

LENT 2021

Saint Michael & All Angels



TO BE A PILGRIM

The Wise Men might be considered the first Christian pilgrims and their journey to Bethlehem the first Christian pilgrimage. Ever since, such pilgrimages have been important to Christian faith and there are many pilgrimage places, such as Jerusalem, Rome, Walsingham and Canterbury to name just a few. It may seem strange to choose this theme at a time when we are unable to travel, but that is precisely the point! Beginning from a place of limitation, this year's theme takes us on a series of virtual pilgrimages that look forward in hope to a time when we will be able to travel again.

Virtual or inward pilgrimage isn't a new idea. At Christmas we speak of going 'in heart and mind even unto Bethlehem' and the Nativity scenes in churches everywhere recreate locally what is far away. Likewise, Stations of the Cross became popular as a devotion for Christians unable to make a journey to the Holy Land in person. Over the centuries, writers such as Thomas a Kempis and John Bunyan have written about the inward pilgrimage of faith.

Pilgrimage is just as much about the journey as the place of arrival, and this journeying reflects the pilgrimage of faith across the whole of our life. But there are also many shorter journeys through the year as we travel together as a church, as a pilgrim people seeking God. Lent is one such journey as we walk with Christ on the Way of the Cross over six weeks to Holy Week and the Resurrection on Easter Day. In this leaflet you will find resources to help you on your journey, and it is my hope that we will journey together this Lent. Despite the frustrations of this time, there are still real opportunities to grow in faith, to deepen in prayer and come closer to Christ.

Father Stephen, Vicar

Lent Worship and Prayer

In addition to our Sunday services, there are special and regular services during the week that can guide you on your Lenten journey. In particular, Lent is a time to renew your spiritual life by making more time for prayer. To that end you are invited to join in with the Church's regular cycle of prayer in a variety of ways.

Ash Wednesday

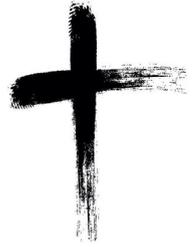
17th February

This solemn day marks the beginning of Lent as we begin our spiritual pilgrimage towards Holy Week and Easter.

12.00noon Mass with Imposition of Ashes

8.00pm Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes

The Sign of the Cross will be marked using individual recyclable cotton buds.



Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent

This year (due to the challenge of social distancing) you are invited to take part in the Stations of the Cross as a private devotion. Orders of service are provided in church or may be downloaded from our website. The Stations of the Cross displayed in the church throughout Lent 2021 are those by Jean Charlot.

Holy Hour

Mondays 7.00-8.00pm

Each Monday there is an opportunity for simple silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. You can come for just a few minutes or for the whole hour. A leaflet to help guide your prayers during this time will be provided.

Morning Prayer

Every day 9.00am (except Friday)

A short service (lasting around 20 minutes) and a wonderful way to begin the day in peace and contemplation. *You can also take part via Zoom - for more info contact the Parish Office.*

Midweek Mass

Wednesday (12.00noon) Saturday (9.30am)

With a more contemplative mood to the Sunday Mass, these services are also livestreamed on our social media.

The Annunciation

Thursday 25th March 6.00pm

Mass commemorating the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary announcing she was to be the Mother of Christ - traditionally a day when you can break your Lenten fast! The Rosary will be said beforehand at 5.00pm for those who wish to join in - instructions (and rosaries) will be provided.

Lent Sermons

‘Wish you were ... there!’

Our sermon series explores the theme of ‘Pilgrimage’ as an interior journey to some of the holiest places of Christian faith. Each sermon will describe the unique spirituality of a particular location and ask what makes it special.

Lent 1 (21st February): *Fr Martin Calderbank, Curate - Canterbury*

Lent 2 (28th February): *Fr Stephen Stavrou, Vicar - Rome*

Lent 3 (7th March): *Mthr Judith Roberts. Asst Priest - Jerusalem*

Lent 4 (14th March): Mothering Sunday *with blessing and distribution of flowers.*

Fr Stephen Stavrou, Vicar - Walsingham. Join us as we give thanks for God’s loving care revealed through Our Lady Mary, Mother Church, our own mothers, and all who care for us. *N.B. There will be a special Children’s Mass at 11.30am.*

Lent 5 (21st March): *Fr Martin Calderbank, Curate - Santiago de Compostela*



Lent Evensongs

‘My journey of faith ... so far!’

St Paul says that on earth we are ‘strangers and pilgrims’ (Hebrews 11.13) and the whole of life is often described as a pilgrimage. So this Lent, members of the congregation offer a short reflection on their personal journey of faith so far.

Sundays at 6.00pm

21st February Jane Sherwin

28th February Pat Reed-Boswell

7th March James Day

14th March **Choral Evensong** *with blessing of new choir lamps*

At this special service the new choir stall lights will be dedicated in memory of the late Anthony Gardiner and blessed for use in God’s service in our worship.

