

CONFESSIONS Saturday after morning mass until 11:15am and  
before the vigil mass from 5:30-6:15pm

*MASS INTENTIONS 9th –17th March 2024*

<b>Saturday 9th March 2024</b>	6.30pm	(vigil) People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 10th March 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent B (Laetare Sunday)</b>	8.30am	Mrs Ann Henry RIP
	10.00am	Robert Baxter Intentions
	12 Noon	Anne Akotibe Thanksgiving
	3.00pm	Spanish Mass
	6.30pm 7.30pm	Solemn Holy Hour Annamma Manuel RIP
<b>Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent 11th</b>	7.45am	Deceased Franciscan Friars
	10.00am	Robert Elizabeth Armstrong Intentions Patsy Dias Intentions
<b>Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent 12th</b>	7.45am	John, Helen, Dina Thanksgiving Teresa Leelavathy & Fatima RIP
	10.00am	Binu, Jenny, Nia, Keziah Intentions
	<b>8.00pm</b>	St Anthony's Novena
<b>Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent 13th</b>	7.45am	Sr Matilda Immanuel SJT RIP
	10.00am	Nellie Gallagher Intentions Maria Louisa Fletcher RIP
<b>Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent 14th</b>	7.45am	Ursuline Sisters Intentions
	10.00am	Pauline Reay RIP Romeo Tresvalles Intentions
<b>Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent 15th</b>	7.45am	Daniel Charles RIP
	10.00am	Maria D'Silva Allister Rambayon Perdido Intentions
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent 16th</b>	10.00am	Joseph Juan Tain Sung RIP Michael Hull RIP
	6.30pm	(Vigil) People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 17th March 2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent B</b>	8.30am	Cecil Loader RIP
	10.00am	Caroline Francis RIP
	12 Noon	John, Anthony, Joan & Maria Bennett Intentions
	3.00pm	Spanish Mass
	6.30pm	Solemn Holy Hour
	7.30pm	Jennifer Kane & Sharon Reid RIP

***ST ANTONY'S CHURCH FOREST GATE***

*Fourth Sunday of Lent B—10th March 2024*

**Laetare Sunday**

**Reading I: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23:**

**Psalm: Psaim 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6**

**Reading II: Eph 2:4-10:**

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

**Overall Theme:** On Laetare Sunday, the liturgical readings poignantly recount Israel's tragic failure to uphold the covenant, a solemn reminder of our own frailty and need for redemption.

**Summary of the Readings**

**First reading:** The ending of the second book of Chronicles serves as an epitaph about why the people of God lost their land. Just as Adam and Eve were exiled from the Garden of Eden, the Israelites were exiled from the Promised Land because of their infidelity to the Mosaic covenant. The last verses impart hope for the people of God who return to Zion and keep the covenant.

**Psalm:** Traditionally ascribed to the Levites in the aftermath of Jerusalem's devastation, this Psalm reverberates with the lament of a shattered covenant and the fervent longing for restoration. In the absence of a Hebrew term for "renewal," the psalm invokes remembrance of Zion, as an act of covenantal renewal. There is no word in Hebrew for renewal, but there is a word for remembering, therefore, the psalm focuses on remembering Zion, a covenantal concept connotating renewal of the covenant.

**Second reading:** St. Paul mentions that, in a mystical and spiritual sense, we have already been given royal citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Gospel:** In the Gospel narrative, Jesus imparts to Nicodemus the profound significance of baptism— an indispensable sacrament effecting a transformative rebirth through the sanctifying agency of the Holy Spirit. A peculiar typological parallel emerges as Jesus connects the symbol of the Cross with the bronze serpent fashioned by Moses—a juxtaposition in which symbols of affliction are transfigured by God into means of salvation. **Practical Application:** The fallacy of working our way into heaven must be dispelled, because we are called to embrace the transformative work of the Spirit, conforming us to Christ. On this Laetare Sunday, we are exhorted to rejoice amidst the pilgrimage toward our heavenly homeland.

**Readings at 12 Noon Mass**

Dear friends, because of the scrutinies for those preparing for baptism this Easter, at 12-noon mass for the next 2 Sundays will have special readings, different to the ones in your leaflets for the other Sunday Masses.

They are **1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.**

**Church Closed for Descent of Scaffolding**—The Church will be closed after 10am Mass on **Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

**Friends of St Antony (FSA) mass** will be celebrated at Westgate House on **Tuesday 12th March at 11.30am**. All are welcome.

**The next Baptismal Preparation Course—Will be on Saturday 16th March 2024 and begins at 12.00 Noon promptly.** Parents who wish to have their children Baptised must attend the Baptismal Preparation course. You will be asked to provide a copy of your Baptismal certificate and also your Godparents Baptismal Certificate which must include details of Confirmation.

### **ST PATRICK'S DAY**

*St Patrick's Day event at St Antony's Club (Red House) on **Sunday 17th March from 1pm**. Live music and food available.  
Free admission*

### **Goan Konkoni Stations of the Cross**

On **Monday 25th March at 4pm** there will be Goan Konkoni Stations of the Cross.

**Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp; from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August** help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, but there are limited places. Applications open until the end of March. Details: <https://boscocamp.co.uk/volunteer-applications>

**Mrs Margaret Bartle RIP**—Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Bartle who died peacefully on 6th March 2024. Margaret was a parishioner of St Antony's for many years and taught in St Antony's School. Funeral arrangements have not yet been arranged. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her may she rest in peace. Amen.

**Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092**

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**Email:** [forestgate@brcdt.org](mailto:forestgate@brcdt.org), **Website:** [www.stantonysforestgate.com](http://www.stantonysforestgate.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Marie Browne **Tel:** 020 8472 0433 :

**Parish Youth Co-ordinator:** Catherine Wallis-Hughes **Tele:** 07807348223.

**St Antony's School:** -T.020 8552 3670

### **Prayer to the Mother of the Lord for all Mothers**

Mother Mary, on this day when we honour all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace.

Dear Mother Mary, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's Word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear Mother Mary, intercede for all of our mothers. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

On this Mother's day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you.

***Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford . This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)***

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- online donations link: <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/saop>
- Donations can be made parish web-site [www.stantonysforestgate.com](http://www.stantonysforestgate.com)
- Payment direct into the parish bank account using online banking
- QR Codes available around the church
- Contactless using QR Codes located around the Church

We pray for the SICK of our Parish, Families & Friends— and all at home or in hospital, and all who care for our sick.