



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Diocesan website: www.cliftondiocese.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(March 15, 2026)

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

Response to the Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Gospel Acclamation: Reader: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
**All: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

Communion Antiphon: **The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.**

SUNDAY MASS TIMES
6.00pm (Sat) 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

CONFESSIONS
Tuesday – Thursday after 9am Mass
(No Confessions on Friday)
Saturday after 9am Mass and from 5pm – 5.30pm

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

15 SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Kenneth Gonsalves (Intention)
08.00am Mass – Victor & Antonina Melnychuk (RIP)
09.30am Mass – William Coker (RIP)
11.00am Mass – Margaret McMullan (RIP)

16 MONDAY NO MASS - Silent Adoration – (9am-11am)

17 TUESDAY 09.00am Mass – Patrick Donnelly (Anniversary)

18 WEDNESDAY 09.00am Mass – Shanessa Fernandes (Intention)

19 THURSDAY 09.00am Mass - Shalom Fernandes (Intention)

20 FRIDAY 09.00am Mass – Merwyn Stephens (RIP)

21 Saturday 09.00am Mass – Frank Fernandes & Family (Thanksgiving)

NEXT SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS (MARCH 22, 2026)

22 SATURDAY(SUN) 06.00pm Mass – Filomena Fernandes (RIP)
08.00am Mass - Caetano Marques (RIP)
09.30am Mass – Vailanka Coelho (Intention)
11.00am Mass – Archie & Thelma Hemphill (Thanksgiving)

Church cleaning every Friday, after the Morning Mass. Your help would be much appreciated

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all those who are sick especially: Peter Hazel, Anna Tickner, Peadar Heffron, Sheila Hughes, Christopher and Cath Brown, Julia Harrison, Lena Watson, Cheryl Dawson, Louise Stacey, Irena Fliska, John Ruck, Emmanuella Ruck, Elizabeth McGill, Andrew McCarthy, Gill Young, Peggy Notley, Andrew Stacey, Pat Fox, Nellie Blake, Tommy Fox

RECENTLY DIED: Please remember to pray for Christopher Nicholls who died recently. His Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 25th, March at 11.30am here at St Mary's Church. Please also remember his family in your prayers.

GIFT AID FORMS: Parishioners who took Gift Aid forms after last month's Sunday Mass appeal are kindly asked to return them to the parish office as soon as possible so we can begin claiming the additional 25% Gift Aid from the Government.

OFFERTORY GIFT AID: The very best way for parishioners to help us is to set up a standing order, as it provides a regular and largely predictable income, with minimal processing costs. St Mary's have two Offertory accounts; one for your regular offertory giving and one for the Church Development Fund. If the UK Government, an extra 25% on every donation you make at no cost to you. This is an extremely important part of the church's finances and to achieve this all that is required is for a Gift Aid declaration form to be completed and signed alongside the standing order instructions. For all Non-UK taxpayers, all that would need to be completed is the standing order instructions. Forms can be collected from the Parish office.

GIFT AID ON CANDLES: We can now claim Gift Aid on candles lit on the stand in front of the Church. In order to claim this you will need to put your details on the card reader and tick the gift aid box.

CHURCH EXTENSION: The last week Collection + Fundraising came to £404.95. Some volunteers have decided to prepare delicious food or snacks and sell them after every Sunday Mass. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Natasha Vas on 07720 982226.

BAPTISM: We welcome into the Church Chimamanda Iwuji and Jonah Marques who are being baptised here in St Mary's this Weekend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 6.30pm and on Friday after 9am Mass during Lent.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE: There will be confessions on Tuesday 31st March from 5pm – 7pm here in St Mary's Church.

THE KNIT & NATTER GROUP have been busy knitting Lenten Crosses for lent. This year we are asking for a small donation to charity raising money for our church extension. The items are available after Mass during Lent. Many thanks to all the knitters for your wonderful efforts.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you have changed your address since registering as a parishioner, you are now able to amend your entry yourself through the Parish website. On the home page, scroll down to 'Parishioner Registration' and follow the link. Please select 'Change of Address' (there is no need to re-register).

LENTEN RETREAT: There will be Lenten Retreat here in St Marys' on 28th March led by Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson Starting with 9am Mass followed by Adoration and Spiritual talks.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION last Sunday came to £ 1756.46. Many thanks for your generosity.

MISSIO: The **MISSIO Red Boxes** are ready to collect from the Sacristy.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Mass scaling, travel survey and more. Help with office work. We are also looking Eucharistic Ministers/ readers to help out during Sunday Masses.

RETIRING COLLECTION: The second collection this Sunday will be towards Priests' Retirement Fund. The fund supports them in their retirement and offers them security in their later years. Through this fund we show our gratitude and our support. There are envelopes and flyers at the back of the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS: The first Mass intention will be printed in the Newsletter. The other Mass Intentions shall be prayed for and the names will be read on the requested day but will be offered somewhere else. Please put your Mass intention in the envelope and add your phone number and drop in the box provided at the back of the Church two weeks in advance. **Please do not use the card machine for Mass intentions.**

OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The Parish statue of our Lady of Fatima is available for people to take to their home for prayer and for special occasions. For booking contact: **Natasha Vas** on Mobile 07720982226 after 4.30pm until 8pm.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First reading

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

David is anointed king of Israel.

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehem, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

‘Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

‘He went and washed and received his sight.’

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘It is he.’ Others said, ‘No, but he is like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’ They answered him, ‘You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?’ And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and he worshipped him.