

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



30 MARCH 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE GOLDEN ROSE

It may perhaps seem strange to find the Catholic Church in a mood so devoid of sadness and penance during this season of austerity and mortification. Nevertheless today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, the last before Passiontide, she is ringingly jubilant; "*Laetare*," as the Sunday is called, means "*rejoice*." Nor is this in any way unnatural because joy and sorrow so often are very close together in the human heart! How frequently joy is born of suffering, how frequently bitter grief crashes our joy! Think, for example, of a mother's pain and happiness, of her joys and worries.

This intricate rhythm of suffering and joy is pointed out for us today by the symbol of the rose. In ancient times, Christians brought roses for each other as gifts. Today the Pope blesses the golden rose and delivers a discourse on its symbolism.

First of all, I see in the rose a beautiful indication of the closeness between joy and suffering, for with roses come thorns. Should it not fill us with wonder that nature adds thorns to the most beautiful flower of all, the queen of flowers? Do not overlook the great lesson God is hereby teaching.

The rosebush is a beautiful representation of the Easter cycle with its two extremes, sorrow over sin and fervent paschal joy. First the thorns grow, then the roses bloom. First we must pass through the thorny period of Lent; first we must hear that



sin has banished us to a thorny earth; then, at Easter, the Catholic Church opens for us the door of paradise, lush with roses.

It was the same for our blessed saviour whose life was very much like the rose. His public career was a thorny bush; yes, in His passion a pricking, piercing wreath was entwined about His sacred head. Along the trunk of the cross, this thornbush grew, and its buds did not break open before the stone was rolled back. But suffering was not an end in itself; for Jesus it was only the means of redemption, the sharp point to lance the swell of mankind's guilt, the dark
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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 30 March - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am
11.00am

Monday 31 March - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

No Mass

Tuesday 1 April - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Wednesday 2 April - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Thursday 3 April - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am

Friday 4 April - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am
10.30am - *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Saturday 5 April - 4TH WEEK OF LENT

10.00am
10.30am - *Stations of the Cross*

Sunday 6 April - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.00am and 11.00am

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR 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 Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint
General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers:

Joan Smithies and Edward Adamson
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth

Our Lady Immaculate

Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Gospel Acclamation - Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

THE GOLDEN ROSE (FROM PAGE ONE) gate to resurrection - His own and that of all God's children. The rosebush, then, tells us of our saviour his passion and glory.

Christ leads; we follow. Christ first, Christians immediately after. Human life is a thorny bush climbing up the tree of the cross. Self-denial is one sharp thorn; taking up your cross, i.e., embracing all the sorrows and duties and burdens of life, is another. But God promises you roses in return, "*Whoever loses his life on earth will find true, divine life.*" The rose is the harbinger of holy spring, which now has come to our souls. As springtime in nature awakens life, so the Catholic Church's spring awakens a God-filled life of grace in all Christ's members. Catechumens, penitents, and faithful are desiring "*life in abundance.*" And its realisation brings unspeakable joy!

'LENT EXTRA' - PICKING A THING FOR LENT. Don't say you're giving up watermelon when you know you will hardly eat watermelon anyway. Don't give up hot showers if you know cold showers actually won't help you grow in holiness. We can easily fool ourselves into thinking strictness equates to holiness. For more ideas, visit the website: ascensionpress.com/blogs/videos.

TODAY IS MOTHERING SUNDAY. Let us pray for all the mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers in the parish. May God bless them in their ministry.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, directed by Mel Gibson, will be shown at the Undercroft Auditorium, Sacred Heart Church, Richmond Hill, on Friday 4 April. The cost is £6.50, which includes snacks and a drink. Book your seat early.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS.

Saturday 21 June, 11.00am, St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke. If you'd like to attend, please email: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

CONFESSIONS take place after the 9.00am Sunday Mass, after weekday Mass or by appointment. For further details, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

EASTER EGG APPEAL FOR SEAFARERS. Stella Maris, the Catholic charity that supports Seafarers, is planning to give chocolate treats to the crew aboard ships in port along the south coast over Easter. Please give your chocolate treats to the office by Monday 7 April. Thank you.

LENTEN FOOD BANK APPEAL. We will be collecting for Bournemouth Food Bank and Hope For Food again during Lent. Please do donate if you can.

All non-perishable food in tins/packets are welcome but in particular: UHT milk, long-life juice, tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn, etc), tinned meat/fish, instant mash potato, pasta and tinned puddings (rice pudding, custard etc). Unopened toiletries especially shampoo, soap, shower gel and toothpaste are also very welcome. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound in our parish: *Mary Stone, Mike Ellestone, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow, Win Sheridan and Yolanda.*

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH. *For families in crisis.* Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY - CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND. This is the annual collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund. This helps support the Department for Clergy Team who are responsible for the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy. They look after the junior clergy, the overseas clergy and especially the retired clergy. Donations can be in cash, through BACS or online. Thank you!

PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS. In union with the world church, we pray for Pope Francis that God may grant him his strength and peace. Dear Heavenly Father, we ask that you lay your healing hands upon Pope Francis and restore his health. Grant him strength, comfort, and peace during this difficult time. May he soon recover and continue to lead your Catholic Church with faith and dedication. We trust in your infinite mercy and love. Amen

40 DAYS FOR LIFE. From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, by prayer, fasting, and peaceful and respectful witnessing, we reach out to women in pregnancy crises, offering them spiritual and practical support and alternatives to abortion. Respond to Bishop Egan's call to join "*a small group for prayer...*" and support others. Contact Livia or Sebastian: 40daysforlifebournemouth@gmail.com.

CAFE NERI is open daily, Mondays to Saturdays, 10.00am - 4.00pm in the Bournemouth Oratory Undercroft. Enjoy morning coffee, light lunches, afternoon tea, and our Italian chef's specialities. Bring your friends to "*the most comfortable café in Bournemouth*". Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, BH1 1BZ.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Please speak to Fr. Leslie if you would like him to administer the Sacrament of the Sick before you are admitted. The Chaplaincy Service is available to you so do let the hospital staff know that you'd like a visit.

THANK YOU for your continued generosity to the parish. *Fr. Leslie*

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The Prodigal Son

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the locals who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." They all began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

LENT is the principal season of penance. During Lent, purple vestments are worn (purple is the colour of preparation, and Lent is preparation for Easter); the Gloria is not sung except on Feasts and Solemnities; the Altar is not decorated with flowers; and the Alleluia is never sung. As the People of God, we are called to make this season a period of special penitential observance. Lent is the time when we should make a special effort to deepen our practice of the faith. What will I do this Lent to grow in my faith?

THE CHOSEN. The first-ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. This drama allows us to see him through the eyes of those who knew him. Season 5, 'The Last Supper', is being released very soon! It's free to watch. All you need to do is go to the website: www.thechosen.tv/en-us and click on the link.