



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

Web Site: www.stclements Sewell.org
307 Kingston Road KT19 0BW Tel: 020 8393 5572

St. Clement's Primary School: 020 8393 8789
St. Andrew's Secondary School: 01372 277881

Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Charity No. 252878

All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website



Second "Transfiguration" Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25th February 2024 Psalter Week 2 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	P J Daly RIP
Sunday 25 Feb 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	In Thanksgiving – Lesley Squibb
Wednesday	10.00 am	Ann Baker RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Mary Schneider RIP (First Anniversary)
	10.30 – 11 am	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross

EAST DAYS: 25TH FEB TO 2ND MAR 2024

Friday – St David

ANNIVERSARIES: 25TH FEB TO 2ND MAR 2024

Mary Hennessy, Lucy Pritchard, Anna Herbert, Genevieve Veryard,
Frank Tivey, Mary Schneider, Gerald Spring, Louise Rollinson.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Pat Russell and Ann Hannan (Fr Graham's & Lesley's Birthdays)

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 3rd March 2024 Psalter Week 3 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	In Thanksgiving – Jackie Gill
Sunday 03 Mar 2024	8.30 am	Andrew & Barbara Sukienik RIP
	10.30 am	All Parishioners
Monday	11.00 am	Requiem Mass for Mary Northeast RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Raymond Darragh RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Personal Intention Nazaret
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary E Northeast RIP
Sunday 10 Feb 2024	8.30 am	Mary, Felix & Vincent Edwardson RIP
	10.30 am	All Parishioners

ANNIVERSARIES: 3RD – 9TH MARH 2024

Mary Glynn, Pat Gill, Eileen Kearns, Peter Kenny, Irene Crosby,
Peggy D'Entremont, Mary Peters, Vincent Marciano, Mary Farmer.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Rainbows

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Maritina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, Sheila Hall, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward, Marcia Bancroft

DEATH: Please remember in prayer Mary Northeast who died recently. Our sympathy to Tony and sons Paul, Anthony and Martin. Requiem Mass – Monday 4th March at 11.00 am. May she rest in peace.

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day, 23rd February. Savings in envelopes can be placed in the basket at the back of the church.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: We have commenced Adoration on the first Friday of each month for 30 minutes after the 10.00am Mass. The next date is Friday 1st March.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday in Lent at 7.30 pm

200 CLUB: Hannah Wildi No.187 £30 Marie Bliss No.16 £20 Congratulations!

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th March – Passover Meal 11th May – Skittles evening
13th April – Quiz Night 30th June – Summer Fair

CONFIRMATION GROUP: Our retreat day will take place on Saturday 2nd March. Please meet in the church hall at 10.30 am. There will be various activities throughout the day including a cooked lunch and the day will end with your celebration of election mass at 6pm. All candidates **must** attend.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT CELEBRATION, 16TH MARCH 2024 – SOLD OUT. We look forward to seeing all those who have purchased tickets

DAY TIME LENT GROUP will meet in the Tivey Room 11.15 – Noon (After coffee) for five Wednesdays starting 21st February, to reflect on the coming Sunday's readings. All are welcome.

ONLINE LENT GROUP will meet on Thursday evenings for five Thursdays starting on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm. We will be following the diocesan Invited course, which includes short videos and our own small discussion groups. If you would like to take part please email John Lodge on Johnlodge47@gmail.com so that you can be sent a zoom invite. If you would like more information please look at abdiocese.org.uk/invited. All are welcome.

THOUGHT FOR LENT

'Repentance is the renewal of baptism and a contract with God for fresh start in life'

St John Climacus



the disaffected high school teen Lady Bird (not her real name) speaks to the headmistress about a piece she wrote on Sacramento:



"You clearly love Sacramento," Sister Sarah Joan tells her.

Lady Bird, surprised, says, "I do?"

"You write about Sacramento so affectionately," the nun says, "and with such care."

"Well," Lady Bird replies, "I was just describing it."

"Well, it comes across as love," Sister Sarah Joan says.

"Sure," Lady Bird says unconvincingly. "I guess I pay attention."

Sister Sarah Joan then asks, "Don't you think maybe they are the same thing – love and attention?"

Reflect on what you pay attention to, and you'll discover what you love. God asks us to return his loving gaze. Yes, at times, this can seem like a sacrifice of all the other more entertaining things I might be doing, but the sacrifices of God lead to life; the only thing that dies with the sacrifice of God is sin. Jesus comes so that we might have life in abundance. Yes, there are times when we might struggle to trust, but we can be reassured that God asks nothing of us that he has not, in his humanity, already done for us.

Fr Toby Lees OP is a Dominican friar and priest. He currently works as Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Or

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old.

Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

FIRST READING **Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

PSALM **Psalm 115**

RESPONSE **I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted."
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **R.**

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING **Romans 8:31-34**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice
was heard:**

"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!"

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL **Mark 9:2-10**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25



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SUNDAY BULLETIN



PAYING ATTENTION

Last week, we looked at the temptation or testing of Jesus in the wilderness. This week we have the rather alarming testing of Abraham. It's a radical testing of Abraham's trust in the goodness of God. In our shock at what Abraham was asked to be willing to do in principle, we sometimes forget about the willingness of Isaac.

