

3rd Sunday of Lent, 7th/8th. March 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

COME TO CHRIST, THE ETERNAL LIVING WATER

On this Sunday, the Church encourages us to come to Christ the eternal living water. She calls us to break all cultural barriers and prejudices to let the eternal living water flow into all hearts. The first reading of today tells us of the ordeal of the Israelites in the wilderness. After four hundred and thirty years of slavery in Egypt, God came to deliver them. Nevertheless, they grumbled against God and Moses because they were thirsty. God instructed Moses to strike the rock. From it, water came forth. The Israelites drank and were satisfied. The rock Moses struck, and the water gushed from it prefigured Christ. He is both the rock of our salvation and our eternal living water. We also need a spiritual drink from the living water that flows from Christ, the rock of ages. In the gospel, Jesus presents himself to the Samaritan woman as the Eternal Living Water. This underscores the importance of Christ in our life. The lesson from this is that we must not discriminate against people based on their race or culture. Jesus knew quite well that the woman was a Samaritan and her life story. However, he approached her for a drink. Jesus aimed to draw her closer to himself, the Eternal Living Water. By breaking the silence and going against the social customs and prejudices between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus becomes the gift of God to this woman and her people. Like Jesus, therefore, we must be ready to take risks. This is by challenging the unjust rules of social structures and norms; which is by breaking down walls that exclude people and opening up possibilities to others. Finally, the argument between Jesus and the woman represents the obstacles we must overcome to draw people to Christ, the Living water. In other words, they represent the "rational" stubbornness" that society will present to us before they finally yield to the gospel. However, if we are connected to the Eternal Living Water, we shall have a better and more convincing witness without getting weary. **Fr. Christian**

Mass Times & Intentions: 7 March 2026 — 15 March 2026

Sat. 7th. 6:30pm: People of the Parish

Sun. 8th. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions). 10:00am:

11.30am: Betty Sullivan (Ann. R.I.P)

Mon. 9th. 9:30am: James Kilcoyne (Ann. R.I.P.)

Tue. 10th. 9:30am:

Wed. 11th. 9:30am: Annie Byrne (Ann. R.I.P.)

Thur. 12th. 9:30am: Letizia Polidoro (Ann. R.I.P.)

Fri. 13th. 9:30am: William DeRosa (Ann. R.I.P.)

Sat. 14th. 9:30am: Brendan Rafferty (Ann. R.I.P.)

Sat. 14th. 6:30pm:

Sun. 15th. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions). 10:00am:

11.30am:

The SICK: Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Peter Carey, Peter Ageyman, Mario Despasio, 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: Harry Tubb, Ivy Paine, Annie Byrne, Marcelle Ali, Betty Sullivan, Mary

Cope, James Kilcoyne, James Lyons, Letizia Polidoro, Cornelius Dempsey, Denis

Stonebridge, Bridget Foster, William Hughes, Alojzy Kwasniewski, Brendan Rafferty,

Berquez Constant, Maria Ellery & William DeRosa



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.1173050)

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 24: 15-16 My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

OPENING PRAYER: O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Exodus 17:3-7 In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R 7c, 8a
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R**

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been

given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Gospel Acclamation Cf. John 4:42, 15 Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42 At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was

talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

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: Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Prayer after Communion: As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. 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.

Softening 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

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the cross will take place every Friday at 7:30pm. There will also be a short stations of the cross after every Sunday Mass.

Second collection: The second collection today is for the maintenance of our church. Thank you for your continued support.

Mass for Confirmation Candidates: Mass for Confirmation candidates and their Sponsors will be at 10.00am on Sunday, 15th of March.

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

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

Obituary: Mrs. Theresa Mercedes Garraway one of our beloved parishioners, sadly passed away on the 19th of February 2026 at Princess Royal Hospital, aged

88. Her funeral will take place on Friday the 27th of March 10.00am at St Mary Magdalen church, then on to Grove park for burial at 12.00pm. We pray for peace and consolation for her family. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

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

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.

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

"The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry... The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor." St. Basil the Great

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SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
WATER	DRINK	JEW
BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND

