



11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 *Sunday next before Lent*

## Welcome to Saint Laurence.

Adventurers (groups for children and young people) meet during the 9.30 am Mass. Leaders will normally invite children to join in with these at the appropriate point in the service. Activity packs and children's service books are available from the back of church. You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Derham Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

<b>Today</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Sung Parish Mass with Baptism	9.30 am
<i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	Quinquagesima Lunch, starting in Minor Hall	12.30 pm
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	No Morning Prayer today	
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Organ Teaching	10.00 am
	Burial of Brenda Childs-Barry	3.00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Said Mass with Imposition of Ashes	11.00 am
	No Evening Prayer today	
	Sung Parish Mass with Imposition of Ashes	8.00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	No Morning Prayer today	
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Organ Practice	10.00 am
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
	Stations of the Cross, St Joseph's RC Church	7.30 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Organ Teaching	9.30 am
17 <sup>th</sup> February		
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	Choral Compline	6.30 pm

**Evensong readings this Sunday:** 1 Kings 19:1-16; 2 Peter 1:16-end. **Mass readings next Sunday:** Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15. **Compline reading next Sunday:** Romans 5:12-19

**Saturday Pathsweepers:** 17<sup>th</sup> – Bloomfield and Mowat. **Coffee:** 18<sup>th</sup> – Becky, Simon and Pauline

Please let Revd Susannah, Revd Catherine or Deborah Masterson know of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit, or housebound and wanting to receive the sacrament at home – or if you would appreciate a conversation or visit for any reason.

## NOTICES

**We welcome Odette** and her family to our Parish Mass today. Odette will be baptised during the service and her family invite everyone to join them for special refreshments afterwards in the Derham Hall.

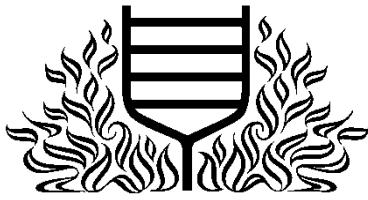
**We are pleased to welcome back David Rooke** as our organist this morning.

**Important update regarding Safeguarding:** Katie Bowman stepped down as Parish Safeguarding Officer at the end of December. I and the whole PCC are very grateful to Katie for all that she did in this role. Our new Parish Safeguarding Officer is Akosua Boachie. Her contact details can be found on the back page of Porchtalk; please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any concerns about someone's welfare, someone's conduct towards others or any other safeguarding matter. Michelle Barkwith will be assisting Akosua with some of the administration surrounding DBS checks and safeguarding training. It would be an enormous help to them if those who are contacted about checks or training could please respond promptly so that we can ensure that our safeguarding processes as a church are as effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose as possible. Many thanks, Susannah.

**Curate on placement:** The Revd Neil Barrett, curate at St Luke's, Cranham, will be joining us from today for a three month part-time placement. Neil has written this short paragraph by way of introduction: *Neil grew up in Hornchurch, went to school in Upminster and then worked in Cranham until 2007 and has worshipped at St Luke's for over 20 years. He was previously one of the three lay pastors at The Well (addiction recovery ministry) and led the M.E./CFS Support group at St Luke's before starting three years of ordination training in 2018. Neil is currently serving his three year curacy at St Luke's, Cranham.*

**Readers and Intercessors:** We are looking for some more people to read or lead intercessions during the 9.30am Mass. We would particularly welcome any children or young people who would like to read. If you think this is something you may like to be a part of, please speak with Susannah or Catherine.

**Scottish Raffle Prize-winners.** Many thanks to all of you who supported our recent Scottish Raffle. Through your amazing generosity we raised the wonderful total of **£460** including some donations, towards our ongoing Church Building Improvements Project. It is an encouraging start to this year's programme of fundraising. The lucky winners were: Joan Prudden (*hamper of Scottish goodies*); David & Barbara Izzard (*Glen Scotia Single Malt Whisky*); Clark Wilson (*plaid blanket, chocolates and bottle of Merlot*).



