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Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday 22nd March 2026
Special Second Collection this weekend for Flowers for Easter

Page 170	Ezekiel 37: 12-14	Romans 8: 8-11	Gospel John 11: 1-45
<p>The readings his weekend invites us to trust in Jesus as the resurrection and the life. Through faith we share in His victory over death and receive the promise of eternal life. We are invited to reflect on life, death, faith and hope. The readings remind us of God's power and call us to trust in Jesus as the source of hope and renewal, even in times of sorrow and loss. In the first reading from Ezekiel we hear about dry bones coming back to life. This reminds us that God never forgets His people. The Jews are in exile, cut off from their land and their Temple. God promises to bring life where there is death, to bring His people back to their home and shows God's ongoing commitment to His covenant with Israel. In the second reading from St Paul's letter to the Christian communities around Rome he contrasts two ways of living – by the flesh or by the Spirit. The flesh brings death and separation from God. But Spirit brings true life and peace. Living by human nature cannot please God. True life is in the Spirit, evident if Christ's Spirit dwells in us. This Spirit brings life to our mortal bodies, just as it raised Christ, it will raise us too. God's Spirit gives hope and transforms how we live now. In John's Gospel Lazarus, Martha and Mary were great friends to Jesus as he often stayed with them at Bethany which was near Jerusalem. So it is confusing why Jesus stayed in Jerusalem taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah, for two days after hearing that Lazarus is very ill. He then stays another two days before he visits his friends. Martha's faith is rooted in understanding and knowledge. She listens to the word of Jesus and responds with conviction. Mary responds differently. She is overcome with emotion and weeps at the feet of Jesus. Her faith is expressed through her sorrow and vulnerability. Jesus is moved by her tears and weeps with her, showing his compassion and sharing her pain. Both women show great faith but in their own ways. Jesus meets each of them where they are before bringing their brother Lazarus back to life showing no matter how hopeless a situation seems he can restore and renew.</p>			
Mass times		Feast Days	
<p>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Diana Stimson RIP</p>	<p>Saturday 21st St Nicholas Owen Born in Oxford in 1562. Trained as a carpenter and stone mason by his father. Short in stature, he was disabled with a limp. Two brothers were priests and other brother printed and secretly sold Catholic books during Penal Laws of Queen Elizabeth I. Travelled with Fr Edmund Campion SJ as Jesuit lay brother. Started making hiding places for priests – "priest holes". Arrested with Fr Edmund and other priests he accompanied. Always released as considered a harmless disabled servant. Travelled with Jesuit Provincial Fr Henry Garnet. Spent 18 years from 1588 creating ever more ingenious priest holes and even secret rooms for celebrating Mass in homes of Catholic recusant families all over the country. Eventually betrayed by a servant. Arrested and martyred under torture refusing to reveal the secrets of his hiding places in 1606.</p>		
<p>9.30 am Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 22nd March 30th Wedding Anniversary of Elizabeth and Robin Challand Fifth Sunday in Lent</p>		
<p>6.30 pm Mass</p>	<p>Monday 23rd . St Turibius Alfonso de Mogrovejo Born in 1538 in Spain to noble parents. Qualified lawyer. Professor teaching law. High reputation lawyer. King Philip of Spain made him Grand Inquisitor. Ordained a priest in 1578. Made Archbishop of Lima in Peru. Stood up for the indigenous Indians against their Spanish masters who treated them badly. Reformed clergy to learn Indian languages. Produced catechisms in Quechuan, Aymara and Spanish. Visited all parts of his diocese, staying with local communities. Baptised and Confirmed almost half million converts including four future saints, the most famous St Martin de Porres and St Rose of Lima. Founded first seminary in Western Hemisphere in 1591. He died on 23rd March 1606.</p>		
<p>10 am Mass</p>	<p>Tuesday 24th St Rafqa (Rebecca) Petronilla Ar-Rayes Born 1832 in Himlaya, Lebanon to a poor, devout family. Mother died when she was 7. Worked as a domestic servant to support her father. When her father married again, refused to marry and became a nun against the wishes of step mother. Took the name Sister Rafqa (Rebecca in English) in 1855. After studying Arabic, writing and arithmetic was able to start teaching in 1860. Posted to Deir-el-Qamar to help Jesuit mission. After two months she experienced horrific massacres by anti-Christian Druze tribe that killed 7,771 people, destroyed 360 villages, 560 churches, 28 schools and 42 Convents. She managed to save the life of a child and escape. Put in charge of kitchen service in 1862. Founded a school. Then in 1695 she joined a new cloistered Order <i>Lebanese Maronite Order of St Anthony</i>. Prayer and manual labour became her way of life. In 1697 became sick. 17 years of very terrible sufferings. Eventually she became blind and paralysed. Died 23rd March 1914. Canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2001.</p>		
<p>6,30 pm Mass</p>	<p>Wednesday 25th Annunciation of the Lord The feast day of the Annunciation is normally celebrated on the 25th March, exactly nine months before the birth of Jesus. It commemorates the announcement to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel that, despite being a virgin, she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and Son of God. Due to the customs of the time, Mary would have been aged about 13 or 14 years old and was betrothed to Joseph although they were living apart with their parents. Amazing that the two teenagers so readily accepted their roles in the birth.</p>		

