

THE ANGELUS:

V/: “The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;
R/: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Hail Mary, full of grace,
V/: Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R/: Be it done unto me, according to thy word.
ALL: Hail Mary, ...

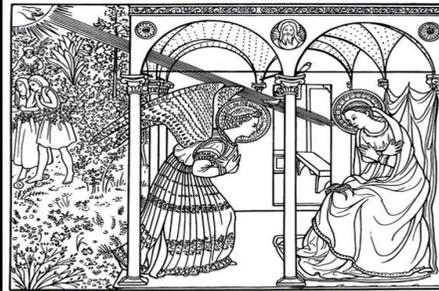
(Please, if you can, try to kneel, or genuflect, or bow deeply for the following verse...)

V/: **AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH;**
R/: **AND DWELT AMONGST US.**
ALL: Hail Mary, ...

V/: Pray for us
 O Holy Mother of God,
R/: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
 Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The Angelus is said THREE TIMES a Day at 6.00 in the morning, at 12 noon and at 6.00 in the evening.



THE MONTH OF MARCH IS DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH, THE SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND THE FOSTER-FATHER OF JESUS.

His important mission in God's plan of salvation was "to insert Jesus Christ, legally, into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Messiah would be born, and to act as His father and guardian.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION: MARCH 2023:

We pray with Pope Francis **For victims of abuse:**
 “We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER:
 Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day (or night) be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule and guide.

HOLY MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL,



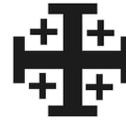
defend us in the day battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of

the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

+ JESUS, + MARY AND + JOSEPH +

5th March 2023
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING'S YEAR OF JUBILEE: 7 X 7 YEARS
ST MARY OF THE CRAYS, CRAYFORD:
SUPPLEMENT TO THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



PLEASE USE THE PARISH MASS BOOKS, HYMN BOOKS & MASS CARDS

THE READINGS, ETC., FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT:
from PAGE 155 and following.

Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return!”



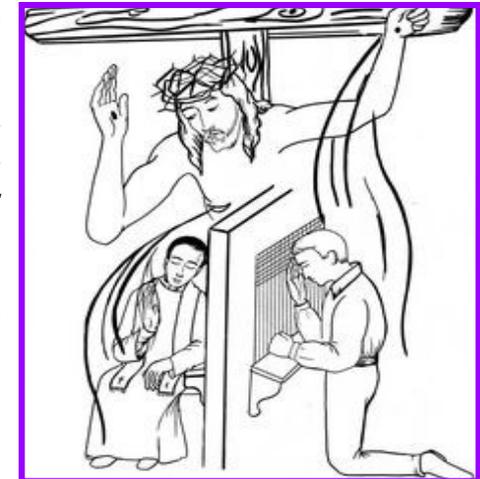
And let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God. And let us pray that God may give His Church merciful priests and not torturers.”

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THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, had the following Prayer Intention for the Month of March 2021:
 “When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul. To leave with greater spiritual health. To pass from misery to mercy. **THE CENTRE OF CONFESSION IS NOT THE SINS WE DECLARE, BUT THE DIVINE LOVE WE RECEIVE, of which we are always in need. The centre of confession is JESUS Who waits for us, Who listens to us and forgives us.**

Remember this:
IN THE HEART OF GOD,
WE COME BEFORE OUR MISTAKES.



BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (LENTEN DECREES - Part II)

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Marriage is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of love which is life-long, exclusive and open to having children. All Catholics who wish to marry are bound to get married before a Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses. Any marriage which is contracted 'outside the Church' (for example, in a Registry Office, a non-Catholic church or a place specially licensed for civil marriages) is null and void, except in the rare case of permission having been given beforehand by the Archbishop. Special permission has to be sought for a Catholic to marry a baptised non-Catholic or an unbaptised person. This permission is sought by the Catholic priest or deacon responsible for the preparation.

In order to get married, a **period of careful preparation is required**, and couples must attend a Parish Marriage Preparation Programme or a Programme in another place outside their home parish approved by the Church. **At least six months' notice is required** in order to allow time for proper spiritual preparation to take place and for all the necessary documentation to be assembled. In the case of a couple, only one of whom is a Catholic, the par-

ish priest of the Catholic party has to see to the preparation. And so, for instance, if the Catholic party wishes to get married outside their home parish, he or she must first approach his or her priest of the parish where he or she lives.

The Catholic Education of Children

Catholic parents have the right and duty to choose those means, in their local circumstances, which best promote the Catholic education of their children. **Parents should send their children to those schools which provide for their children's Catholic education.** If they cannot do this, they are bound to ensure the proper Catholic education of their children outside the school. Where, despite all the efforts that have been made to provide a Catholic school, no suitable school is available, parents should seek help from the parish clergy and catechists to assist them in their duty to their children.

Fasting and Abstinence

Lent is the traditional time for penance and self-denial, as is every Friday throughout the year. During Lent and on Fridays Catholics should practise some form of self-denial, the form of which is left to the individual. After all, what is sacrificial for one person is not for another.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are to be observed as special days of Fasting and Abstinence.

Fasting means reducing the amount of food which we would normally eat.

Abstinence means not eating meat.

The law of Fasting binds all those who are between eighteen years of age and sixty years of age.

The law of Abstinence binds everyone (except for the frail and the sick) once they have reached their fourteenth birthday.

Parents are urged to foster the spirit and practice of penance among those who are too young to be subjects of either law.

The Mass Obligation

All Catholics, once they have reached the age of reason, are bound under serious sin to be present at the whole of Mass every Sunday and on every Holy Day of Obligation. Deliberately to miss Mass on a Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation is a serious sin which is forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The obligation to be present at the whole of Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation ceases when there is a personal illness, when one has to care for a sick or frail person, and when one is impeded, e.g. by travelling.

In England and Wales the Holy Days of Obligation are as follows:

- .. **The Epiphany** (6th January)
- .. **The Ascension** (Thursday after the 6th Sunday of Easter)
- .. **Corpus Christi** * (Thursday after Trinity Sunday)*
[*as of 3rd Dec. 2006 transferred to the nearest Sunday]
- .. **Saints Peter & Paul** (29th June)
- .. **The Assumption** (15th August)
- .. **All Saints** (1st November)
- .. **The Nativity** (25th December)

The Financial Support of the Church

There is a serious obligation to support the work and mission of the Church through our giving. What we give to the Church is part and parcel of our giving to God. It should, therefore, be something which bears a real relationship to our income as well as to our essential financial commitments. Above all, it should be something which is thought out before we come to Mass. To give one's 'spare change' on the spur of the moment is not fulfilling the obligation of giving in a thought-out and sacrificial way.

These Lenten Decrees were put together by Bishop John Jukes OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark 1980 - 1998, died in 2011

(LentenDecrees)