

The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

PORCHTALK



Sunday 15th March

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 Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
15 th March	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Compline on Zoom	6.30 pm
Monday	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
16 th March	Organ Teaching	4.30 pm
Wednesday	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
18 th March	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	Lent Course, Parish Office	11.45 am
Thursday	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
19 th March	Organ Teaching	7.00 pm
	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
Friday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
20 th March	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
	Organ Teaching	2.00 pm
	Station of the Cross, St Laurence	7.30 pm
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
22 nd March	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	NB No Evening Service	
<i>Passion Sunday</i>		

Compline reading this Sunday: Micah 7

Mass readings next Sunday: Ezekiel 37.1-14, Romans 8.6-11, John 11.1-45

Saturday Pathsweepers: 21st March Masterson & Stewart

Coffee: 22 March Margaret, Colin & Christine

Please let Revd Susannah 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

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION - the annual revision of the church electoral roll (the nearest we have to a membership list) ends TODAY. It is important that everyone who considers themselves to be a member of the St Laurence family (and therefore of the wider church in Upminster) has their name entered on their roll as it shows the strength of the church in this place. If you are not already on the roll and would like an application form please speak to Susannah, our churchwardens Jean and Cheryl, or to our Electoral Roll Officer, Keith Stewart. Please note that in accordance with GDPR, your personal data will not be shared with any other parties. Thank you.

The Mothering Sunday posies have been sponsored in memory of Iris Stewart.

The Passion narrative on Palm Sunday, 29th March at 9.30 Mass if anyone would be willing to read parts could they please contact Deborah Masterson for more information. There will be a short meeting after the 9.30 service on the 22nd March to coordinate parts.

Stations of the Cross - once again we will be sharing this liturgy with St Joseph's Catholic Church on Friday evenings in Lent. All at 7.30pm, venues as follows - St Laurence: 20th Mar. St Joseph's: 27th Mar.

Lent book/course: We are continuing our Lent course on Wednesdays in Lent (18th Mar, 25th Mar & 15th April) at 11.45am in the Parish Office. We will be using the book 'Meeting God in John' by David F. Ford.

Church Spring Clean come and join the merry band of cleaners at 10am on Saturday 28th March, please feel free to bring your favourite cleaning products and refreshments will be provided. Please let Jean know if you are available.

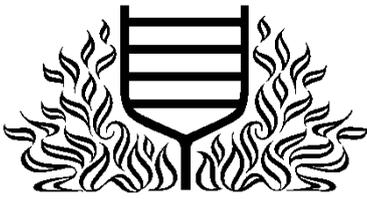
Save the Dates -Building Improvements fundraising events: Quiz (run by Tony Bloomfield) - evening of Sat 30th May; BBQ - late afternoon/early evening of Sat 18th July. More details to follow!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Please note that the date for this year's APCM is Sunday 19th April, after the 9.30am Mass. At this meeting we will be electing Parochial Church Council members, Church Wardens and representatives for Deanery Synod - important decision-making roles and groups in the life of the church. Please speak to Susannah if you would be interested in considering these roles.

The Palm crosses, Communion bread & wine and the Easter vigil hand held candles have been sponsored for March in memory of the sponsor's parents on their wedding anniversary.

The Hornchurch Passion Play will take place at 7.30pm on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day, on the green next to Queen's Theatre. Admission is free. For more information please visit www.hornchurchpp.co.uk

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



AT THE MASS

15th March 2026

Mothering Sunday

Introit 537 For the beauty of the earth

Setting St Anne's Mass - MacMillian

Collect of the Day

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1 Samuel 1.20-end

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a Nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

Gradual hymn 141 Beneath the cross of Jesus

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Lent Prose

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us : for we have sinned against thee.

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee : with true contrition, now no more we veil them : grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

John 19:25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Offertory hymn 137 God of Eve and God of Mary

Anthem As water to the thirsty 'Oasis'. Text- Timothy Dudley
Smith: Music – Brian Coleman

Communion hymn 604 Brother, Sister, let me serve you

Final hymn 739 Now thank we all our God

Organ Voluntary Toccata from Plymouth Suite - Whitlock

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: Pam Chapman, Keith Sharp, Vicki Hobbs, Fr. Gareth Bowen, Ricky Schrembri, Bill, Dobinson Family, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, Alan Butcher, Daphne Martineau, Spencer Croucher, Malcolm Charlton.

Wednesday: Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens.

Additional Prayers: All those receiving Home Communion.

Recently departed: Matthew Murray, Barbara Edwards, Stuart Lane, Mary Ann Madden, Steve Martin.

Anniversaries of the departed: Betty Skinner, Harry Pasquale, Hilda Halestrap, Alf Todd, Albert Parish, Geoffrey Piper, Margaret Reading, Irene Mary Norcott, Freda Soko, Hilda King, Justine Milner, Jean Biggs, Evelyn Metson.,

CHARITY OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY AND MARCH



Donation envelopes are on the notice board at the back of church.

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Looking beyond the headline

We live in a world saturated with news and opinions which sometimes go against the evidence. It is difficult to distinguish fact from opinion, truth from greenwashing. Researching past the headlines can be very interesting and eye opening. If we can understand the drivers for some of the 'opinions' we read or hear, that can help us to know what our own thoughts and beliefs are. We will all have different viewpoints, that's what makes an interesting community. 90% of the UK's national daily newspaper circulation is owned by three large corporations. Political parties receive funding from various sources. Knowing where the ownership and funding comes from can help us understand the different influences on party politics and reporting. The total figures for 2024 fossil fuel donations to political parties, for instance, are not yet finalised by the Electoral Commission, however initial figures are interesting. Individual big donors can also make an impact on the rhetoric of all political parties and the press. Critical thinking can help us understand where truth and opinion divide.

DONATIONS

A cash collection will be taken during Sunday morning services for church funds, which support our mission and ministry including the upkeep of this historic site. If you do not carry cash, we also have a card machine located by the main door which can be used before or after the service.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation - either via the machine or (for cash) using the envelope available in the pew. This means that your donation will be worth more to the church but at no extra cost to you.

If you would like information about joining our Planned Giving scheme, leaflets are available from the back of church.

Thank you - 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 - 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.

Holy Week and Easter services at St Laurence

Palm Sunday (29th March)

8.00am Mass with Reading of the Passion

9.30am Liturgy of the Palms, Procession and Parish Mass with Reading of the Passion

6.30pm Compline on Zoom

Monday of Holy Week (30th March)

4.15pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday of Holy Week (31st March)

4.15pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday of Holy Week (1st April)

11.00am Said Mass

4.15pm Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

11.00am Chrism Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral

8.00pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by the Watch until 10pm

Good Friday (3rd April)

10am Walk of Witness from St Joseph's Church

10.30am United Service in Upminster Park or Trinity Church if wet

12-3pm Children's Good Friday Activities in the Main Hall (please book in advance)

12-1.45pm Reflections for Good Friday, in church – extracts from 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder

2-3pm Liturgy of the Day in church

Holy Saturday (4th April)

8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day (5th April)

8.00am Said Mass

9.30am Parish Mass

No Evening Service

You are most welcome to attend any of these services.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office:
parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk 01708 220696

CONTACTS

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Parish Safeguarding Officer Akosua Boachie

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Director of Music Nigel Lockwood

07899 876247 nigel.lockwood@upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office Verity Helby

01708 220696 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Open: Tue. 8.30-1pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 8-12.30pm.

Hall Bookings Becky Perchard

07341 434798 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

**Revd Susannah sends a weekly email about services, news and events.
Please email her if you would like to receive her emails.**