

## SERVICES THIS WEEK – March 2025

<b>SUNDAY</b> 9 March	9.00am, 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>
<b>MONDAY</b> 10 March	9.15am	Mass	
<b>TUESDAY</b> 11 March	9.15am	Mass	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 12 March	7.30am 12noon 6.00pm	Mass Mass Mass	<b>Requiem Mass for Kevin Carolan</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 13 March	9.15am	Mass	
<b>FRIDAY</b> 14 March	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>Requiem Mass for Gilles Clayton Berthier</b> <b>Stations of the Cross after 6pm Mass</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 15 March	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 16 March	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>

<b>ROSARY</b>	After Morning Masses Monday to Saturday
<b>EXPOSITION/private prayer</b>	<b>Wed: 10–11.50am; Fri 10.30-11am/5-5.50pm; Sat 10-11am</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	At the above time of adoration & on request
<b>PRAYER GROUPS (in Chapel)</b>	Charismatic Prayer Group - Monday evenings 7pm.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Pope Francis as he remains seriously ill in hospital at this time. For all those responsible for his medical care and all those taking on his responsibilities during his illness.
- After 3 years of war, for a lasting and just peace between Ukraine and Russia.
- The fragile ceasefire in Israel/Palestine – that this may lead to a true & lasting peace.
- Peace and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and all other countries and communities living under the shadow of war at this time.
- Release for all political prisoners held in captivity around the world.
- All Christians and people of faith being persecuted around the world.
- All those who have died recently, including Kevin Carolan and Gilles Clayton Berthier, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
- The homeless, refugees and migrants – that they may find a place of sanctuary.
- All the sick, housebound and most vulnerable members of our parish community.
- Our still relatively new Government, that they may govern wisely, fairly and humbly.
- The work of CAFOD, Mary's Meals, Caritas and the Catholic Children's Society.
- Our families – especially those experiencing tests and trials at this time.

9<sup>TH</sup> March 2025 / No. 3097



## Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church - White City

**Parish Priest: Fr Richard Nesbitt | Assistant Priest: Fr Ephrem Andom**  
**Parish Administrator: Collise Lynch – Mon & Wed: 10am -3pm**  
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### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent – A Time of Test and Trial

It is now 3 years since the start of the totally senseless war in Ukraine. War is a tragedy for all sides and we have seen over these 3 years how the machinery and misery of modern warfare has cost the lives of so many innocent people, tearing families, communities and a whole country apart. It is also clear that there is deep opposition to the war on the Russian side and many of the Russian soldiers find themselves in a desperate position of being ordered to attack a people who they can see are not their enemies. There are victims on all sides. Those responsible for this tragic conflict bear a terrible burden of shame and guilt – but we also pray for them and their conversion. We believe that God can bring light of this darkness. We remember Our Lady's message at Fatima – prayer and acts of penance leads to peace.

How well the Gospel for this first Sunday of Lent speaks to all of this. Imagine Jesus out in the wilderness for 40 days and nights. In so many ways he shares the experiences of those caught up in the heat of battle on Ukraine's soil. He has no comforts, no food or water, he is surrounded by a barren landscape of rocks and wasteland. Imagine the darkness of the desert night and the threat of the unknown surrounding him. There is a sense of menace in the air. In these days & nights Jesus would have united himself with all those across history who live under the shadow of threat and fear. And then the battle with Satan himself – tempting Jesus with his old weapons of power and control, physical comfort and pleasure, fame and popularity. Look at the war in Ukraine and see behind it these same false values – a totally selfish desire to dominate and control another, a hunger for unrivalled power. Imagine Jesus in the wilderness contemplating all these acts of evil across human history, the terrible burden of holding all of that injustice and pain in his soul. In his battle with Satan, Jesus shows another way – of pure love expressed through self-sacrifice and service of others. This is the way to peace.

