

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, 29th/30th March 2025

We welcome all to today's Mass, especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTION

God Loves Us

God loves each one of us. This is the heart of the teaching of Jesus Christ. The readings of today reflect on that mystery. In the Gospel, the whole story is about the son who wasted all the love that was given to him and yet was still loved on his return. Whether it is a son or a daughter, the teaching is the same: God loves us and even a rejection of God is not enough to stop God's love for us. Yet at the heart of the Gospel is the realization of the son that he really had done something stupid and so he returns to his own home, where life even at its poorest would be better than where he was at the moment. Again, it makes no difference if we speak of son or daughter today, since the story is obviously about the human condition. Let us pray for one another and pray especially for those who are lost and do not know the way home to the Father. May the rejoicing begin when we turn to the Lord. **Fr Nat**

Mass Times & Intentions: 29th March 2025 — 6th April 2025

Sat. 29th. 6:30pm: Helena Walsh (Ann. R.I.P.).

Sun. 30th. 8.30am: Alex & Winn Cheyne (7th Ann. R.I.P.). 10:00am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions). 11.30am. Mother's Day Thanksgiving

Mon. 31st. 9:30am: Rosina Roggiero (Ann. R.I.P.).

Tue. 1st. 9:30am: People of the Parish

Wed. 2nd. 9:30am: Loraine Johnson & Catriona Glen (Special Intention)

Thur. 3rd. 9:30am: Special Intention(Brain Surgery)

Fri. 4th. 8:30am: Mary Carrol (RIP)

Sat. 5th. 9:30am: Holy Souls

Sat. 5th. 6:30pm: Special Intention

Sun. 6th. 8.30am: 10:00am: Anne, Martin & Olive Whelan (Ann. R.I.P.). 11.30am. Raj Soosaipillai (Ann RIP)

The SICK: Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Margaret Newman, Peter Carey, Peter Ageyman, Mario Despisio, Fr. Morty, Joshua Twagira, Darabela Edmund, Margaret Pain, Juliana Charles, Audreh Khan, Ephraim Aluebhosele, Gwen Randall, Chinyere Oburota, Angiel DeRoche, Patrick Akanya, Kathy Langridge & Patricia Wocial. **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Pamela Taylor, Helena Walsh, Richard Crean, Rosina Roggiero, Anna Slotwinska, Sarah Ajagbawa, David Roberts Jessie Fenton, Mary McGoldrick, Alice Prial, Domenico Sidonio, Joseph O'Hara, Roger Puffett, Simon Peter Blades, Benson Moses Yemi-Oluwasey, Joyce Moodie, John Shanyinde, Mrs Heron, Helen Markey, Michael Bereziuk, Felicia Nsiah & Michael Sullivan.



Parish is served by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)

Parish Priests: Fr. Nathaniel Ewusi CSSp, Fr. Christian Enechukwu CSSp.

Parish Deacon: Rev William Dunphy.

Safeguarding Rep: Una McGill (brockleysg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk).

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - (10.00am - 1.00pm)

Contact: 73 Comerford Road, Brockley, London SE4 2BA. **Tel:** 020 86911322

Email: brockley@rcaos.org.uk (Reg. Charity No.23546)

Website: www.stmarymagdalenbrockley.com.

Pastorals/Devotions: Confessions Saturday 11.30am –12noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament everyday from 9.00am - 9.30am. Tuesday 10am—11am. **Legion of Mary:** Tuesday 7pm.

Gentle reminders: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent



spiritans

St. Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church, Brockley

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 66: 10-11 Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

OPENING PRAYER: O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ

reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 15:18 Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. 'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.' " 'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began

to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin

Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer over the Offerings: We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Prayer after Communion: O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Called to Bear Fruit – keeping going to success !!!!

There will be another Called to Bear Fruit meeting after the 10 o'clock Mass this Sunday 30th March in the small hall (access through the small gate to the left of the church) and another in the same place after the 11.30 Mass. Please come and take part. All welcome.

The meeting will consider the following questions:-

Q1 What should our parish priorities be for the next five years? Think: In the areas of evangelisation, formation and caring for those in need?

Q2 Are there local parishes we could work with to make our efforts more effective? If so, which ones? Think: What new collaborations could be formed? How can we share best practice in our area?

Q3 If we had to share a priest with another parish what would we need to change? Think: Number of Masses, lay involvement in running the parish, employing people.

