



**OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST. ETHELBERT'S PARISH,
WELLINGTON STREET SLOUGH, SL1 1XU - REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 234091**

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Pius Amoako

Safeguarding officer: Mrs. Rosina Majoni 07939 548 823

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8TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

We welcome all to today's Mass, especially visitors and friends who are celebrating with us.

SUN 2/3/2025 MASS: 9:00am Elsie Thanksgiving		
MASS: 11am: Nysa Dsouza Birthday Thanksgiving, Madam Adebola Thanksgiving including good health in mind & body, Joaquim L. Rodrigues RIP, Treza Fernandes RIP, Ebenezer & Kiran Special Int for their Civil Marriage		
MASS: 6.30pm Juvita Alves RIP		
MON:9.30am: Morning Prayer MASS: 10.00am A. Macdonald RIP,		
TUES: 9.30am: Morning Prayer MASS: 10.00am		
ASH WED: 9.30am: Morning Prayer	MASS: 10am	Exposition of the Holy Sacrament: 4pm – 6.30pm
MASS: 6.30pm		
THURSDAY: 9.30am: Morning Prayer MASS: 10.00am Josephine Madden Intentions		
Exposition of the Holy Sacrament: 10.30am - 1pm		
FRIDAY: Exposition of the Holy Sacrament: 10am – 11.30am		11.30am – 12.30pm Stations of the Cross
MASS: 12:30pm A. Macdonald RIP, Joe Fernandes RIP, Xavier Fernandes RIP		
SATURDAY: 9.30am: Morning Prayer MASS: 10.00am Ryan Lourenco Birthday Thanksgiving		

SUN 9/3/2025 MASS: 9:00am MASS: 11am: Okuse Adoh Birthday Thanksgiving **MASS: 6.30pm**
CONFESSIONS: Available this week on, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday during the Exposition of the Holy Sacrament. Please contact Father at the Presbytery if you would like him to hear your confession during this period if he is not already in the confessional.
OFFICE HOURS: THURSDAY 1pm until 7pm – Please come to the Presbytery with your enquiries.

MINISTRIES:
Readers for this Sunday, 2nd March
9am Mass: Clare R, Kezia, Sr. Caroline
11am Mass: Leanne K, Kloenda C, Kyla
6.30pm Mass:

Readers for Next Sunday, 9th March
9am Mass: Millie A, Perase T. Jim B
11am Mass: M.Cheturai, A. Ismail, Okuse A.
6.30pm Mass:

Eucharistic Ministers for this Sunday, 2nd March
9am Mass: Natalina S, Agness N, Alice S.
11am Mass: Mathew T, Clara C, John I
6.30pm Mass:

Next Sunday Eucharistic Ministers, 9th March
9am Mass: Alice S, Jim B.
11am Mass: Sr. Theresa O, Cecilia JP
6.30pm Mass:

OFFERTORY PROCESSION
This Sunday:

Next Sunday: 11am Patrick & Lilian Iwe

Our Readings for the Day
First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7
 Do not praise a man before you hear him reason.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 92(91):2-3 13-14, 15-16. R cf.2a
 It is good to give thanks to you, O LORD

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
 He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45
 Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Thank you for your generous giving, May God bless you.

St Ethelbert's Bank Details for Bank Transfers:
R.C.D.N. ST. ETHELBERT CATHOLIC CHURCH
SLOUGH
A/C 46714642
NatWest SORT CODE: 60 06 11

Notices:

Important Note – Confessions: Following a Diocesan Formation meeting we have been advised that if mobile phones are left on and are with you during your confession, Google can record parts of it. Therefore, to protect the sanctity of confession we therefore request that going forward all mobile phones are either not taken into the confessional with you or are completely switched off to protect what is said during confession and to avoid breaking the seal.

Second Collection: Fr. Pius has spoken recently about an order in Africa who are building a primary school and have asked for your help. We will have a second collection at all masses this Sunday 2nd March to support them.

Youth Meeting & Youth Mass: The next youth meeting will take place **next Saturday; 8th March at 12.00pm** and the youth mass will take place **this Sunday 2nd March at 11am**.

First Holy Communion Group: The next meeting for the First Holy Communion group will be on Saturday 8th March at 11am when the candidates will make their First Reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers.

Confirmation Group: The confirmation group will meet again next Saturday, 8th March at 3pm. Parents, please ensure that your child attends.

RCIA: The RCIA group will meet next on Saturday 15th March at 12pm. **Please note the new date.**

Old Palms: In preparation for Ash Wednesday, please bring any old palms you might have at home and put them in the box at the back of the church by this Sunday at the latest. These will be burnt and the ashes distributed on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday: There will be mass at 10am and 6.30pm on Ash Wednesday, 5th March when ashes will also be distributed. It is a day of fast and abstinence.

