



A warm welcome to

The Catholic Church of St Osmund in Barnes

Sunday 8th March 2026 | Third Sunday of Lent | Mass Book p158

MASS INTENTIONS & FEASTS

SUNDAY 8th March

(p) Third Sunday of Lent (A)

8:30am Martin Gratte RIP

10:30am Edward Collini RIP

6:30pm Cornelius Sexton
RIP

MONDAY 9th March

(p) Feria

Annie Saunders and William
Oakden RIP

TUESDAY 10th March

(p) Feria

Maria's intentions

WEDNESDAY 11th March

(p) Feria

Holy Souls

THURSDAY 12th March

(p) Feria

Holy Souls

FRIDAY 13th March

(p) Feria

Annie Mary Saunders RIP

SATURDAY 14th March

(p) Feria

Pro-populo

SUNDAY 15th March

(p) Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

8:30am Eamon Dolan RIP

10:30am Agostinha Jesus
Jardin RIP

6:30pm Phoebe Hilary RIP

*(r) red (g) green
(w) white (p) purple*

A word from the presbytery...

At the very heart of this Sunday's Gospel, the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, lies a phrase worth lingering over: "If you knew the gift of God." These words, spoken by Christ to a woman who came seeking ordinary water, are not merely addressed to one person in one place. They are addressed to each of us, at every moment, in every season of our lives. They are, in a sense, the permanent question that God poses to the human heart: do you recognise what is being offered to you?

Lent is, among other things, a season for recovering this recognition. The fasting, the prayer, the almsgiving; none of these are ends in themselves. They are disciplines of attention, clearing away the accumulated noise so that we might once again perceive the sheer gratuity of what God extends to us. We do not earn grace. We do not manufacture it. We can only receive it; but first, we must notice it.

This is harder than it sounds. We live in a culture that teaches us to see everything in terms of transaction: what we have worked for, what we deserve, what we are owed. The Gospel cuts across all of this with a staggering claim:

the most important thing you will ever possess is something you did not earn and cannot buy. It is gift; pure, unmerited, and inexhaustible.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this passage, observed that the one who asked for a drink was himself the source of living water. The one who appeared to be in need was in truth the giver of every good thing. God comes to us, Augustine says, not because He lacks something, but so that we might discover what we lack, and what He has already prepared for us.

When this recognition takes root in the soul, it quietly transforms everything. We begin to see our lives, our time, our resources, even our sufferings, not as possessions to be clutched but as gifts to be held open-handedly. The one who knows the gift of God becomes, almost without noticing it, a person who lives generously, not out of obligation, but out of the sheer overflow of having received.

This Lent, perhaps the most fruitful question we can sit with is not "What must I give up?" but rather "What has been given to me that I have failed to recognise?" The answer, if we are honest, will astonish us, and that astonishment is where the Christian life truly begins.



Sunday Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Sunday of Lent at 4:15pm. Please note that this is a slightly earlier time than you might expect, as another event is taking place in the church afterwards. All are warmly welcome to join in this ancient and grace-filled devotion as we walk with Our Lord through His Passion.

The Scrutinies

This Sunday at 10:30 mass, the Rite of the Scrutinies will be celebrated for Jack Ledger-Dowse and Harry Atkinson, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church. This sacred rite marks a moment of deepening conversion and spiritual purification as they draw ever closer to the Easter Sacraments. We welcome them with open hearts and ask that you continue to uphold them in your prayers and affection as they approach the summit of their journey.

FHC & Confirmation: Parents-Only Session

A gentle reminder to all parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation that the second parents-only session will take place on Thursday 19 March 2026 at 7:15pm prompt in the parish church. Attendance is essential and constitutes a requirement for the eventual reception of the sacrament by your children. Given the nature of the session, only parents are expected to attend.

St Osmund's Reading Club

We have chosen My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor as our first book. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 25th March at 7pm in the Presbytery, where we shall select our next title and agree a date for the following gathering. New members are always welcome - do come along.

Archbishop John's Lenten reflection: The distressing majesty of the cross

Archbishop John is calling on all in the Archdiocese to join him in prayer and contemplation before the crucified Lord during Lent. Archbishop John said: "I want us to do more than stumble on our Lenten journey. I want us, together, to really contemplate and meditate on the distressing majesty of the cross so that we really can take in what it means for us and our relationship with our God, the Lord Jesus Christ."