Because of current restrictions, this service will be broadcast online only.

Further information and a music list will be published in due course.

21st March TBC

Lent Zoom Coffee +

Sunday 11.45am-12.30pm

We continue our popular Zoom Coffee, by welcoming speakers with a direct connection to each pilgrimage location, tying in with our Sunday sermon series. They will share with us their own experience of these holy places and answer your questions about them. To join us, see the Zoom link in the Parish News email or contact the Parish Office directly.

21st February Fr Max Kramer, Precentor, Canterbury Cathedral.

28th February Fr James Hadley, Curate, Parish of Harpenden.
Former lecturer in liturgical art and architecture in Rome.

7th March Rosemary Nutt, McCabe Pilgrimages.
Operations Director and pilgrimage expert.

14th March Fr Peter Athony, Vicar, Saint Benet's, Kentish Town.
Former Shrine Priest of Walsingham. Note later time 12.30-1.15pm.

21st March Neil Tryner, *Walking pilgrim of the camino, the way of Saint James.*



Above: The Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.

Lent Confession and Spiritual Direction

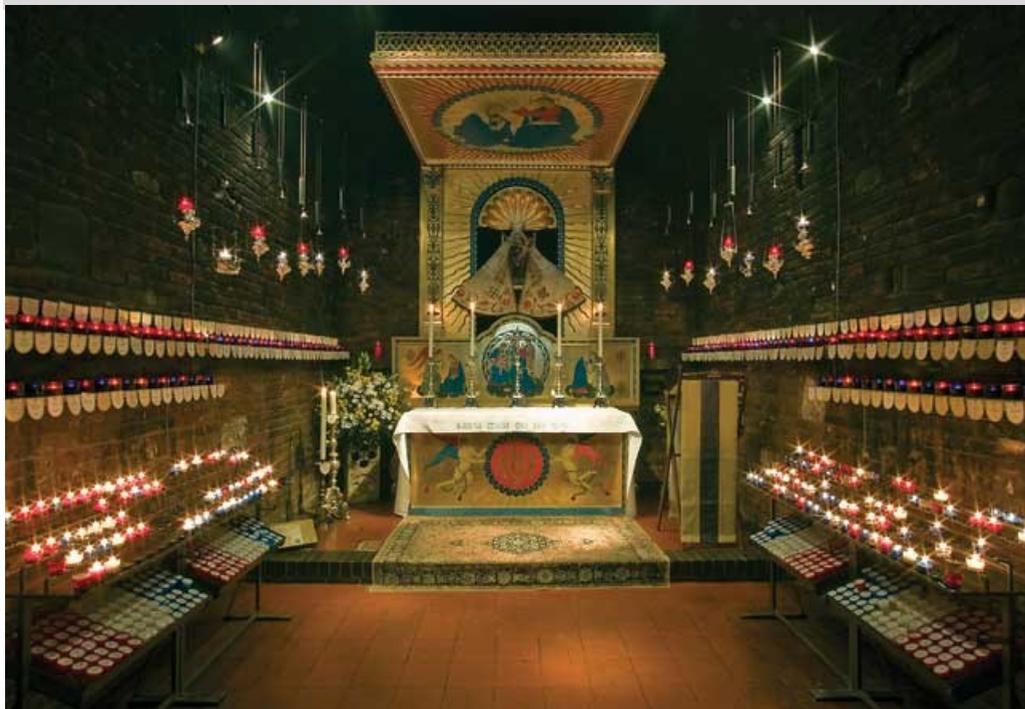
Renewing your relationship with God

During Lent many Christians reflect on their spiritual lives in two distinct ways.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession): Specific times will be advertised during Holy Week, but you can make an appointment with a priest at any time during Lent. Feel free to ask for help about how to prepare and make your confession if you have never done this before. *Note that confessions can be made with social distancing and other appropriate measures.*

Spiritual Direction: To arrange an informal conversation about your faith speak to the Vicar to arrange an appointment. This is an opportunity for you to talk about any challenges, joys and issues you may be facing in your faith and receive support and prayer. *Note that such discussions will take place online via Zoom, although exceptions can be made where necessary, until such time as current restrictions are lifted.*

*'He who would valiant be/ 'gainst all disaster,/ let him in constancy/
follow the Master./ There's no discouragement/ shall make him once
relent/ his first avowed intent/ to be a pilgrim.'*



Above: The 'Holy House' in Walsingham, often called 'England's Nazareth'.

'Who so beset him round/ With dismal stories,/ Do but themselves confound/ His strength the more is./ No foes shall stay his might,/ Though he with giants fight:/ He will make good his right/ To be a pilgrim.'



Above: Canterbury Cathedral, site of the Shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.

