

## 5th Sunday of Lent, 21st./22nd. 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

#### WHAT IF GOD COMES LATE?

At times, Christ acts weird! What if God comes late? In today's gospel, "When Jesus heard that Lazarus, his friend, was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was." So, was Mary not justified to be angry? Was Martha not right to blame Christ? "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Indeed, this is a normal human reaction to disappointment, misfortune, and distress. It comes from a truly broken heart. It is a genuine search for answers to the "predicament" of life. It is a search in the right place and from the right person, God, the creator of all things. In today's quick, fast, and time – conscious world, Christ will have no job. He will be tagged as lazy and accused of negligence, being irresponsible, and insensitive. Sometimes, our loss could be so painful that we lose the capacity to see the other side of reality. Indeed, the grief and trauma of Mary and Martha at the death of their brother, Lazarus was genuine. However, the same grief and trauma made it difficult for them to see the other perspective and reality of Christ as Saviour, the resurrection, and life. Has God come late to your rescue? Do not lose hope. He sees you. Dead or alive, Jesus loves you as he loved Lazarus and will surely be there when we least expect him. Is your heart broken for what and whom you have lost? God knows what that means to you. Do you seek answers to your whys? Take a break from your grief, pause and let God speak because he has a message for your broken heart and traumatized body. Yes, God knows, sees, and will surely come. God is never late. Even if God comes late by our human reckoning, he will make all things new. If we believe like Martha, He will heal our brokenness and raise us by the power of the Holy Spirit as he raised Lazarus today. **Fr. Christian**

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

Sat. 21st. 6:30pm: People of the Parish

Sun. 22nd. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions) Yvonne Graves (Health recovery & Well being). 10:00am: Magdalene Kodwiw (Well being & birthday wishes), Mathilda Peter-Monguasa & Nakeitha (God's Guidance & Birthday Thanksgiving) Rodolfo Piscina ( Ann. R.I.P), Blessing, protection & forgiving to my children. 11.30am: Terry Joseph & family (Wellbeing and good health)

Mon. 23rd. 9:30am: Holy Souls

Tue. 24th. 9:30am: Sick Parishioners

Wed. 25th. 9:30am: World peace

Thur. 26th. 9:30am: McCormick Peter (Health recovery & Well being)

Fri. 27th. 9:30am: Lorrain & Catriona (Special Intention)

Sat. 28th. 9:30am: Helena Walsh (Ann. R.I.P.)

Sat. 28th. 6:30pm:

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: Kristijan Dezman (R.I.P. Birthday wishes)

**The SICK:** Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Peter Carey, Peter Ageyman, 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:** Eileen Hathaway, Ann Byrne, Patrick Duffy, Ernest Wells, Terence Davis, Agnes Cheribini, Lucjan Wajs, Rose Reynolds, Helena Williams, Bridget Odiahi, Francesca Polidoro, Kathleen Whitmore, Karen Buckland, Anne Read, Alexander Cheyne, Winifred Ceyne, Dorothy Abraham, Elizabeth Fennell, Pamela Taylor & Helena Walsh.



**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 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 READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14** Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

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

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8.**  
**R7bc**

*With the Lord there is mercy,  
in him is plentiful redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the sound of my pleadings. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
that you may be revered. **R**

I long for you, O Lord,  
my soul longs for his word.  
My soul awaits the Lord  
more than watchmen for daybreak. **R**

More than watchmen for daybreak,  
let Israel hope for the Lord.  
For with the Lord there is mercy,  
in him is plentiful redemption.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities. **R**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11** Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if

Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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

**Gospel Acclamation John 11:25a, 26** Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45** At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.' When she had said

this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in 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:** 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:** Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**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.

• 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.

Soften 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Second collection:** The second collection today is for Poor Parishes. Formerly the Needs of the Dioceses collection, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

**Holy Week and Easter Services:**

**Lent Confession.** Parish Lenten confession will take place on the weekend of 28/29 April after all the Masses.

**Palm Sunday, 29th March:** Saturday Mass at 6:30pm. Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00 am & 11.30am.

**Maundy Thursday, 2nd April:** Mass at 7.30pm. Mass of Last Supper. Collection at this Mass will be for Lenten Alms..

**Good Friday, 3rd 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, 4th April:** Easter Vigil, 8.00pm

**Easter Sunday, 5th April:** Sunday Masses at 8.30am, 10.00 am & 11.30am.

**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.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**50/50 Club:** The winning numbers for the January draw were 88 and 51, February was 46 and 30, and March was 59 and 55.

**50/50 Club:** The 50/50 club need more new members. Forms are available at the back of the Church. Completed forms can be handed to one of the clergy or drop it into the presbytery. Existing members can collect their envelopes at the back of the Church. Thank you to John and Breda for their great work and support.

**Rota for Parish Readers:** A new rota for readers is now available at the back of the church. Please endeavour to collect yours in order to know when you are reading.

**Knights of St Columba (KSC)** will distribute Easter posters after each Mass this weekend, 21st/22nd March. The collection is in aid of the homeless and other KSC charities. Thank you for your continued support of the Order and its charities.

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

**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

*“Everyone experiences doubts about the faith at times — “I have” many times, Pope Francis said — but such doubts can be “a sign that we want to know God better and more deeply.” Pope Francis*

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T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J
R	A	Z	A	L	A	Z	L	O	T
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	R

LAZARUS  
BETHANY  
SISTERS  
MARTHA  
MARY  
OINTMENT  
FEET  
BROTHER  
JUDAEA  
TOMB  
STONE  
PRAYER