# AT THE MASS

11<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
*Sunday next before Lent*

**Introit** 327 Awake, awake

**Setting** Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

## **Collect of the Day**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **2 Kings 2:1-12**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets

also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**Gradual hymn**                      281 'Tis good, Lord, to be here

## **2 Corinthians 4.3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia**                              Taizé

## **Mark 9:2-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my

Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

<b>Baptism</b>	See separate sheet
<b>Offertory hymn</b>	445 God is here!
<b>Anthem</b>	Before I take the body of my Lord (1989) Text: John Bell & Graham Maule. Music: John Bell
<b>Communion hymn</b>	421 All for Jesus
<b>Final hymn</b>	719 Lord, the light of your love is shining
<b>Organ Voluntary</b>	Intrada - Grayston Ives

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

*Prayer request forms are available at the back of church. Please use them if you wish us to pray for someone.*

**Sunday:** William Holden, Charles Osmond, Ann O'Riordan, Jan Black, Shirley Gunary, Aloma Moore.

**Wednesday:** Rosemary Watkins, Mary Greig, Denise Comer, James Tape, Rosalind Manley, Brian Shaw, Bob Bossey, Baby Charles, Glynis Whiting, Michael Folkes, Fr Tom Keighley, Sylvia Wilson, Simon Pols, Mary-Anne Madden, Florence Collins, Anne Hendra, Jean Biggs, Doreen, Carole Billings, Victoria Wright.

**Additional Prayers:** All those receiving Home Communion.

**Recently departed:** Brenda Childs-Barry, Maggie Holden, Jeffery Walker.

**Anniversaries of the departed:** Jack Woodroffe, Hilda Goer, Joan Kydd, Daphne Sawyer, Joan Herbert, Jim Menah, Joan Larkin, Roy Walker, Pat Worton, Margaret Blanch, Jean Blow, Reginald Grant, Jim Greig, Gladys Dorey, Sr Carmel Fennessy.

## FEBRUARY AND MARCH LENTEN CHARITY ST FRANCIS HOSPICE

Donation envelopes are available at the back of church.

Saint Francis Hospice, Havering-atte-Bower  
Romford, Essex, RM4 1QH.  
Registered charity number 275913



### CARD PAYMENT DONATIONS

We are always pleased to welcome both visitors and regular attendees to share our worship in this beautiful Grade 1 listed building. Please feel free to use our safe and secure card payment machine for confidential donations, located by the main door exit. Contributions help us maintain the substantial upkeep of this building for the benefit of the local community and our broader work as a church in general. Donations help to ensure that the church can continue to benefit future generations and the building can remain open to all as a haven of God's peace. Whatever you feel disposed to give will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

### EASYFUNDRAISING

The church is registered (as St Laurence Church, Upminster) on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) - if you register an account, select the church as a cause and download the web browser extension then every time you spend money on many retail websites and have activated the extension, a percentage of your spend will be donated to St Laurence at no cost to you. The individual amounts are small but every little adds up - please help us via this route if you can.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP.....

If you would like to know about sponsorship, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church or speak to Jean and Cheryl (Churchwardens), Susannah (Rector) or Joanne (Parish Administrator).

### NOTICES CONTINUED...

**Choral Compline:** The choir will be singing Compline, the traditional monastic form of Night Prayer, in church at 6.30pm next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February. All are welcome to come and share in this beautiful and reflective act of worship.

**Shirley Gunary and family** would like to thank everyone for their kind prayers, cards, messages and generous donations following the death of Bill on Christmas Day 2023. We would especially like to thank all the dear friends from St Laurence who attended and came to support the family at Bill's Memorial Service on 26<sup>th</sup> January and who helped both during the service and afterwards with refreshments. Your presence helped make the celebration of Bill's life such a special occasion.

**There will be a meeting** on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11am in the Parish Office for parents and children in year 3 and above who are interested in being prepared for First Communion.

**Barking Area Vocations Day:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, St Margaret's Church, Barking, IG11 8AS from 9.45am - 12.45pm. See poster at the back of church for more information.

*Please consult notice boards under the tower and in the porch for other notices and further information*

HANDMADE CARDS

**On sale in the Main Hall during  
coffee on Friday 16th and  
Sunday 18th February**



**Raising funds for our Lent  
Charity, St Francis Hospice**

## CONTACTS

**Rector** The Revd Susannah Brasier

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**Assistant Curate** The Revd Catherine Towner

01708 225374 catherine.towner@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Pastoral Assistant** Deborah Masterson

01708 609816 deborah.masterson@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Churchwardens** Jean Keen and Cheryl Hale

parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Parish Safeguarding Officer** Akosua Boachie

07760 791032 safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Acting Director of Music** Nigel Lockwood

parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Parish Office** Joanne Chapman

01708 220696/07592 946992 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Open: Tue. 3.30-6pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 9-11.30am.

**Hall Bookings** Becky Perchard

07341 43479 8 halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Planned Giving** treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Website** www.upminsterparish.co.uk

**Address** St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB

**Welcome to the Parish Church of Upminster.** If we have not met you before, do introduce yourself. If you wish, give these details to one of the officials.

Name

Telephone