

## Lent- the preparation for Easter

Dear Parishioners,

We are approaching to the second Lenten season in Covid-19 pandemic time. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are all vulnerable. Governments around the world are rightly adopting increasingly strict measures to protect public health. Let's hope and pray our Government and health workers to resolve this problem.

In Latin rite we begin Lenten season by next week, exactly by Ash Wednesday on 17<sup>th</sup> February. But in India we follow especially three rites, named Latin, Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara. The Latin-rite Christians of India follow the Roman liturgy, introduced by European missionaries towards the end of the first half of the second millennium; while the other two Oriental Churches (Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara) follow Syrian liturgies and customs.

These rites differ in some liturgical practices. The Lent is practiced differently in these rites. While Lent starts with Ash Wednesday for the Latins; it starts two days earlier for the Syrians with the Ash Monday. During Lent both Latin and Syrian families adopt a vegetarian diet and give up on alcohol.

The "Great Fast" is generally known today as a period that commemorates Jesus' 40-day fast and his passion and death. Consequently, this period is understood as a time of fast and penance in order to be partakers in the sufferings of Christ.

The Lenten spirit begins with the ashes on one's forehead, no matter whether it is on Ash Monday or Ash Wednesday. Catholics begin the Lent by attending church services on the first day of Lent and they come out of the church with the Sign of the Cross drawn with ashes on their forehead. (But this year there may not be sign of cross with ashes because of Covid). History tells us that the Lent had two fundamental aims: A long preparation for Easter and a proximate preparation for baptism on Holy Saturday.

So let's us also prepare ourselves for this Lenten season and make ourselves clean to follow Jesus Christ and spread the Gospel all over the world. But we know that Satan is doing all he can to silence the proclamation of God's saving gospel. But we also know that God can and will cause even in this crisis of pandemic to work together for the good of those who love him. He will use this to drive us to the cross of our Saviour, where he gave himself to make us his own. And he will lead us to the open door of the empty tomb, where he demonstrated his complete victory over Satan, sin, and death.

May our gracious God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver, keep you strong in your faith and confident in his promises.

*Fr Shanju John*



## **Catholic Parishes of St Mary, Lady of Lourdes**

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.

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### **6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**14TH FEBRUARY 2021**

#### **PSALM RESPONSE**

You are my refuge, O Lord;  
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

#### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

*Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me,  
for the sake of your name.*



Ordinary (B1)	Psalter week 1	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 13th /14th 6th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH</b>	People of the Parish James and Theresa Gough Hancox and Rose families
Monday 15th		
Tuesday 16th	<b>10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH</b>	Souls of Ancestors Adoration
Wednesday 17th <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH 12 noon KF 7pm Mass OH</b>	Chacko Adoration Service of the Word Fr Stephen
Thursday 18th		
Friday 19th	<b>10.30am-11am KF 11am Mass 11.30am KF</b>	Adoration James Pereira Stations of the Cross
Saturday 20th		
<b>Sunday 20th /21st 1st Sunday of the Lent</b>	<b>Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH</b>	People of the Parish Brian Curran Olivia Falato

Please pray for all those whose have died , especially John Berry, Shirley Foley, those on our February deceased list and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Catherine Greenaway, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Michael Rose, Anne Peters, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

**FOODBANKS - both our foodbanks have now reopened to help those in need. If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations - the need is growing and donations are much needed at this difficult time for so many people**

Collections: KF 24/1 GA £25.00, Loose £79.50, 31/1 GA £15.00, Loose £86.86, 7/2 GA £55.00, Loose £87.50

### Ash Wednesday

During Masses and the Service of the Word on Ash Wednesday, Fr Shanju will be following the instructions from Rome regarding imposition of ashes. This will be as follows:

Fr Shanju will bless the ashes and then address the congregation saying “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember man that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. He will then cleanse his hands put on his face mask and distribute the ashes to each person present by sprinkling them on the head without touching the person and without saying anything.

### Stations of the Cross

During Lent Stations of the Cross will be observed each Friday as Follows:

19/2 11.30am Kingswinford  
26/2 2.30pm Brierley Hill  
5/3 6.30pm Old Hill  
12/3 11.30am Kingswinford  
19/3 2.30pm Brierley Hill  
26/3 6.30pm Old Hill

**Flowers at Old Hill** Anne Rose has been doing a fantastic job of looking after the flowers and general tidiness of the Church for a while now. As she is going to be out of action for a while it would be a big help to the Parish, and Anne's peace of mind I'm sure, if some volunteers could take over for the time being. You don't have to be artistic, skilled or talented just willing to help!

**Walk with Me booklets and Lent Day by Day** booklets are now available at the rear of Church. Please take one for anyone you know who is housebound or currently not attending Mass if you think they would like one.

**Thought:** *It not what you have that makes people look up to you, it's who you are. Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.*