

The Fifth Sunday of Lent, 5th/6th April 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

THE POWER OF DIVINE FRIENDSHIP

The history of the Israelites was punctuated with several ups and downs. After the Babylonian exiles, they had to begin life afresh with little or no hope. It was difficult for them to hope for a brighter future because they had lost their friendship with God. God restored this friendship by promising them restoration and hope. In the first reading, we see this promise of restoration and hope. He urged the Israelite to forget the past because he was doing new things in their lives. In the gospel reading (Jn. 8:1-11), we see a practical example of God's promise of hope and restoration in the life of the adulterous woman. After being caught in adultery and seeing the people's readiness to stone her to death, she lost every hope of survival until Jesus intervened. By that sinful act, she lost her friendship with her family, with the society and with God but Jesus became the fulfillment of God's promise to do a new thing in her life – to restore this lost friendship. Today, God also addresses this message to us in a special way. Through the first reading, He reminds us of the wonders He did in the history of humanity and invites us to trust Him based on these testimonies. This invitation is a call to repentance, to abandon and forget our old ways of living that is not pleasing to God and embrace a new and better way of life. Like the adulterous woman, we have been unfaithful in several ways. Our infidelity has frustrated our relationship and friendship with our spouses, friends, relations, the Church and God. Like the adulterous woman also, we have a lot of persons and things accusing us to make sure we are severely punished. But Jesus has come to deliver us from all these. This deliverance is a part of the new thing God is doing for. Therefore, as we approach the Holy week, let us use this opportunity to renew our friendship with Jesus who came to die that we might be saved. **Fr. Christian.**

Mass Times & Intentions: 5th April 2025 — 13th April 2025

Sat. 5th. 6:30pm: Tony Harrison (Health and well being)

Sun. 6th. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions) 10:00am: Anne, Martin & Olive Whelan (Ann. R.I.P.), Jordan Keyton & Myrtle Goodman (Ann. RIP) 11.30am. Raj Soosaipillai (Ann RIP), Sarah Ajagbawa (Ann. R.I.P)

Mon. 7th. 9:30am: Holy Souls

Tue. 8th. 9:30am: Daniel & Colette Hughes (5th Ann RIP)

Wed. 9th. 9:30am: Special Intentions

Thur. 10th. 9:30am: People of the Parish

Fri. 11th. 8:30am: Simon Duggan (Ann. R.I.P.), Rose Reynolds (RIP) Andre Pitchamootoo (God's grace, Wisdom & Blessing)

Sat. 12th. 9:30am: Holy Souls

Sat. 12th. 6:30pm:

Sun. 13th. 8.30am: 10:00am: 11.30am.

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:** Michael Sullivan, Robert Rowe, Dermot Allen, Stephen Roche, Alfred Hoffard, Fred Bryan, Janina Rakowicz, Wojtek Krakowiak, Nicola Cencio, Simon Duggan, Luisa Capocci, Terence Callow Kennedy, Melita Vel, Maria Amodio & Anne Christina Watson.



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. Ps 42: 1-2 Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

OPENING PRAYER: By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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 Isaiah 43:16-21 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3

*What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!'
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad. **R**

Bring back our exiles, O LORD,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:8-14

Brothers and Sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Joel 2:12-13 Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

GOSPEL: John 8:1-11 At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent

down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

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: Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

Prayer after Communion: We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

CHRIST FREES US FROM OUR SINFUL PAST

Imagine if there are no U – turn or exits on our roads. Motorists will definitely find it challenging as they would travel so long in order to get to nearby places. Imagine also if there is nothing like a second chance or a try – again platform for anything at all including examinations. This will mean that there will be no remedy for mistakes and of course mercy, pardon, forgiveness and similar acts of consideration would be unimaginable. Hence, all the readings of this Sunday give us hope and paint a picture of a very bright future for us. In the first reading, God tells us of the new things he has started doing among us and for us. He is restoring our hope and giving us every reason to continue living. This means that despite the difficulties of this present moment and season, the Lord will put a smile on our faces soon. Indeed, he will do this because: “weeping may endure at night, but joy comes in the morning” (Ps 30, 5). So, there is hope because we are approaching our morning, Easter. In the gospel, the Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Christ. They thought that Christ would condemn her immediately. However, they were wrong because Christ came to save and not to condemn. Instead of condemning her, Jesus restored her life and offered her a new chance to live. Like this woman, Jesus is always giving us new opportunities despite our weaknesses. He knows how vulnerable we are to sin. His mission is to save us from our sins and accusations. It is not to condemn us. Hence, Christ says, “I have come that they may have life and have it in full” (Jn 10, 10). Today, we should be encouraged by these word of Jesus “Neither do I condemn you.” When he says these words to us, he means them. He means that he has taken care of our negative past. Therefore, we must constantly run to Jesus irrespective of our situation. This is because he is ever ready to acquit us of all the charges against us. **Fr. Christian**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called to Bear Fruit: A big thank you to everyone who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit opportunity to help shape the future of our archdiocese; you met each week through March, and shared in Conversations in the Spirit for the diocese, what our parish needs to evangelise, form disciples and inspire witness. Your time, commitment and input made it a big success. A special thank you to Bela, Robert, Tim, Bridget, Kemi and Moira who facilitated or took notes of the meetings. Thanks again to everyone who took part.

Third Scrutiny for RCIA: Our catechumen and candidates, Maria, Jayden and Lorian and their godparents/sponsors will present themselves for the Third Scrutiny at the 8.30 Mass this Sunday the 6th April. Please pray for them as they journey towards full communion in the Church.

Holy Week and Easter Services:

Palm Sunday: 13th of April. Sunday Masses at 8.30am, 10.00 am & 11.30am.

Maundy Thursday: 17th of April. Mass at 7.30pm. Mass of Last Supper. Collection at this Mass will be for Lenten Alms..

Good Friday: 18th of April. Passion of Our Lord 3.00pm, (Solemn Good Friday services & Papal Collection for the Holy Places).

7.30pm: Stations of the Cross with the Holy relic of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: 19th of April. 8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: 20th April. Sunday Masses at 8.30am, 10.00 am & 11.30am.

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.

Second collection: The Second collection this weekend is for the Parish Development fund. Thank you for your kindness.

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

Confession: Confession is available every Saturday from 11.00am to 12 noon at the presbytery.

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: There are envelopes available to collect at the rear of the Church for new and existing members who have bought an additional stake, which will show their new membership numbers. There are still vacancies in the 50/50 Club, and we welcome new members

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: Tea and coffee are available in the Parish Hall after both 10.00am and 11.30am Mass. It is a wonderful time to meet other parishioners.

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.. Account name: RCAS Brockley, NatWest, Account Number: 79143962, Sort code 605001

A Doberman, German Shepherd, and Cat are sitting before God in the judgement hall
 God looks at the Doberman and asks "Doberman, what did you believe in?" The Doberman replies "I believed in being faithful and loyal to my master until the day I died." God answers "Very well. You may come sit to my left side. Shepherd, what did you believe in?" The Shepherd says "I believed in serving my country to the best of my ability until I was shot in action." God says "Very well. You may come sit to my left side. Cat, what did you believe?" The cat, without even thinking replies "I believe you are in my seat."

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**DAYBREAK
ADULTERY
DEATH
GROUND**

**WOMAN
LAW
STONING
QUESTION**

**CAUGHT
CONDEMN
TEST
FIRST**

