

# 1st Sunday of Lent, 21st/22nd. Feb.2026

*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 TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Lent is a period we reflect on and share in the sufferings of Christ who gave up his life for our salvation. On this first Sunday of lent, the church reminds us that nobody is above temptation and in fact, the closer we are to God, the more we are tempted. Temptation itself is not bad. It is like an examination. When we fail, we know we need to work harder on ourselves and when we excel; we give the glory and continue to make effort. The first temptation of Jesus concerns the human appetite and all that the flesh desires. Today, we are often tempted to use what we have to satisfy the desires of our flesh. In conquering this temptation, Jesus is teaching us to consider the desires of the spirit as more important than the desires of the flesh. The second temptation of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel Reading concerns the acquisition of power and material goods. We observe that in our world today people are ready to worship anybody or thing that can guarantee them material goods, fame, success and honour. Jesus' response therefore teaches us never to bow down to anything or anybody we have deified in order to receive material goods or power. The third temptation of Jesus concerns seeking vain and cross – less glory. Jesus came to save humanity by suffering but the devil wanted to show him an easier route other than suffering. Today, the devil still tempts us to think of success without commitment and dedication to legal job/work. We want to do the extraordinary thing just to be famous. By such actions, we put God to the test. Finally, one striking point is the use of the Sacred Scriptures. The devil used it to try to deceive Jesus while Jesus used it to stand firm against the devil. We should ignore the "Is it in the bible" syndrome and learn to use the correct interpretation of the scripture to strengthen our faith against temptations. Over and above all, when temptations come our way, we should not forget to pray. **Fr Christian**

### Mass Times & Intentions: 21 February 2026 — 29 February 2026

Sat. 21st. 6:30pm: Sean Nealon (Healing)  
Sun. 22nd. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions). 10:00am: Sean Killen (Birthday Thanksgiving) 11.30am: Cecilia Rose Noyes-Fox ( for long life and good health).  
Mon. 23rd. 9:30am: Sylvia (Blossom) Gerreyn (11th Ann. R.I.P.)  
Tue. 24th. 9:30am: : George & Isabella Gilmour (R.I.P),  
Wed. 25th. 9:30am: Mary Carol (R.I.P)  
Thur. 26th. 9:30am:Gerald McPartlane (R.I.P.)  
Fri: 27th. 9:30am: Angela Emund (R.I.P)  
Sat. 28th 9:30am: People of the Parish  
Sat. 28th. 6:30pm: Willie Duggan (Ann. R.I.P.)  
Sun. 29th. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions).10:00am: Anne, Martin & Olive Whelan (Ann. R.I.P.) 11.30am:

**The SICK:** Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Peter Carey, Peter Ag-eyman, Mario Despisio, Fr. Morty, Joshua Twagira, Darabela Edmund, Margaret Pain, Juliana Charles, Audreh Khan, Ephraim Aluebhosele, Gwen Randall, Chinyere Oburota, Patrick Akanya, Kathy Langridge, Patricia Wocial & Maxine Leech. **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** John Joe Calligy, Margaret Coss, Michael Brennan, Lily O'Brien, Charles Jennings, Jenkins Morgan, Brenda Boyle, Sylvia Gerreyn, George Colyer, Jean Nelson, Brendan Duffy, Bianca Offiah, Maud Dempsey, Joseph Hippolyte, Benjamin Palmer, John Hannon, Daniel Ayres, Joan Maloney, Lillie Higgins, Louisa O'Callaghan, Delia Parker, Mrs Marquis, Elizabeth Ejiolor, Zofia Kaczmarek, Janet Logan & Willie Duggan.



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](mailto:brockley@rcaos.org.uk) ( Reg. Charity No.1173050)

**Website:** [www.stmarymagdalenbrockley.com](http://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 90: 15-16** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 READING: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7** The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.  
**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a**

*Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**  
My transgressions, truly I know them;

my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me. **R**

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R**

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19** Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.  
**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Matthew 4:4b** Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11** At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him,

'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you"', and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**T H E N I C E N E C R E E D :**

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:** Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon: Mt 4: 4** One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**Prayer after Communion:** Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

• Parish Prayer •

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for calling us to share in the fullness of life and love that Jesus won for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our parish community. Changed by your Spirit may we become a community of disciples, attentive to the needs of all who come through our doors, and even those who don't.

We pray for your blessing upon every person in our parish community, and on all who live in and around our parish.

May they know your love, your presence, and your power in their lives.

For all who are struggling at this moment, we ask that you enter their lives and lift them. May our parish become a place of adoration, where the hungry are fed, the sick are healed, the bereaved are comforted, and all are made whole.

Softener our hearts to your will. Make us open to what you desire to do in and through our parish, and give us the courage and strength to follow your call.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**Saint Mary Magdalen, pray for us.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations to Sean Killen as he celebrates his 90th Birthday.** We wish him good health and many more years in the Lord's vineyard.

**Thank you for St Valentine's Day:** Thank you to mums, dads and young people who made the St Valentine's Party such a success. Special thanks to Bonny, for being such a great MC.

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the cross will be every Friday at 7pm and there will also be a short station of the cross after every Sunday Mass.

**Lent Preparation for Jesus's Passion:** You are invited to Lectio Divina, Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Readings, every Wednesday from the 24th February at 7pm to 8pm in the Church, during the of Lenten season. A wonderful opportunity to prepare prayerfully for Holy Week. All welcome.

**Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral:** Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Friday 6th** and **Friday 27th March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

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

**Visiting the sick:** If you are aware of any parishioner who is sick, housebound or in a nursing home, it is important to please give their name to one of the clergy or send an email to the Parish office.

**Obituary:** Mrs Margaret Newman one of our beloved parishioners, sadly passed away recently. Her funeral will take place in St Mary

Magdalen's church on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 11:30a.m. followed by the Burial at Grove Park Cemetery at 1.30pm. We pray for peace and consolation for her family. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

**Obituary:** Mrs Maureen Hynes one of our beloved parishioners, sadly passed away on Tuesday 17th February. Her body will be received into St Mary Magdalen's church on Thursday the 5th March at 7pm. Her Requiem Mass will take place on the 6th of March at 12noon, and burial at Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Rd SW16 at 2.30pm. We pray for peace and consolation for her family. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

**BBC Documentary: Secrets of the Conclave – Parish Screening:** Please join us on **Sunday 1st March, after the 11:30am Mass**, for a screening of the BBC documentary *Secrets of the Conclave*, which explores the election of **Pope Leo**. This fascinating programme offers beautiful and rarely seen moments from the conclave that were not captured in news coverage, along with insightful interviews with Bishops and Cardinals reflecting on their experience of being present. It also highlights where the popular film *Conclave* took a few creative liberties. **Tea, coffee, and snacks will be served**, so do stay and enjoy this informative and engaging documentary with your fellow parishioners.

**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](mailto: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

**“Above all, we must be especially alert against the beginnings of temptation, for the enemy is more easily conquered if he is refused admittance to the mind and is met beyond the threshold when he knocks”. --St. Francis De Sales**

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WILDERNESS  
TEMPTED  
DEVIL  
FASTED  
FORTY  
HUNGRY  
STONES  
LOAVES  
ANGELS  
FOOT  
SATAN  
WORSHIP

