

St Francis de Sales Church
Warren Lodge, Warren Road, Wash Common,
Newbury RG14 6NH
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Priory Road,
Hungerford, RG17 0AF
Web Site: www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 246871
Parish Priest: Revd Zbigniew Budyn
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Mass Times and Intentions St F - St Francis; OLOL - Our Lady of Lourdes

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat Mar 22	6:00pm	St F	MASS	Thanksgiving Mass
Sun Mar 23	09:00 am	OLOL		The People of the Parish
	11:00 am	St F		Bill Bowyer RIP
Mon Mar 24				
Tues Mar 25	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	St F	MASS Adoration & Reconciliation THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	
Wed Mar 26	9:30 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am - 10:30	OLOL	Adoration & Reconciliation MASS	
Thurs Mar 27	9:30 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am - 10:30	St F	MASS Adoration & Reconciliation	Jenni Boyle RIP
Fri Mar 28	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	St F	MASS Stations of the Cross	
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR C				
Sat Mar 29	6:00 pm	St F	MASS	Jenni Boyle RIP
Sun Mar 30	09:00 am	OLOL		
	11:00am	St F		Joanne RIP

Popes Intention March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover
 the cure for their wounds through forgiveness,
 rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their
 differences.

Please help us to continue God's work by
 supporting us financially Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 a/c
 number 00882993 CDP Newbury StFrancis de
 Sales Ref: St Francis de Sales/Your name

The Parish Office is open on Tuesday,
 Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm Parish
 Administrator Yvonne Eaton

THE CARD READER IN THE CHURCH IS
OUT OF ORDER AT THE MOMENT

If your child needs to leave the church during
 Mass, they **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Luke 13:1-9

This gospel reading contains material found in no other gospel which raises crucial questions about the justice of God and the need for repentance. We frequently hear about human suffering, suffering inflicted by other people or resulting from 'natural disasters. Suffering and tragedy have always led to the question, "Why me?" The random nature of human suffering leads many to question the existence of a loving God. What Jesus makes clear in the first part of this gospel passage is that suffering is not necessarily brought about by sin. Those who suffered at the hands of Pilate and in the collapse of the tower of Siloam were no guiltier than their fellows. Jesus does not explain at this point the meaning of innocent suffering. He acknowledges that it is part of the human condition. The answer he will give will be seen on Calvary.

The second part of the gospel reading contains the parable of the fig tree. Whereas in the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus is seen cursing the fig tree which carries no fruit (Mark chapter 11 and Matthew chapter 21), here in Luke Jesus uses a parable to make the same point. The fig tree symbolises the people and their lack of fruitfulness. The gardener 'intercedes' for the fig tree, recalling the role of Jesus in relation to sinners. The gardener makes his appeal, but we are not told the reply. We may presume that the fig tree was granted a reprieve, but for how many years?

How long do I wait before responding to the call of God, the call of conscience?

What consolation can a Christian offer in the face of innocent suffering?

We pray for openness to learn from the words of Christ.

We pray for generosity in living out the gospel.

If you would like to be included in the Parish Sick List, please contact the Parish Office

Please pray for Geoffrey Keegan, Lily Brooke, Christopher & Robert Brown, Tim Burke-Gaffney, Lucy Curtis, Mary Dykes, Chris Dykes, Emma, Joe Emery, Sam Hearn, June & Jo Howard, Evelyn Lavers, Noreen McCann, Shomila Malik, Joseph Marletta, Marie O'Sullivan, Daryl Pike, Elizabeth Sage, Arthur Mitchell, Malcolm Higgins, Sofia Joseph, Corbert Joseph, Gillian Spencer, Jim Polland, Krzysz Zablocki, Margaret McGuire, Sandy Hebden, Sean Early, Tony Lavers and John Huckle who ask for our prayers. Please let the Parish Office know of any changes.

Monday 24th March 7.30pm Confirmation Group Session 6

Friday 28th March. 7.30pm. Stations of the Cross led by our Confirmation Group

Saturday 29th March: PASTORAL AREA LENT RETREAT 11am to 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford led by Fr. Francis Preston SDB assisted by 2 seminarians and including a programme for young parishioners. All are most welcome. Full programme on posters in the church.

Sunday 30th March. Laetare Sunday, Mother's Day. Anniversary Blessings

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

The West Berkshire Confirmation Group is participating in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk as part of their programme. We are aiming to all walk 200km throughout the season of Lent to raise money for those in other parts of the world who are less fortunate than we are. Please support our young people in our Pastoral Area who are joining in this venture. If you wish to donate to CAFOD and support the Confirmation group, please follow this link:

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/west-berkshire-confirmation-groups-big-lent-walk>

J&P Cake Stall and Mother's days Gifts - Sat 22nd & Sunday 23rd March

There will be a Cake Stall and selection of small Mother's Day gifts available after 6pm Mass on Saturday 22nd and 11am Mass on Sunday 23rd of March.

Collection point for West Berkshire Foodbank in the Porch of St Francis Church Hall.

A collection point for West Berkshire Foodbank is available after the 6pm Saturday Mass & Sunday 11am Mass. Food donations of dried, tinned and long shelf-life food cupboard staples would be gratefully received.

CATECHISTS' LENT FORMATION AND NETWORKING SESSIONS:

The diocese is hosting online events during Lent for Catechists from across the diocese. They offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event begins at 7:30 PM - for one hour. The remaining on-line session is on Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation & RCIA). To sign up, go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdjlSWzA>.

LENTEN APPEAL 2025

Supporting Our Sister Parish in Kenya

“Pilgrims of Hope”

URENGA CATHOLIC CHURCH BENCH APPEAL

Dear Parishioners of St. Francis de Sales,

In the heart of Kenya's Kisumu Archdiocese, the faithful of Urenga Catholic Church gather each Sunday to celebrate Mass. - not in comfortable pews but carrying their own seats or sharing the few thin benches available. Despite these challenges, their faith remains unwavering, their songs of praise resounding.

We have learned of this from Fr Zbigniew and Jeremiah who visited the Church recently. It is their proposal that our Parish creates a more dignified worship space by raising funds to have 32 Pews made locally in Africa. The total cost of this will be £ 5,760.00. Donations can be made as follows:

- One full pew (£180) = worship space for 12 people
- Half pew (£90) = worship space for 6 people
- Quarter pew (£45) = worship space for 3 people
- Every contribution makes a difference

A full pew will carry a dedication plate with the donor's name(s), creating a legacy of your generosity and connection between our two parishes.

Payments should be made to

Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-93-04

Account: 00882993

Account Name: CDP Newbury St Francis de Sales

Reference: Bench Appeal/Your name

Campaign ends: 20th April 2025