

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR A
8TH MARCH 2026: Mass Time**

Sunday 8 TH MARCH	11:00 AM	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Jo and Rita Farrugia +
Tuesday 10 TH MARCH	9:30 AM	WEEKDAY OF LENT	Janice Austin +



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please feel free to contact Fr. Nnam Di Obi to arrange confession

***If Father Obi is not available and a priest is required urgently, please
call: St. Mary's: 01793 535089/Holy Rood: 01793 522062/
St. Peter's: 01793871167***

*To get up to date news from Clifton Diocese go to www.cliftondiocese.com
To get up to date news from our Deanery go to: www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk*

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wroughton

We welcome visitors and anyone who is visiting us for the first time.

We pray for God's special blessing on you.

We wish you a very Happy and Holy worship with us.



Parish Priest

Fr. Nnam Di Obi

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Readings Eucharistic Prayer	:	Sunday Mass Cycle A: LENT WEEK 3 -Year 2 Psalter 3(or at Priest Choice)
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 17: 3-7
Psalms Response	:	O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Second Reading	:	Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
Gospel Acclamation	:	Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Lord you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty . Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Gospel	:	John 4: 5-42
Communion Antiphon	:	For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him spring welling up to eternal life.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading

Give us water to drink.

2nd Reading

Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.

Gospel

A spring of water welling up to eternal life.

'Tormented by thirst' begins the text of the first reading taken from the book of Exodus 17:3-7. The complaint of the people of Israel to Moses could easily sound like an outrage of a grumpy and ungrateful crowd. But if we could listen beyond the verbal expressions of this people, we could feel how tormented they were in the desert. They were not craving for a cup of tea or coffee or pint of beer. They were tormented by thirst. All they needed was a drop of water. Moses pleaded with God to intervene and was told to strike the rock very hard for water to flow for the people. It wasn't as hard as this at the first creation where God made the waters easily available. This became the lot of the human person after the fall of man, to strike hard to get ordinary water.

This Sunday and the next two Sundays will feature the Gospel of St John rather than St Matthew's. Spread through the year, John's gospel features exceptionally for doctrinal and theological purposes. In the gospel of this Sunday, John 4:5-42 we see a Jewish man, the person of Jesus, who is tormented by human thirst. The Samaritan woman was at the well. They were both thirsty. Jesus chose to be human. He came when people were tormented by thirst for what is right and just.

John's gospel is WORD centred. He makes us focus on the word and draws us closer to see how the word constantly becomes flesh in time and in the circumstances of those who embrace Him.

In other words, the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is not an ordinary one. It is not a mere gossip at the village well. It is theological. The literary style of this discourse is both dialogical and comparative. "Give me a drink...but the water I will give you..." "The time will come...and it is already here..." "The Messiah will come...Yes, I am he..." There is a constant juxtaposition of the present and the future, as well as that which is indefinite and the definite.

Jesus always taught his disciples what he had learnt from his Father. But in this context, he chooses to engage a woman in a faith debate, enabling her to become an evangelizer to the people. She couldn't have become a convinced evangelist and disciple of Christ, if she was not first converted in spirit and in truth. Oh, that today you will listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: This is an important message for families in our parish, concerning anyone sick and housebound that needs the parish priest for a visit and for the sacrament of the sick. Please call the parish office or send us an email as soon as possible, wroughton.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com. It is better not left till the last minute.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

We pray for our two parishioners who have recently died.

The Funeral Mass for Patrick Connolly will take place on 20th March at 11:00am at Holy Family Church.

The Funeral Mass for Mary Elizabeth Bilsborough will take place on 25th March at 1:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Wroughton.

May their souls rest in peace. Amen.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATION – Sunday, 15TH March

Next Sunday, 15 March, we will celebrate the **Feast of St Joseph** together with the **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)**.

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER: To celebrate St Joseph's Day we are going to hold a Fish and Chip Supper on 28th March at 6:00 pm in the parish Centre. Please add your name to the list in the porch if you are interested in attending. The cost is £15 that includes £5 donation to the Prospect Hospice. For more information, please speak to Anne Moss or Lisa Campisano.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross in our parish every **Friday during Lent at 6:00 pm**. All are warmly invited to come and pray as we reflect on our Lord's journey to the Cross.

PARKING: At busy times, such as Sunday Mass, do consider parking in the free public car park in the Ellendune Centre, when the Church car park is full. Please keep the roads and pavements near the Church clear and avoid blocking people's residence and shops.

TEA & COFFEE : Tea & Coffee will be served in the Parish Hall after mass on Sundays and Tuesdays.

PARISH ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Holder	Clifton Diocese
Account Number	66287375
Sort Code	52-10-03

Anniversaries: *We pray for the dead, and those who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Diocesan Prayer Link: : **St Catherine, Fromme, St Dominic, Mells.**

Pope's Message: *The holy father's prayer intention for the month of March is for Disarmament and Peace.*

Let us pray that the nations move to an effective disarmament. Particularly nuclear disarmament and the world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.