



## ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH

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Fr Albert Ofere

5th Sunday of Lent

3rd April 2022



**Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April:** *For health care workers* - We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities

Sun 3rd	(Sat) 6 p.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. <b>6 p.m.</b>	PP C Adighibe Int K & P Howley R.I.P. People of the Parish	
Mon 4th	Lent Feria	T Coutinho R.I.P.	
Tues 5th	Lent Feria	M McKernan R.I.P.	
Wed 6th	Lent Feria	7 p.m. C Ofere R.I.P.: Deceased members of the Parish	
Thurs 7th	Lent Feria	W Gahegan R.I.P.	Exposition until 11.00 a.m. Parish Lenten Service of Reconciliation 7 p.m.
Fri 8th	Lent Feria	D D'Souza Birthday	Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
Sat 9th	Lent Feria	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	Reconciliation 10.40 a.m. & 5.15 p.m.

- **Mass Books: Order of the Mass:** Page 7 – 4th Sunday of Lent: *Prayers and Readings of the day:* **Page 168**

### More than forgiveness

This is a powerful story of justice and mercy. Jesus is on the side of the woman who has been accused of sin and crime. It was an unjust accusation, and the people who brought her had little good in mind.

Jesus offers more than forgiveness - he brings mercy. Mercy forgives with compassion and doesn't need lectures. It restores dignity to the victims of injustice like the lady in this story. It is the same in Jesus, for those who do not receive their dignity because of something they are, or something they did and are unjustly treated.

Jesus did not condemn; he turns the tables a bit. He simply says: *Anyone here without sin - take the stone and throw it.* Nobody does. In this atmosphere of darkness, we need to hear something of the love and the mercy of God. Would light of mercy come into their darkness of condemnation? Would they leave their darkness into a personal space where they might have a change of heart?

This is also about the challenge to live honestly and without sin; and to be able to take steps like this woman's life, to move on. All hear this word from Jesus - *I do not condemn you.* This comes to our society and to ourselves. We need to hear this word for ourselves as often we throw stones at ourselves more than at others. What we condemn in others is what sometimes we do not like in ourselves.

- **This Sunday** called **Passion Sunday**, all the images and Cross will be covered in our Church following an ancient tradition that Jesus hid himself from public places after the Gospel story of today. They will remain covered until the Easter Vigil. The Cross will be uncovered on Good Friday.
- **Next weekend** we begin **Holy Week** with the celebration of **Palm Sunday**. Please collect a card with all the services for the Holy Week and Easter. Do take one so that you know the times and the celebrations that we will have here at English Martyrs.

- **Fr Albert** will be available on Mondays from **6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** to see parishioners regarding non urgent matters, including the signing of passports and other forms.

**Don't forget Stations of the Cross** every Friday during Lent at 7 p.m.

- **Lenten Service of Reconciliation** is Thursday 7th April at 7 p.m. Visiting priests available for confession.

- **New Planned Giving Envelopes:** For those who use the weekly envelope scheme to donate to the church - your new box has arrived and over the next few weeks we need to arrange to get that box to you. If you would like to join the envelope scheme or if you prefer to donate by standing order, please let us have your details. Standing Order forms are also available.

- **Cardinal's Lenten Appeal:** This year, we celebrate 10 years of [Caritas Westminster](http://www.CaritasWestminster.org.uk) working with parishes across the Diocese to restore hope, and enable people to lead a life of dignity. All funds raised will go to work done by both parishes and Caritas Westminster. As daily life becomes harder for all, price rises mean many families face an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. [www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk](http://www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk)

- **Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers** to Cathy O'Connor and family following the sudden death of her son Neil last week. May he rest in peace and may the Lord console Cathy and family in their grief.

- **CLERGY EASTER OFFERINGS** – The Christmas and Easter collections make up the bulk of priests' annual income. Envelopes are available this week as you leave the church this weekend.

- **St Margaret Clitherow Food Bank: Donations can be dropped at the school or the church. Thank you for your generosity.**
- **Foodbank is closed next week. Open on Monday 11th & Tuesday 12-1 p.m.**

**Church Offerings by Card, using the contactless terminal at the back of the church. A big thank you to everyone who continues to support our church financially.**



**Last Week's Collection:**  
**Envelope:** £535 **Loose Plate:** £787  
**Contactless:** £105  
**Building Fund:** £52

### **Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.  
 Body of Christ, save us.  
 Blood of Christ, inebriate us.  
 Water from the side of Christ, wash us.  
 Passion of Christ, strengthen us.  
 O Good Jesus, hear us.  
 Within Thy wounds hide us.  
 Suffer us not to be separated from thee.  
 From the malicious enemy defend us.  
 In the hour of our death call us.  
 And bid us come unto Thee,  
 That with all Thy saints,  
 we may praise thee  
 Forever and ever.

### **Act of Spiritual Communion:**

*My Jesus,  
 I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
 I love you above all things  
 and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
 Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
 come spiritually into my soul  
 so that I may unite myself wholly to you now  
 and forever. Amen*