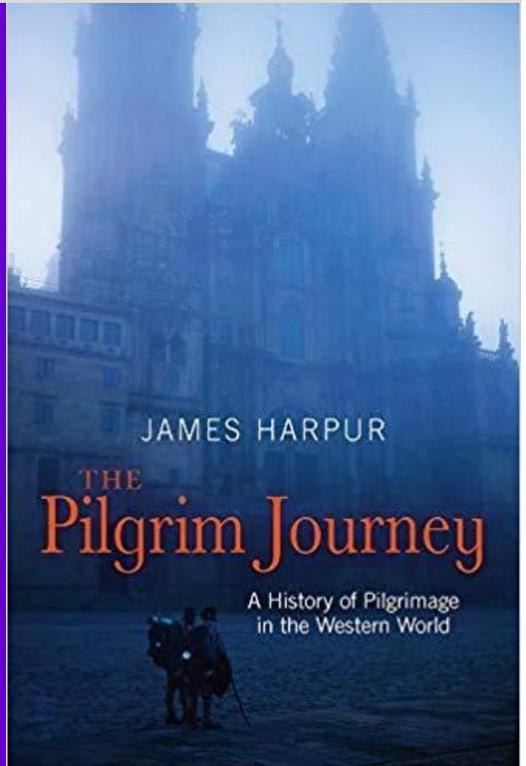
Lent Reading

The Pilgrim Journey

A history of pilgrimage in the western world
by James Harpur

This year's Lent book tells the fascinating history of how pilgrimage was born in antiquity, blossomed in the Middle Ages, faltered in subsequent centuries, but has enjoyed an extraordinary renewal in modern times. It chronicles the human search for the divine through sacred journeys and holy places.

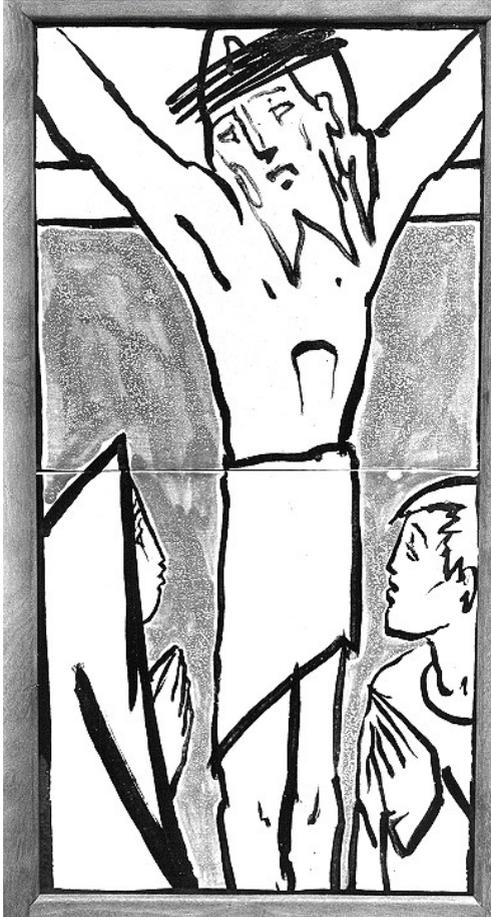
The book can be purchased easily and inexpensively online, but let the Parish Office know if you would like us to order a copy on your behalf. Extracts of relevant chapters will be available to take away each Sunday.



Lent Appeal

Raising funds for church and charities

Almsgiving is one of the traditional disciplines of Lent. As Christians during this time we consider our giving in response to the generosity to God in the offering of his Son. The last year has been financially challenging for many of us, and the same is true at church where it has been impossible gather a collection at worship for much of the past year and attendance has been much reduced. Therefore, we invite you to consider making a special Lent donation towards the ministry of Saint Michael's, which also contributes towards our church charities of the year (Richmond MIND and Jeel al Amal school in Bethany). If possible, we ask you to Gift Aid your offering. Donations can be made in cash and left in the wall safes in church, or at the Vicarage in Elm Bank Gardens. Alternatively you can make a transfer to the church bank account - No. 10774065, Sort Code 20-72-33. Please reference your offering 'Lent'. *Thank you for your gift.*



'So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.'

John 19.16-20

*Image: 12th Station of the Cross,
by Jean Charlot.*

*'Since, Lord thou dost defend/ Us with thy Spirit,/ We know
we at the end/ Shall life inherit./ Then fancies flee away!/ I'll
fear not what men say,/ I'll labour night and day/ To be a
pilgrim.'*



Above: The medieval pilgrim window at Canterbury Cathedral, showing pilgrims on the way to Saint Thomas Becket's Shrine.

The Parish Office

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For more information about any of the events and services listed in this leaflet, contact Saint Michael's Parish Office. Please note, there will be a separate leaflet with information about services for Holy Week and Easter.