Stations of the Cross: During lent we will have stations of the cross each Friday at 11.30am (before mass). This will begin on Friday 7th March. There is a list at the back of the church should you wish to lead one of these sessions, please put your name down against the chosen date.

Special Mass for Married Couples: We invite all married couples to a special mass on Saturday, 3rd May at 12pm. For those of you who are celebrating their **significant** wedding anniversaries e.g. 10, 15, 25, 30 years of marriage this year we will produce a special certificate. If this applies to you, please put your details down on the list at the back of the church. You will be able to receive this during the service on the day.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

This year our diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham takes place on Saturday 14 June. The pilgrimage will begin with Mass at the Basilica in the Catholic Shrine at midday followed by lunch and at 3pm pilgrims process from the Shrine, on the holy mile to the Abbey Grounds for the final service. There is a form at the back of the church to sign up if you are interested. If there are sufficient numbers, we will look into booking a coach. Parish groups are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring parish banners with them for the procession. All are welcome.

The London and Slough Charitable Trust (formerly the LASR) – Urgently need Volunteer Drivers
Could you give up an evening of your time to help those in need? Do you hold a C1 Driving License and are over 25 years of age? We need some volunteers to join our weekly rota. Every evening, a driver leaves our food share hub in Slough and collects surplus food from 4/5 supermarkets for our packing teams to then redistribute, ready for early morning deliveries every day. **For more information, please call Christina 07990655471 or contact admin@thelondonandsloughrun.org**

Bishop's Pastoral Letter: We have received a pastoral letter from Bishop David concerning the terminally ill (End of Life) bill. Please take some time to read it, it is available to view on the church notice board or electronically with the newsletter on our website, Whatsapp and email.



PASTORAL LETTER CONCERNING THE TERMINALLY ILL (END OF LIFE) BILL

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill, as it is formally known, received a second reading at the end of November. This is currently with the committee which will scrutinise it before the legislation is returned for further voting in the House of Commons. Our country is divided about this legislation. Some have campaigned for this over a long period of time. Nevertheless, there is a broad coalition of voices, from various religious traditions and none, who are very concerned about the implications of the idea that individuals may be able to commit suicide with the assistance of medical professionals. The research briefing from the House of Commons Library puts things this way: 'The broad aim of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is to allow adults aged 18 and over, who have mental capacity, are terminally ill and are in the final six months of their life, to request assistance from a doctor to end their life.' It will be challenging to overturn this proposed legislation, but not impossible. Within our diocese, 13 MPs voted for this Bill and 10 voted against it.

From what we hear, some politicians have serious concerns about the proposed safeguards around the legislation. Will there really be rigorous oversight to prevent misuse of the right to end one's life? It is clear that these safeguards are unravelling. How may anyone know with certainty that someone is in the final six months of mortal life? We pray the expert evidence being presently considered will also focus upon the wonderful palliative care that takes place in hospices and other places. Palliative care professionals have already expressed concern about the funding and research in this important area of medicine. Will this proposed new legislation damage the provision of palliative care even further? The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have already submitted evidence to the Bill Committee emphasising that this legislation is unworkable.

This proposed law is a bad tree that cannot bear good fruit. Christ's disciples have much to encourage them to pray and work for the promotion of a culture of life. The mystery of eternal life we profess is presented so well by St Paul in today's liturgy: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' The truths of the Gospel proclaimed by our Lord have long been challenged and disparaged within a society that is largely indifferent to the fundamental kerygmatic mysteries of our faith - we are created in God's image and likeness; despite humanity's fall from grace, God sent his beloved Son amongst us. Jesus lovingly offered his life in loving obedience to his Father and for our sake. He rose again in his human body and ascended to the Father, fulfilling his promise to send the Holy Spirit to us. As the Body of Christ, the Church seeks to build the Kingdom our Saviour inaugurated in his life, death and resurrection.

And so, I invite you to join me with two actions. The first is to pray. We pray for those who are seriously ill and dying. May they discover the hope of eternal life we share in Christ. And may they receive good palliative care in their suffering. We pray for those in the medical profession who will feel very challenged by this proposed legislation. We pray for our political representatives that their consciences will encourage them to stand against this bad legislation. And please write to your MP. Your letter does not need to be long or complicated. Just reach out to them and encourage them to vote against assisted dying.

We may ask ourselves, what's the point? No one will take notice of my prayers or actions. Against these understandable feelings, I am very encouraged by the words of the apostle Paul at the end of today's second reading: 'Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.'

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

Given at Northampton on 22nd February 2025,
The Feast of St Peter's Chair,

and appointed to be read or distributed in all churches and chapels of the Diocese
on the weekend of the Eighth Sunday of the Year, 1st and 2nd March, 2025