



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

### Mass Times and Intentions

#### Divine Office – Psalter Week 2



Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11.00am	Susan Barrow
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	

## Sunday Liturgy

### Proper of the Mass

Penitential Rite	Form A	p. 8
Profession of Faith	Apostles'	p. 12
Preface	Transfiguration	p. 72
Eucharistic Prayer	Reconciliation 1	p. 37

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February



**For disarmament and peace.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**February** is the month of the Holy Family. "By his obedience to Mary and Joseph, as well as by his humble work in the long years at Nazareth, Jesus gives us the example of holiness in the daily life of family and work." *From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 564.*





**The Roman Catholic Parish of  
Our Lady Help of Christians**

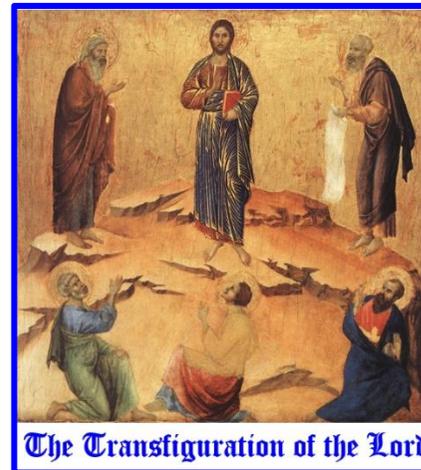
Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT

Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF  
Deacon: Rev Tom Simms

Email: [smaaa@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:smaaa@rcaol.org.uk) Tel. 0151 546 9687

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

### 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026



In the First Reading, from the Book of Genesis we hear or read how God called Abram (Abraham) to pick up all of his belongings and family and move to a land he didn't know. Abraham was obedient and God gave him not only a child late in life, but Abraham became the father of many nations and the Father of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. He is remembered every day in the prayers of millions of people all over the world.

In the Responsorial Psalm the psalmist lays out his life before God in complete trust knowing that whatever God does with him, it will be for the best. Trusting in God is a virtue to which most of us give little thought. The need to be in control is so strong in western culture that we are often

blind to our own weaknesses. Lent is a good time to turn that around.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy. There we hear Paul encouraging Timothy to be strong in the face of hardship. We don't hear what that hardship is, but we know from other writings that Paul is in prison and Timothy is facing difficulties in carrying on with Paul's mission. Never do we hear either of these men complaining of their hardships; rather, they trust in the Lord Jesus who holds out to them "immortality through the gospel."

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Matthew. In this passage, we hear the familiar story that we call the Transfiguration. Here Jesus appears with Moses and Elijah in a glorified state. The message here is to all of us: "This is what's in it for you." In other words, if you are faithful and obedient like Moses and Elijah, like Peter and Paul and many others, you will be glorified when you reach heaven. Moses and Elijah were given very tough jobs in God's Plan of Salvation and they fulfilled them faithfully. We are given small and sometimes insignificant jobs and often disregard them; but God holds each of us responsible for fulfilling his or her role in His Plan, and our reward will be beyond description.



## Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

## The Season of Lent



The Season of Lent is a wonderful season of penance and spiritual renewal that prepares us to celebrate the great feast of the Lord's Death and Resurrection at Easter. To help us in our preparation the Church encourages us to practice faithfully the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There is no better way to sanctify the season than the frequent celebration of Mass for those who are able.

## Portico Fundraisers

Please make a note in your diary for Easter Tabletop Sale next Sunday, 8th March, after Mass. Easter gifts, New clothes, jewellery, books, toys, and more.

## Stations of the Cross

There will be an opportunity to follow the Way of the Cross during Lent after the 9.30am Mass on Thursdays. We journey with Jesus through his Passion and Death, while looking forward to the glory of the Resurrection.

## Lent "Walk With Me" Booklets

The Lent 'Walk With Me' prayer booklets are now available in the shop and porch, priced at £1.50. A very useful resource to help our prayer journey through the Season of Lent.

## Minsteracres Retreat/Holiday 2025

Come and enjoy a holiday in a Passionist Retreat House in beautiful Northumberland, Friday 31st July – 6th August 2026. The cost is £625 and includes all meals and travel to and from Northumberland. The coach stays with us, so we can enjoy afternoons out to local villages and places of interest and evenings of family fun. There is a bar. A deposit of £100 secures a place is due by 15th March, the remaining balance is due by the end of June. For more information please ring Karen on 07709 603166

## CAFOD Lent Fast Day

There are baskets at the back of Church and in the porch for the return of CAFOD Family Fast envelopes and any extra donations to CAFOD. We will keep the collection open during Lent. Thank you for your generosity.

## Feast Days This Week

### Monday

**St Polycarp** – He was a disciple of the Apostles, especially of St John the Evangelist, and Bishop of Smyrna, as well as a friend of St Ignatius of Antioch. He was the first generation of Christian leaders after the Apostles, and he fought against some of the heresies that began to spring up after the passing of the Apostles. He went to Rome to confer with Pope St Anecitus about the celebration of Easter. He suffered martyrdom about the year 155 by being stabbed with spears in the city stadium after an attempt to burn him at the stake failed. His writing "Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians" was so esteemed that it was read in the churches of Asia during the lifetime of St Jerome. It still survives, and form part of the writings of those early Christian leaders that the Church refers to as the "Apostolic Fathers" to emphasise their particular closeness to the Apostles.

### Tuesday

**St John Theristus** – He was of Calabrian lineage, born in Sicily in the year 1049. His mother had been captured by the Saracens and brought to Sicily as a slave, But John contrived to escape to Calabria as a child, and there he became a Benedictine monk. He helped to miraculously harvest a large crop ahead of destructive weather, saving the local population from starvation and gaining the title attributed to him. He died in the year 1129.

### Wednesday

**St Tarasius** – Born in the year 730, he was a subject of the Byzantine Empire. He was raised to the highest honour as Consul, and became first secretary to the Emperor Constantine. He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople, and incurred the enmity of the Emperor by his persistent refusal to sanction his divorce from his lawfully married wife. His whole life as a bishop was one of penance and prayer, of efforts to reform his clergy and people, and of charity to the poor. He visited in person all the houses and hospitals in Constantinople so that no needs person might be overlooked in the distribution of alms. He occupied the See of Constantinople for more than twenty one years, and died in the year 806.

### Friday

**St Gregory of Narek** - Gregory was raised in a monastery and eventually entered the Narek Monastery in what is now Turkey, as a monk and lived there for nearly the entirety of his life. As an Armenian monk, Gregory lived humbly and taught at the monastic school. He wrote his prayers in the *encyclopedia of prayer for all nations* in hopes the book would one day guide people of all stations around the world to prayer. He was a leader of the well-developed school of Armenian mysticism at the Monastery. Several miracles and traditions have been traced back to Gregory and he is known as "the watchful angel in human form." Gregory was venerated as a saint by the Armenian Catholic Church and is also recognized as a saint of the Roman Catholic church. On April 12, 2015, Pope Francis officially proclaimed Gregory as a Doctor of the Church.

### Saturday

**St Oswald** - He studied in the household of his uncle, Archbishop Odo of Fleury, France, where he was ordained. He was later made Bishop of Worcester (962), by St. Dunstan. In this office, he worked hard to eliminate abuses and built many monasteries, including the famous abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire. In 972 he became Archbishop of York. In addition to striving to improve the morals of his clergy, this holy man also laboured to increase their theological knowledge. He has been revered ever since as one of the three saints who revived English monasticism.