

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Wanstead

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) - Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> February 2021



"He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another

Fr Patrick Sammon & Fr Adrian Lowe

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Dear friends

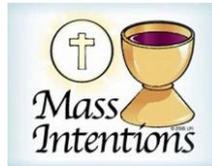
I have recently read the short book, *God and the Pandemic* by Tom Wright. Wright was the Anglican Bishop of Durham and is a recognised scripture scholar and academic. This book, however, is easily accessible and a brilliant reflection on the Coronavirus Pandemic and Christian faith. Wright starts by trying to find the deeper meaning of these times and asks, 'So does anyone know what's going on? Why is this happening? Is someone trying to tell us something?' I am sure that these questions echo in most of us as we stand bewildered before our broken and suffering world. But Tom Wright turns the questions around and instead of asking *why* this is all happening he looks back at the Christian response to the plagues in the early centuries and to the word *what* - 'what can we do about it?' In the early Christian times, believers risked their lives caring for the sick and when asked why, the response was something like, 'We are followers of this man Jesus. He put his life on the line to save us. So that's what we do as well.' Wright finds a parallel here with the many NHS staff and volunteers who have risked, and sometimes lost, their lives at this time.

Well I do not want to spoil the book for anyone who would like to read it, but there is a chapter which really stands out - the one called 'Where do we go from here? Why we must lament.' Tom Wright suggests that since St. Paul tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, we should stand with those who mourn, those in pain and those in sorrow and add our own prayer of lamenting. We could use some of the psalms which lament for this, like number 10, 'Why, Lord, do you stand afar and pay no heed in times of trouble? or number 13, How long, Lord, will you utterly forget me?' Other psalms of lament include numbers 22 and 77.

*God and the Pandemic* is an excellent way for us to try to navigate our way through the pandemic and its difficulties at this time. Perhaps, if I could only take one thought from the book, it might be, 'The New Testament insists that we put Jesus at the centre of the picture and work outwards from there.'

God bless, stay well and keep safe,

*Father Adrian*



Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	8am People of Parish 9.30am Paul Bloomberg RIP  11.30am Barney Duffy RIP 6.30pm David McCarron RIP
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	9am Holy Souls
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	9am Maura Stone RIP
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	 9am Joe Redmond RIP
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes 9am Intentions of Rosemary O Connor
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30am (please note time change) Marie Francis RIP 9.30am Funeral Mass Catherine Corti RIP
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	9am Patsy O Brien 6.30pm Corinne and Michael Domoney
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	8am People of Parish 9.30am Alan Frost RIP  11.30am Frank Baynes RIP 6.30pm Intentions of Fr. Paschal Uche.
 Wednesday 9am Mass and the Sunday 11.30am Mass will be live streamed via our YouTube Channel at <a href="http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11">http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11</a>	

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**

Our sympathy and prayers to Delia McCarthy from our community on the death of her brother Bill Bennett which has taken place in Co. Cork Ireland. May he rest in peace

Father Enda Keenan retired Parish Priest of St. Bedes Chadwell Heath who has died in Tipperary Ireland. He was a priest for over 70 years.

## **FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Catherine Corti Reception of body into Church 6pm Thursday 11th February. Funeral Mass 9.30 am 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Noreen Cavanagh Funeral Mass 2.30pm 15<sup>th</sup> February.

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

Sondaye McLoughlin. Service at Manor Park Cemetery Wednesday 17th February 10am.

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

Gerard Crosby Funeral Mass 3rd March 10.30am.

Our condolence and prayers to the families and friends of the deceased. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**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.

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** There are several parishioners suffering from COVID-19, some of these are ill at home and some in hospital. Please continue to pray for them all.

**LIVE STREAMED WEDNESDAY MASS** We continue this week to streamline mass on Wednesday at 9am. To access please join us for Mass via our YouTube Channel at <http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11>



**OLOL SOCIAL MEDIA** The parish is on Facebook & Twitter @OLOLE11 and on Instagram at @OLOL\_E11 please follow and like these pages and subscribe our YouTube.



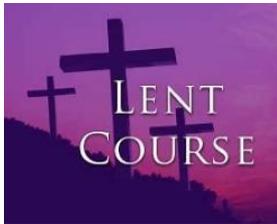
**FEAST DAY** Thursday of this week (11<sup>th</sup> February) is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes who is the patroness of our parish it is also World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

This is the Parish Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes which is situated in the garden adjoining the church on the Dangan Road side. It will be open on Thursday morning after our 9am Mass for anyone wishing to go and pray there.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION(CONFESSIONS)** To ensure the health and safety of both the priest and penitent you are asked to stay standing wearing your mask or visor during the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation which takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Can we also ask that you observe social distancing and sanitisation of hands before and after is this essential. Thank You.

**URGENT** For those in arrears with envelope offertory contributions please send you donation to the Presbytery. Our finances have taken a huge dip. You can donate on line. Please do remember to gift aid all contributions. THANK YOU.

**POPE FRANCIS** Mass is never just 'listened to.' It's 'celebrated' by all the faithful (not just priests) - <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/02/03/pope-francis-general-audience-liturgy-vatican-council-239904>



This year our 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 address to participate. If you are interested in one or all of the session's then please email the parish office at:

[wanstead@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto: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.

**VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE - BRENTWOOD TO ST PETER'S SQUARE**, the Knights of St Columba (KSC) in Brentwood are raising funds for the Brentwood Ecclesiastical Education Fund (BEEF), which is fund for the education of priests, and other KSC Charities, during the lent period. Each year the KSC in Brentwood donate around £2,000 to the BEEF fund. The idea is when you are out on your daily exercise which a lot of us are doing, you note or record the distance you walked, run or cycled, then submit the details to our website and help us cover the 1,168 miles. Then you can either get sponsorship or make a donation via our Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ksc10beef>) . Everyone is welcome to join in this, and further details and sign up for free go to <https://sites.google.com/view/brentwood-2-rome-2021> or email [brentwood2rome2021@gmail.com](mailto:brentwood2rome2021@gmail.com) or [https://youtu.be/\\_sGZmVs8zUs](https://youtu.be/_sGZmVs8zUs)

**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 account using online banking.

payment directly into the parish bank 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:

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