10 am Mass **Thursday 26th St Margaret Clitherow** Born in 1553 in York to Protestant parents. Married Protestant butcher in the Shambles in York. Became Catholic three years later. Refused to attend Protestant services and her husband paid fines. She was imprisoned 3 times. Learnt to read and had a child in prison. Hid priests in their home. Opened school to teach the Catholic faith. Hired house for celebration of Mass. Lodged priests, in heavy disguise, in Black Swan Inn where priest catchers stayed. Sent stepson to English College to train as a priest. Husband arrested to explain. House searched and priest hole and hidden room for Mass found. Margaret arrested and tortured. She refused to plea. Martyred 25th March 1586, Good Friday that year, while pregnant with her third child. Crushed by the door from her house being loaded with heavy weights. Her stepson and son became priests, and her daughter a nun. One of the 3 women in *Forty Martyrs of England and Wales*

NO MASS **Friday 27th St John of Egypt** Born 305 in Egypt. His parents were poor. He trained as a carpenter. Aged 25 became a monk under the guidance of an elderly hermit for ten years. When the old man died he visited various monasteries for 5 years in Egypt but did not like living in a community. Aged 40 he returned to living as a hermit walled into a collection of three cells. For five days of the week he prayed and received no visitors. At weekends people brought him food and water and he preached to the crowds that gathered. He only gave personal advice to men, avoiding seeing women to avoid temptation. He did not form a community but had disciples to help control the crowds at weekends and run a hospice for reception of visitors. He only ate after sunset, a diet of vegetables and dried fruit. Gained a reputation for prophesy. Died age 90 in 395.

6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass **Saturday 28th St Tutilo** Born about 850 in Germany and educated at Benedictine monastery of Saint Gall in what is now Switzerland. Became a monk there. He was very handsome, a strong large man who was an excellent boxer. He had a variety of considerable skills. Quick witted, eloquent orator, a painter, a poet, a sculptor, architect, metalworker, mathematician and astronomer. His main passion was music and played and taught a variety of instruments as head of the Abbey School. The Holy Roman Emperor King Charles III admired him and thought it a pity that such a genius was secluded in a monastery as Tutilo avoided the limelight and appeared in public reluctantly. He could teach and preach in both Latin and Greek. Few of his music and painting works survive. Died in 915.

9.30 am Mass **Sunday 29th March** **Fifth Sunday of Lent** **Nora and Michael Hunter RIP**

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Ann Drumgoole Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves Pat Sweeney

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Special Second Collection this weekend for Flowers for Easter.

Please give generously so that the church can be decorated for the important feast of Easter. For those who gift aid, please use a pink envelope for your donation so that gift aid can be claimed by the parish.

Big Clean in St Vincent de Paul on Saturday 28th March from 10am to 1pm in preparation of Easter

Volunteers required to help with the Spring Clean of St Vincent de Paul starting at 10am on Saturday 28th March.

Collection for Clergy Assistance Fund last weekend

Total collection was £230.40. With gift aid on £171 this came to £273.15. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Appeal for Easter Eggs for Stella Marist to give to seafarers at Easter

The centre has two lay chaplains and a group of volunteers that visit when they dock in Southampton, Hythe and other ports on the south coast. These days ships are in port for only a short time and the ordinary crew are confined to their ship without any chance of visiting a church. At this time of the year it is hoped to help the many hundreds of seafarers, most of whom are Catholics from the Philippines, Kerala and Goa, to celebrate Easter by visiting the ships with faith materials such as rosaries as usual, but make it a special event to take them Easter Eggs and chocolates. So, as in previous years, we are collecting Easter Eggs for Stella Marist. There is a container in the church porch. Hopefully we have a good response as in previous years.

Mass times for the period of Lent

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday: Mass at 9.30 am

Wednesday 1st April: Reconciliation Service at 5.30 pm followed by Mass at 6.30 pm

Thursday April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30 pm

Friday April 3rd: Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 2.30 pm Good Friday Service at 3 pm

Saturday 4th April: Easter Vigil Mass at 8 pm Sunday 5th April: Easter Sunday Mass at 9.30pm

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 1st April – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you.

Parish collection for last weekend 14th and 15th March

						Clergy Assistance Fund			
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£72	£18	£210.70	£242.54	£51.98	£595.22		£171	£59.40	£825.62