Scripture

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord has given you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his needs, whatever it shall be" Deuteronomy 15: 7-8

This is your opportunity to tell the Archdiocese what we need as people of God to evangelise, form disciples and inspire witness in our parish. Last weeks' groups were very fruitful. Come and let your voice be heard. All welcome.

The booklet is available to be downloaded at <https://rcaos.org.uk/diocese/called-to-bear-fruit/consultation-booklet>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Mother's Sunday to all our mothers. We thank you for all your love and sacrifices. May God bless and reward you abundantly.

Volunteers for flower decorations meeting: Fr Nat would like to meet all parish volunteers for flower decoration on Tuesday 1st April at 7pm. The meeting will take at the Presbytery. New volunteers are welcome to join this meeting.

Prayer for the sanctity of all human life, specifically concerning Assisted Suicide: We are invited by the Archdiocese to offer a Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the sanctity of all human life on 6 April from 7-8pm in St Mary Magdalen's Church.

Called to Bear Fruit Group: The wrap up group meetings for 'Called to bear fruit' will be in the small hall after the 10am and 11.30 Masses Sunday the 30th March. For details see Page 3. All are welcome. Please come and take part. Let your voice be heard

Second and Third Scrutinies for RCIA: Our Catechumen and Candidates, Maria, Jayden and Loriana and their godparent/sponsors will present themselves for the Second Scrutiny at the 10am Mass this Sunday, the 30th of March; and at the 8:30am Mass on Sunday 6th April for the Third Scrutiny. Please pray for them as they journey towards full communion in the Church.

Monthly Confession: Confession is available after every Mass this weekend.

Lenten Confessions. Parish Lenten confession will take place on the weekend of 12/13 April after all the Masses.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group: The group will meet every Wednesday during this period of Lent, from 7-8pm in the church. All are welcome. For more information please email Simone on: brockleyple@rcaos.org.uk

50/50 Club: Start of the new year for membership of 50/50 Club is this April. Envelopes will be available for current members at the back of the Church, and we hope that all existing members will continue with their support. There are a considerable number of vacancies, and we welcome new members. Information sheets are also there for anyone wishing to join to take. All forms should be returned to the Presbytery with either your cheques made payable to 'RCAS Brockley' or alternatively with cash. We thank you for your continued support.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 12th, at St George's Cathedral.

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than the middle of May, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

Knights of St. Columba need men who can serve. For further information, please contact Bro Sam on 0795666763.

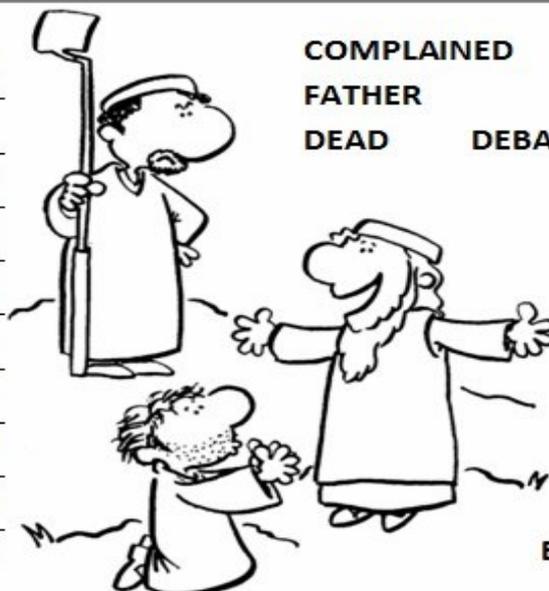
Hall rental: Please contact Fr. Nat or Fr. Christian for fees and availability.

Tea and Coffee: There is tea and coffee in the small hall, (access through the gate to the left of the church), after 10am and 11.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Masses can be booked by telephone on 020 86911322, or by email at brockley@rcaos.org.uk. Mass offerings can be made online to the parish account. St Mary Magdalen Parish RC, NatWest, 79143962 sort code 605001.

The RE class at school was preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation. The teacher finally asked, "And what must we do before our sins can be forgiven?" "That's easy," said a little boy from the back of the class. "First, we have to sin."

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COMPLAINED
FATHER
DEAD
SONS
LIFE
DEBAUCHERY
PIGS
BELLY
HUSKS
KISSED
CALF
FEAST
ELDER
ANGRY
BROTHER