**With prayers & blessings - Fr Richard, Fr Ephrem & all the parish team**

## IN THE PARISH...

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent** (Pg 153 Parish Mass book) Deuteronomy 26: 4-10; Psalm 91 Response: **Be with me, O Lord in my distress.** Romans 10: 8-13; Luke 4: 1-13 *The Temptation of Jesus*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent** (Pg 156 Parish Mass book) Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18; Psalm 27 Response: **The Lord is my light and my salvation.** Philippians 3: 17-4:1; Luke 9: 28 - 36 *The Transfiguration*

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2,229.52;** Loose: £492.97; Planned Giving: £357.30; On-line donations: £978.75; Contactless machine: £400.50. Just to remind you – it costs over £8,000 a month/£2,000 a week to cover just the parish's basic running costs. We don't receive money from the diocese/Vatican/government but rely 100% on your support.

**On Line Donations Account Name: WRCDT White City Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 31264990.** A regular standing order is a great way to support the parish. Use the parish bank account details above. Add your surname/first name as a reference. Tax payers can gift aid your donation! Email [giftaid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@rcdow.org.uk) with: the name of your parish (White City); your title, first name/surname; address & postcode; date of your gift, or start date of standing order; the amount; please add the line: 'Please gift aid my donations'. Many thanks – this is a HUGE help.

Please note: if you sign up for **GIFT AID** on the contactless machine, you need to put your FULL NAME for the parish to claim your gift aid – your initials are not enough. If you are an envelope holder, you must use the correct envelopes for each week. We cannot claim gift aid donations for unmarked envelopes.

### OUR PARISH COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS:

**Saturdays at 1.00pm** in our Parish Centre Free friendly community lunch run by FoodCycle charity (see [www.foodcycle.org.uk](http://www.foodcycle.org.uk)). Veggie Lunch & take-home bags. A very special community time with lots of friendly faces and really delicious freshly cooked food. All welcome☺

**White City Community Food Hub – Mondays** in our parish centre. Doors open 10.30am & the food is usually distributed from 11.30am. You need to be registered and live in W12 – bring proof of address and ID.

**FRIDAY WARM WELCOME** – Sessions running from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April between **12pm – 2pm**. Soup lunch, repair and recycle sewing, sports, games and advice sessions. A lovely warm atmosphere and a chance to relax and meet others. **All welcome!!!**

**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY** – this weekend our Confirmation candidates will help to present CAFOD's appeal for this Lent. Envelopes available at back of church for next weekend's collection. The Fast Day is this Friday

**THE THURSDAY CLUB** for our local over 60's residents/parishioners every Thursday 10am – 12 noon in the parish centre. Tea/coffee, social time, chair exercises with Carol from 11am. Also, **next Friday – 14 March – we have the Over 60's lunch club St Patrick's Day Special from 12.30pm.**

**NEW FAMILY CATECHESIS at Our Lady of Fatima. GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)** is our new approach to helping our children & families grow in their faith in the parish. This includes a new way of preparing children for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

### 2025 PARISH JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGES

**AS we reported last week, registration for both the LOURDES pilgrimage 26-31 July and the Knock pilgrimage 28-31 October is now closed.** These two pilgrimages are now full – sorry, but there is a limit to numbers. The **day trip/pilgrimage by Eurostar to Paris** on the Thursday of Easter Week (**April 24**) to visit the newly restored Notre Dame cathedral is also now full.

### LENT 2025

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Ash Wednesday Masses. Here are some ideas to help you keep it going during Lent:

- **Lenten Scripture Reflection Group on Sunday evenings** after the 6pm Mass, led by Sr Anne in the mid-week chapel. Starting next Sunday, Sr Anne will help us to reflect more deeply on the Sunday Lent readings.
- Teresa Carvalho, Evangelisation Co-ordinator for Westminster diocese, invites you to join her for the **6-session on-line Discovery course** to help you rediscover what is at the heart of our Christian faith. A chance to grow and the reflect on how you can put your faith into action. See registration forms at the back of church. See <https://cco.ca/resources/>
- Receive a **daily Ashes2Hope Lenten reflection** from Fr Toby at Radio Maria. Register@ [www.radiomariaengland.uk](http://www.radiomariaengland.uk)
- We are excited to announce that on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** at 7pm in our parish centre, there will **be a PASSION PLAY performed by the brilliant RISE Theatre.** Tickets - £5 with proceeds to support CAFOD/Mary's Meals.

Finally, **please continue to keep Pope Francis in your prayers at this time.** He is still in a serious condition as he continues to receive treatment in hospital in Rome with a variety of medical complications.