



20 March 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

# The burning bush

Much of the Gospel presents Jesus trying to shake people out of their deficient yet unwavering ideas about God. In today's scene, some people came to Jesus with a dilemma about God's justice. They were trying to make sense of two experiences of death.

The essence of their questions was whether or not God can be counted on to reward the good and punish evil. If not, was life simply absurd? Jesus didn't defend God. He said that the dead were no guiltier than the living. Then he said that the living needed metanoia-conversion, a thorough change of mind and heart and vision.

With that, he launched into a parable about a landowner, a gardener and a barren fig tree. There's a tendency to interpret this parable by thinking of God as the owner and Jesus as the gardener/saviour who wants to offer a last-ditch opportunity for the indolent tree. That interpretation, seeing Jesus as God's final offer, fits a theology of a just but merciful God, a respectable, predictable deity, a God who fits within human expectations.

Why do we think that Jesus was operating out of that theology? When we reflect a bit more, we remember that Jesus came from the tradition of Moses, the one who encountered the God of the burning bush. The God of the burning bush revealed a name that no one



knows how to translate and many consider too sacred to pronounce. Rather than fitting nicely into human systems and theologies, this God comes to free slaves and shake up the unproductive.

Lutheran theologian Rudolf Otto described the experience of God as *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*. The God of the burning bush is a mystery: always beyond our comprehension, always more than any description we might give and never circumscribed by anyone's theology or hundreds of names.

**Visit our website:** [www.catholicwestbourne.org](http://www.catholicwestbourne.org)

# MASS TIMES

## Sunday 20 March - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am

11.00am

## Tuesday 22 March - THIRD WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

## Wednesday 23 March - THIRD WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

## Thursday 24 March – THIRD WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

## Friday 25 March – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7.00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm

Stations of the Cross from 6.15pm

**CONFESIONS:** After Mass or by appointment.

## OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH  
SEAMOOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,  
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

**Parish Priest:** Fr Leslie Adams

**Telephone:** 01202 764027

**Email:** ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(*Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,  
Funerals and Confessions*)

**Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)**

**Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn**

General enquires and hall bookings

**Telephone:** 01202 760640

**Email:** oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Safeguarding Officer:** Matthew French

**Email:** mail@matthewfrench.net

## SUNDAY MASS 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.*

### Gospel Acclamation - Mt4:17

*Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!*

### Communion Antiphon

*The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.*

# PARISH NEWS

**PREPARING FOR LENT:** We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart. Let us start to prepare for this 40+ days season of grace. Confessions are available on request or after Mass.

**BISHOP PHILIP'S PASTORAL LETTER:** Please read the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip in which he asks us to '*bombard heaven with petitions for peace*' and shares ideas on what we can do at this time to support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Copies are available at the back of the church and on our website.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022:** This will take place from Monday 18 to Friday 22 July 2022, flying from Bournemouth Airport. The cost of the pilgrimage is £675 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room). Single rooms are available at a supplement.

As before, the pilgrimage will be supported by the youth of the diocese. Those aged 15-35 volunteer to support the pilgrimage by helping with music, the liturgy, companionship for our pilgrims, and physically supporting those in need by pushing wheelchairs etc. The cost for a youth pilgrim is £575. Click on the website [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes) for further information and for the opportunity to book a place.



**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER FOR BEGINNERS:** Prepare for Holy Week with two sessions to introduce prayer in a very simple way, using the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This course is open to everyone who wants to discover more about the meaning of prayer and how to pray. The course will be led by the Dominican Sisters, and will take place on Thursdays 31 March and 7 April from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

**Session 1: What is Prayer?**

**Session 2: Types of Prayer**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqduCtrz0vG9D1wsJLK49Tv6YzFI0NKi46>

Please look on the noticeboard for information on other courses provided by the Formation for Mission team.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth  
Our Lady Immaculate**

**Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## PRAYERS PLEASE

**Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:**

Teresa Wraith,  
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,  
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,  
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici,  
Marjorie Lee

# Leave the fig tree

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, ‘*Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*’

He told this parable: ‘*A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, “Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir,” the man replied “leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”*’

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**FORMS:** Thank you to everyone who has filled in a GDPR form. Please do fill this in if you haven't done so already as we require each parishioner to give us their permission to keep their details on our database. If we don't receive explicit consent, we cannot keep individuals' personal details on file and these will need to be deleted. Copies of the form are available in the porch.

If you are a parish volunteer, or looking to become one, please can you also fill in the relevant form in the porch. This is so that we abide by the diocesan safeguarding procedure. We are blessed to have such a supportive parish. God bless you all.



**BRIDGE CLUB:** Every Monday from 1.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome, including those who have never played before.

**STOP A NEW ABORTION THREAT:** Baroness Sugg has tabled an amendment to the Health and Care Bill that would make 'DIY' at-home abortion permanent. It is vital that as many Peers as possible oppose this amendment. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to send an email to a randomly-assigned Peer asking them to oppose the amendment. [www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionthreat](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionthreat) It only takes two minutes.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH:** Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges. May they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**UKRAINE APPEAL:** Thank you for your generous support with this urgent appeal.