



ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH
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Fr Albert Ofere
5th Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday
22nd March 2026

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March: 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.

Sun 22nd	(Sat) 6 p.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	J Monahan R.I.P.; C Okolonji R.I.P.; B & J Cottle R.I.P. B McNicholas R.I.P.; C Oliveira Int; People of the Parish A Louisy R.I.P.; J O'Sullivan R.I.P.; D Nolan R.I.P.	No Evening Mass
Mon 23rd	Lent Feria	M & M McNicholas R.I.P.; J Foley R.I.P.; N Murphy R.I.P.	
Tues 24th	Lent Feria	D Defontaine R.I.P.	
Wed 25th	The Annunciation of the Lord	A Mangan R.I.P.	Confirmation Candidates 7 p.m.
Thurs 26th	Lent Feria	B Howley R.I.P.; T Nandra R.I.P.	First Communion 6 p.m.
Fri 27th	Lent Feria	J Menezes R.I.P. P D Dias R.I.P.	Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
Sat 28th	Lent Feria	Fr Sylvester R.I.P.; A & R Dias R.I.P.	Reconciliation 10.40 a.m. & 5.15 p.m.

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A Human Heart

When people read this they say they see that Jesus is a real human being, son of God and man of the earth, weeping over a friend.

His was a human heart. He liked friends and he found a home and a safe place with them, over the hill and away from the mob. We might picture him there - the talk, the chat, the prayers, the love; meals with other friends who dropped in, times of prayer and silence.

The one who can share a laugh, eat a scone, have a drink or a cuppa. The one who'd give a wink at the sign of peace! Not always so serious, even about religion. There's no such thing as a sad saint!

He is a good friend.

When life is ending we will give thanks for friends, and regret the way we have drifted or hurt each other. Real friendship is when another's thoughts and life become at least as or more important than our own.

So the resurrection and the life is not just for after death. It is for now. We raise each other up in friendship and in love. In that is the grace of the Lord, himself a friend, for when we love, God lives in us.

- **This Sunday** called **Passion Sunday**, all the images and Cross will be covered in our Church following an ancient tradition that Jesus hid himself from public places after the Gospel story of today. They will remain covered until the Easter Vigil. The Cross will be uncovered on Good Friday.
- **Next weekend** we begin **Holy Week** with the celebration of **Palm Sunday**. Please collect a card with all the services for the Holy Week and Easter. Do take one so that you know the times and the celebrations that we will have here at English Martyrs.

- **Fr Albert** will be available on Monday 6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

- **New Planned Giving Envelopes are available this weekend.** Your box number remains the same as last year. If you requested to join envelope scheme during the planned giving appeal your box is ready for collection. Standing Order forms are also available. **Please Do Not use the envelopes until 12th April.**
Thank you

- **Our sympathy and prayers** to Marlene Sout –Perol and family following the death of her mum Espirita last week. Requiem Mass for Espirita will be on Monday, 13th April at 11 a.m. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

- **Date for your Diary:** Lenten Service of Reconciliation on Monday, 30th March at 7 p.m. Visiting priests available for confession.

- **EASTER OFFERINGS ENVELOPES** are available in the porch. The Easter and Christmas offerings go towards Clergy salaries and supply priests.

- **Coffee Morning:** Tea and coffee in the hall after 11 a.m. Mass. Volunteers needed. List in hall for names.

Divine Mercy Sunday 2026 Celebrations at St Andrews Church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on 12 April 2026 at 2:30 pm. The service will be led by Mgr. Sean Healy and will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate this glorious feast. Please call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information



Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Parish Finance: Last Week's Collection:
Envelope: £1057 Loose Plate £1177 Thank you

To give Directly to support the church
Name of Account HSBC; WRCDT English Martyrs
Sort 40 05 20 Account 71308335
Or Scan QR code in porch to Give

- **Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Katherine Hamilton email wembley2sg@safeguard-rcdow.org.uk

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.
Body of Christ, save us.
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.
O Good Jesus, hear us.
Within Thy wounds hide us.
Suffer us not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend us.
In the hour of our death call us.
And bid us come unto Thee,
That with all Thy saints,
we may praise thee
Forever and ever.

AMEN