

wanstead@dioceseofbrentwood.org Please let us know the email you

would like to use to log into the sessions. The films are spiritually nourishing and an excellent accompaniment to our Lenten journey. If you are looking to do something extra for lent this year, then this is a great way to start! The dates and topics for each week are:

1. **THE EXISTENCE OF GOD** Tuesday 23 February, 8pm

Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God?

2. **WHO IS JESUS?** Tuesday 2 March, 8pm

He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.

3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH** Tuesday 9 March, 8pm

How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.

4. **THE GIFT OF FAITH** Tuesday 16 March, 8pm

What is faith? Are Christians just stupid or are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

5. **FINDING TRUE FREEDOM** Tuesday 23 March, 8pm

Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

6. **THE MEANING OF LOVE** Tuesday 30 March, 8pm

What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

TRINITY VACANCIES

- P/T Teacher of History
- P/T Teacher of Art

Please visit the School website for more information

PARISH FINANCES Contributions to the parish can be made via a page on the Brentwood Diocesan website at:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=wanstead> or by scanning our QR code with your smartphone and selecting "General Offertory".



You can, if you prefer, make a payment directly into the parish bank account using online banking.

You will need to set up the OLOL

Wanstead Parish as a payee on your online banking app or internet page.

The Parish Bank details are as follows:

Account Name:	<i>Catholic Church Wanstead Our Lady of Lourdes</i>
Sort Code:	<i>40-13-22</i>
Account number:	<i>71018973</i>



The parish is on Facebook & Twitter **@OLOLE11** and on Instagram at **@OLOL_E11** please follow and like these pages and ask your family and fellow parishioners to do the same.