



Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace and Blessed Margaret Pole

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

15th March 2026

He is a prophet

Mass Times

Sat 14th	Lent Weekday		
	12.00		Henry Gardiner
Sun 15th	Fourth Sunday of Lent		
	9.30		Noreen & Basil Matthews
	11.00		People of the Parish
Mon 16th	Lent Weekday		
	10.00		Mary Rose
Tue 17th	St Patrick		
	10.00		Trevor Morgan+
Wed 18th	Lent Weekday		
	10.00		Francis Lord+
Thu 19th	St Joseph		
	No Mass		
Fri 20th	Lent Weekday		
	10.00		Anita Goddard+
Sat 21st	Lent Weekday		
	12.00		Marc Campbell+
Sun 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Lent		
	9.30		Anne & Jim Ahern
	11.00		People of the Parish



El Greco - Christ Healing the Blind

Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel Jesus encounters a man who was blind from birth. The disciples assume his blindness is punishment for sin, but Jesus replies, 'Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.' Jesus spits on the ground, makes clay, anoints the man's eyes, and sends him to wash in the Pool of Siloam (Siloam means Sent). The man returns seeing!

This miracle is more than physical healing; it is a profound sign of Jesus as the 'light of the world'. The once-blind man progresses from confusion to defence of Jesus, and then to full worship when he says the words 'Lord, I believe.' Meanwhile, the Pharisees' 'sight' blinds them to the truth, showing spiritual blindness can be more crippling than physical blindness.

Like the man born blind, we are invited to let Jesus touch our eyes. Where are we blind to others' needs, to our own sins, to God's presence? Lent calls us to wash in the 'pool' of the sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist, so we can see clearly and live as true children of light.

As God anointed David not by outward appearance but by the heart (1 Samuel 16), so Christ anoints us in Baptism and Confirmation, choosing us for mission. Psalm 23 assures us: even in dark valleys, the Good Shepherd leads us.

Easter is drawing near. Bring your 'blind spots' to Jesus. He wants to open your eyes to new life.

Tea & Coffee in the Parish Hallafter Sunday masses
 Children's Liturgy (Sign in required)..... Sunday 9.30
 Holy Hourafter Wednesday morning mass
 Confessions.....during Holy Hour Wednesday & at call
 Choir Practice..... 18.00 Monday in Church
 Sunday Readings: Year A
 Weekday Readings: Year 2
 Baptisms..... Contact the Deacon
 Marriages: Contact the Parish Priest
 Mother's Prayer Group..... 2nd & 4th Fridays 10.30
 Rosary GroupFridays 10.30 when no Mother's Prayers
 Friendship Club 14.00 Fridays
 Safeguarding & Data Protection Officer
 Mary Basing 07969 120264

Cycle of Prayer: Lent

Candidates for the Sacraments, The Needy and Hungry of the World, Women's World Day of Prayer, Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Penitents and Wanderers



First Communion

We recently had a meeting for parents and children who wish to make their First Communion in 2026

Dates for the remaining classes are:

22nd March, 19th & 26th April, 10th & 17th May. The rehearsal will be on Friday 5th June with the First Confession on 9th May and the First Communion itself on Saturday 6th June at 12.00. For information contact Angie on fhcteam.olqp@gmail.com.

**What soap is for the body,
tears are for the soul**

Jewish Proverb

Cafod's Big Lent Walk

Are you ready for a challenge this Lent? Walk anytime, anywhere 200 Kms in 40 days and raise funds for life-saving water. Step up this Lent to help our neighbours. Go to cafod.org.uk/biglentwalk and sign up today or contact Jackie on 07948516854 or more information.

A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, you opened the eyes of the man born blind and called him from darkness into Your marvellous light. On this Laetare Sunday, amid our Lenten journey, fill our hearts with rejoicing and grant us true sight. Wash away our spiritual blindness, heal what is wounded in us, and lead us to confess with faith: 'Lord, I do believe!' May we walk as children of light, hastening with joy toward the Easter celebration of your Resurrection. We ask this through Mary, Mother of the Church, and all the saints, in union with you and the Father, in the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

**We are not human beings
having a spiritual experience
We are spiritual beings
having a human experience**

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Funeral

The funeral of **Anita Goddard** will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Wednesday 25th March at 10.00 followed by burial in Christchurch Cemetery.

Feast of the Annunciation

Wednesday 25th March is the Feast of the Annunciation. It is a good day on which to say the Rosary and invoke the protection of Our Blessed Lady.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be at 18.30 on the Fridays of Lent. Booklets are available so you can make the Stations of the Cross at any time.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your Holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world.*



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Monday 6th July until Friday 10th July departing from Heathrow Airport. The group will be staying at Hotel La Solitude close to the sanctuary. If you would like more information and a booking form, please email lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

The Easter Ceremonies

Maundy Thursday..... The Lord's Supper 19.00
Good FridayThe Passion of the Lord 15.00
Holy Saturday..... The Easter Vigil 20.00

Maundy Thursday

At the mass on Maundy Thursday we will be commissioning our Eucharistic Ministers for another year. Please sign the list at the back of the Church to indicate that you will attend.

We are also looking for some people willing to get their feet washed that night. They too should sign the sheet at the back of the Church.

**When the oak is felled the whole forest
echoes with its fall, but a hundred acorns
are sown in silence by an unnoticed breeze**

Thomas Carlyle

Easter Duties

The faithful are required by Canon Law to receive the Eucharist at least once a year and this precept should be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. It is presumed that Catholics would ordinarily go to Confession in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. These are minimum requirements to help ensure regular encounter with Christ in the sacraments. The Church invites more frequent reception of Holy Communion (even weekly or daily) and regular Confession for deeper spiritual growth.

Lent Penitential Service

There will be a Penitential Service for Lent at Corpus Christi Church on Friday 27th March at 19.00. A number of priests will be available. Confessions take place in our Church during the Holy Hour every Wednesday and any time at call in the Presbytery or immediately after daily mass.

Recent Collections

Standing Orders £410, Sunday £826, Contactless £174 with thanks.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Readers: 9.30 T McCaffrey, L Pritchard 11.00 V Rochford, V Dybka **Ministers:** 9.30 C Allen 11.00 V Rochford **n/w Readers:** 9.30 B Nanovo, S Smith 11.00 C Wright, L Goodall **n/w Ministers:** 9.30 V Brooks 11.00 H Gardiner

Forthcoming Dates

Finance Committee 24th March
Penitential Service (Corpus Christi) 27th March
Easter Sunday 5th April