

# Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Walstan

Website: <http://www.stwalstans.com>



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*Thirst is a primal and visceral enemy of humanity. It causes the Hebrews to revolt against Moses and doubt God, but the Samaritan woman's thirst brings her to Our Lord. St. Augustine sees in the Samaritan woman an image of the Church, and that deep thirst for God that exists within all humanity. Let us come to our Lord thirsting for his living water, not settling for anything lesser.*

Sundays Year A ~ Lent Season ~ Psalms Week: III

Third Sunday of Lent

8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

|                           |  |                          |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Entrance Antiphon</b>  | <i>My eyes are always on the Lord,<br/>for he rescues my feet from the snare.<br/>Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.</i>  |                          |
| <b>First Reading</b>      | <i>'Gives us water to drink.'</i>  | <b>Exodus 17:3-7</b>     |
| <b>Responsorial Psalm</b> | <i>O that today you would listen to his voice!<br/>'Harden not your hearts.'</i>   | <b>Psalm 95</b>          |
| <b>Second Reading</b>     | <i>Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.</i>   | <b>Romans 5:1-2. 5-8</b> |
| <b>Gospel Acclamation</b> | <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.<br/>Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;<br/>give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.<br/>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.</i> |                          |
| <b>Gospel</b>             | <i>'A spring of water welling up to eternal life'</i>  | <b>John 4:5-42</b>       |

| Saturday  | 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent | 6:00pm            | Parishioners                                       |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday    | 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent | 10:30am           | Fr. Simon Bishop R.I.P.                            |
| Monday    | 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | Lent Feria                     | 9:15am            | Kevin White R.I.P.                                 |
| Tuesday   | 10 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria                     |                   | No Mass  |
| Wednesday | 11 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria                     | 7:00pm            | Mona Ward R.I.P.                                   |
| Thursday  | 12 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria                     | 9:15am            | Cesira Odorico R.I.P.                              |
| Friday    | 13 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria                     | 1:00pm<br>7:00pm  | Requiem Mass – David Hogg<br>Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday  | 14 <sup>th</sup> March | Lent Feria                     | 10:00am<br>6:00pm | Parishioners<br>Stephen Agius R.I.P.               |
| Sunday    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent | 10:30am           | Margaret Buck R.I.P.                               |

Morning or Evening Prayer will be prayed fifteen minutes before weekday Masses.  
 Confessions on Saturday 10.30-11.00am and Wednesday 6.00-6.30pm.  
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday after the morning Mass.

**Sick and Housebound** – Please pray for Jenny King, Peter King, Dorota Gobiecka-Grosz, Peter Bevis, Patricia Paul, Christopher Sharples, Peter King, Joseph Mitton, Geoff Routs, Jane Henson, John Barnes, Sue Williams, Jennifer Gates, Trudy McClosky, Yustyna Adamska, Michele Bendall, Christina Thomas, Ann Bettany and Marcia Jenkin.

**Faithful Departed** – Please pray for John Foster, Rose Graves, Jean O'Sullivan, Gerald Pond, Janet Barnes, Verdon Thrower, Maureen Coleman, Stephen Agius, Gladys Nash, Arthur Paston, Elizabeth Whiff, Kathleen Healy, Natalia Welch, Valerie Ramsbottom and all whose anniversaries occur around this time.

*“Here’s to strong women: may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.”*

**Ignite Festival:** Inviting all young people in Year 8 and upwards to the Ignite Festival, 2-3 May 2026. Come and experience your faith in a dynamic way. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff. Followed by the opportunity to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. See [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk) for more information. Book before March 30<sup>th</sup> for Early Bird Prices.

**Deanery Station Mass:** This annual Mass with Bishop Peter and clergy and people of our deanery will take place at St John’s Cathedral on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Exposition and confessions from 5.00pm, Mass at 6.00pm, followed by a Lenten supper in the Narthex. Please come and join the people of our deanery in this celebration.

**Parish AGM:** Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm (after the evening Mass) in the Garden Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**Lent Lunch:** Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 12.00-2.00pm, in the Garden Room. Proceeds go to Christian Aid.

**Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist:** The list is in the porch for you to sign up for Holy Week. As ever, please put your name to every service you are attending so I have a good choice when making the rota. The list will be on the noticeboard until March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Baptism Class:** The next class for parents wishing to have their children baptised will take place in the Presbytery (behind the church) from 3.30 to 4.30pm on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. Further details are available from Fr David.

**Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Please note that there will be no confessions after Mass on this date as the First Holy Communion children will be making their first confessions.

**David Hogg:** The Requiem Mass for David Hogg will take place in St Walstan’s Church at 1.00pm on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a reception afterwards in the Garden Room. David’s body will be brought into church at 4.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.

|                    |   |                    |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Collections</b> | <b>28<sup>th</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> March</b> | <b>£599.65</b>     |
|                    | <b>CAFOD</b>                                | <b>£497.87</b>     |
|                    |   | <b>Many Thanks</b> |

**Red Missio Boxes:** Can all holders bring their boxes for counting, please.

**Mass Intentions:** As often happens, these are currently booked a long way in advance. There are a couple of dates left in May and then some from June onwards. If you require a specific date it is always best to book well in advance. Thank you.

**Gift Aiders:** I will shortly be claiming the tax refund on your gift aid donations made to the parish this tax year April 2025- April 2026. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax could you please let me know so that I can update my records. You should have paid tax in an amount equal to the claim. Also if you have changed your address will you please notify me at [jennypiercy@sky.com](mailto:jennypiercy@sky.com).

#### **St Walstan's Lectio Divina Prayer Sessions**

All invited to join St Walstan's Lectio Divina sessions. Scripture is inspired by God and Lectio Divina offers a way of *encountering Scripture* rather than studying it; an opportunity to listen, reflect, and rest in God's presence. Our next sessions are fortnightly **7pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** in the **garden room**. Then continuing to meet after Easter **fortnightly from 16<sup>th</sup> April thereafter**.

**Stations of the Cross:** This devotion will take place in the church every Friday in Lent at 7.00pm.

**UCM - Dates for your Diary:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Strawberry Tea in the Garden Room @ 2pm. All proceeds to charity.

**UCM:** On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May we are going for lunch @ Harriet’s Café & Tea Room, London Street; 11:45am for 12:00pm.

A list for names will be in the porch – if you put your name down can you please as Marguerite Wayling for a menu as all meals must be pr-ordered. All menus must be handed back by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Thanks

Items for the newsletter may be left at the presbytery (marked clearly “for newsletter” along with the date, and your name), or email [newsletter@stwalstans.com](mailto:newsletter@stwalstans.com). For all forms of communication, please provide a telephone number on which you can be contacted. The deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is Wednesday 6pm.