You can watch his full message at rcaos.org.uk/lent2026

Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi

A special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, takes place from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027, on the occasion of the eighth centenary of his death. The Holy Father has written: 'Dear brothers and sisters, may the example and spiritual legacy of this Saint, strong in faith, steadfast in hope and ardent in active charity towards his neighbour, inspire in everyone the importance of trusting in the Lord, of living a life faithful to the Gospel, and of accepting and illuminating every circumstance and action of life with faith and prayer. In this Year of Grace, I wish to offer you a prayer that Saint Francis of Assisi may continue to instil in all of us perfect joy and harmony.' A statue of St Francis, showing his stigmata, will be in the church during Lent this year.

Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource

The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched a project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable groups to use them as part of their faith formation.

For more information, please visit: rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist



PARISH DIARY

Next Children's Mass

Sunday 8th March: 10:30am

First Holy Communion preparation class

Sun 8th March: 9am (Hall) and 5pm (Church)

Confirmation preparation class

No class this Sunday

Catholicism for the Curious

Mon 9th March: 6:30pm (Hall)

Mothers' Prayers Group

Tues 10th March: 10:30am (Presbytery)

Mothering Sunday (Laetare Sunday)

Sun 15th March

FHC & Confirmation: Parents-Only Session

Thursday, 19th March: 7.15pm (Presbytery)

St Osmund's Reading Club

Wednesday, 25th March: 7pm (Presbytery)

PARISH GREEN TEAM

We need you!

Inspired by Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si', our Green Team has been active since 2019 – from recycling initiatives and consumables, Season of Creation events, shared projects with our school at Christmas and Easter to planting a cherry blossom tree for the late Queen's Green Canopy.

Now we want to do more – and we need more people and fresh ideas to make it happen. Our current project is exploring solar panels for the church hall roof which will cut costs and show our commitment to a greener future. Whether you have practical skills, creative suggestions or simply a desire to learn and contribute, your involvement would make a real difference.

If you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact the parish office.



PRAYER LIST

For parishioners who are unwell, especially:

James and Audrey Smith	John Scott
Andrew Brodrick-Ward	Joan Moore
Phyllis O'Kelly	Charles Stiller
Janet Waddington	Maureen Carr



IN REMEMBRANCE

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Edward David Vance	Mary O'Connell
Laura Teresa Diaz	Edward Collini
Edward Larlham	Leslie Terreni
Maggie Danby	Evelyn Qobty
Con Cahillane	



USEFUL INFORMATION

Tea, coffee and cake!

Join us in the Church Hall every Sunday after the 10:30am Mass. Donations welcome.

Car parking

Limited car parking is available at the back of the church.

Recycling

Parish recycling is co-ordinated by the Green Team. Please contact the parish office if you would like to get involved.

Food bank collections

Items for our local food bank can be placed in the container in the Narthex.

Homemade jam and marmalade

Made by one of our parishioners, these are available to purchase in the Narthex. Cash or contactless payments welcome.

Sunday Mass Times

8:30am, 10:30am, 6:30pm

Weekday Mass Times

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00am

Thurs 6:30pm

Sat (Latin) 10:00am

Confessions

Fri 9:00-9:50am

Sun 9:45-10:15am & 6:00-6:20pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 9:00-10:00am

For baptisms, weddings and Mass intentions, please contact the Parish Office



PARISH GIVING

Thank you for supporting St Osmund's. Your generosity helps maintain our church and sustain parish life.

Full details on all ways to give, including standing orders and Give As You Live (donations when you shop online) can be found on our website or by using the QR code below.

Contactless payments: We have several payment portals in the Narthex for easy, instant donations.

BANK DETAILS

Account name:

Barnes St Osmund Main Account

Sort code: 60-01-39

Account number: 11311096

Reference: Surname/Donation Purpose



AVE REGINA CAELORUM

Ave, Regina caelorum,
Ave, Domina Angelorum:
Salve, radix, salve, porta
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, o valde decora,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.



THE POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

March: For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN

Over the next three Sundays, at all our Masses, we shall be running a Planned Giving Campaign. We are deeply grateful to all our generous benefactors and parishioners whose support makes parish life possible. As costs have risen considerably in recent years, we ask you to prayerfully consider reviewing your contribution. Members of our Finance Committee will share details of our accounts and highlight where help is most needed. Please pray that this effort may bear the fruit we hope for.

Parish Priest: Fr Oladele Craig | Parish Administrator: Cath Brizzell

Office hours: 10:00am-2:00pm Tues, Wed, & Fri

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