All the ancient rabbis agreed that Isaac was an adult by now, evidenced by his carrying the pile of wood necessary for the sacrificial fire, whilst his father carried just a torch for the fire and a knife. Isaac would have been stronger than his elderly father and, presumably, is going up the mountain of his own free will. He must be willing to give up his life, too, perhaps even with some belief in a resurrection.

But, as we know, God supplies a ram and does not ask for the life of Isaac in this way. However, the willingness of Isaac with the wood on his back might prompt us to think of the willingness of Christ to carry the Cross on his back up the hill of Golgotha. But, on Golgotha, no additional ram is supplied, for Christ is the sacrifice that Isaac could not be; he is the true Passover Lamb of the Exodus.

There are other features of the story of Abraham and Isaac which might make us think of Jesus and his Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in our Gospel. The Hebrew word *yahid*, which refers to Isaac and is often translated as "only begotten", might make us think of "For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son." But *yahid* can also be translated as "beloved", the way that God the Father refers to his Son at the Transfiguration, that moment in which the deepest reality of Jesus' being is made visible to his disciples, and they witness his radiance, his bliss and his glory. And, as God calls Jesus his Beloved Son, he tells us to "Listen to him!"

Listening to Jesus is also another way of saying "Pray to him." We looked last week at fasting, which is not unrelated to prayer. To pray requires a certain fast from all the other things that we might give our attention to, a sacrifice of what might be entertaining, and, instead, trust that God will give us something more. Giving our attention to God carries a cost; in fact, we talk of "paying attention", but the ability to be attentive is, I think, the condition of loving. This is fact brought out in a beautiful piece of dialogue in the wonderful film *Lady Bird*, where

Lenten

Reflections



Fr Toby Lees OP continues this series of reflections for the season of Lent.



25 FEBRUARY 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II

Good laws make society better. Good signage makes it easier to get around. But it's also the case that good laws and signs alone are not enough, and the most important laws are supposed to be written on our hearts, not just stone tablets. And if you really want to judge the goodness of laws, you don't judge them on stone – you judge them on what they look like when they are lived out in freedom.

And in Jesus we see the literal embodiment of the law, the embodiment of God's love for us – the God who wants to show us the way back to him, to lead us away from sin and into the freedom of love. Both God and man, Jesus shows us the perfection of relation with God and neighbour.

Just as in the act of inscribing on the stone something of the stone is lost in making way for the laws, so too in today's Gospel, we see that sin must be driven out of our hearts to make way for the Lord so that the Temples of the Holy Spirit we became by baptism might be uncluttered from sin and witness once more to the love of the living God.

Fr Toby Lees OP is a Dominican friar and priest. He currently works as Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

FIRST READING Exodus 20:1-17

PSALM Psalm 18

RESPONSE **You, Lord, have the message of
eternal life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **R.**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **R.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

GOSPEL John 2:13-25

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King
and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21



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LOVING THE AUTHOR

Marilynne Robinson could write a book about her experience of watching paint dry, and I would buy it. Everything I have read by her I have loved, even when I didn't agree with it. There's real wisdom, real faith in her books. She sees things that I don't see, or rather things I've seen but never really paid attention to. What I have merely glimpsed, she has often contemplated and understood.

You won't be surprised then to learn that when I had a chance to meet her a couple of years ago, I leapt at the opportunity. Why is this not surprising? Well, it's not surprising because it's no secret that fans of the films of an actor, the paintings of an artist, the songs of a singer, and the novels of a writer, always want to meet the man or woman behind them and to know more of them.

We say, "Oh, I love that author!" Now, a pedant might say it is more correct to say that you love her writing, but the pedant would be wrong because I love Marilynne Robinson for having helped me see better through her writing, for having shown me more of what it is to be human.

One of the most transformational pieces of writing in the whole history of humanity is the contents of our first reading today. A text that teaches us both to be more human and to love the divine author of the text.

It's almost impossible to imagine a thriving civilisation without such laws as the Ten Commandments. Yet obedience to them set Israel apart from the surrounding cultures. They might seem obvious to us, but that's only because we've been formed by a civilisation rooted in them for 2000 years – longer, in fact, when we take into account our Jewish ancestry in the faith.

Now, it is the case that they *should* be obvious to us, even if God hadn't revealed them to Moses, because God has written them on the human heart. Yet the graffiti of sin can obscure what lies written underneath, and what should be beautiful and clear can become ugly and obscure. Perhaps I shouldn't say graffiti, for I actually find some graffiti quite beautiful. It's tags that I hate: the ugly tags that you find over maps and other signs – signs that were supposed to help you find your way, but where the way now lies obscured beneath the vandalism of the ego. Sin also covers up the way to God: it makes ugly what was beautiful and closes our eyes to what could be and what should be.

Lenten

Reflections



Fr Toby Lees OP continues this series of reflections on the readings of this Lenten season.



03 MARCH 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III