



# ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH

## WEST GREEN N15 3QL

Parish Office: 020 8888 5518  
4 Vincent Road, London N15 3QH  
E-mail: [westgreen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:westgreen@rcdow.org.uk)  
Website: <http://stjohnvianneywestgreen.co.uk>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT 4<sup>TH</sup> /5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Today, we have the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus is seen by Peter, James and John in splendid glory. It is a moment to treasure as Jesus' face shone like the sun' and his clothes became dazzlingly white. The sight was so special that Peter said: *"It is good for us to be here, and how nice it would be to stay here always!"* I imagine both Jesus and the apostles would have looked back on that event many times and especially in times of grief.



So, what is the Transfiguration saying to us? What is it saying about Jesus and the Apostles, Peter, James and John? For Jesus is another Epiphany – a manifestation that he is the Son of God. *"This is my son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour,"* is what the voice of God says from heaven.

Jesus is speaking with Moses and Elijah; Moses the great law-giver; Elijah representing all the prophets. Jesus came to fulfil the Law of the Prophets – to complete God's plan of the salvation of all peoples. Jesus was speaking to Moses and Elijah about his forthcoming death. This must have filled him with fear and terror. He needed to be reassured of God's plan for him.

Again, we hear the words: *"Do not be afraid,"* as the Apostles are filled with fear and confusion. These same words were told to Mary at the Annunciation. The shepherds were told the same message when Jesus was born. Jesus had to believe the words applied to him too. On this point for ourselves: When we hear good news or when there is a transfiguration – we can be filled with fear too. We maybe, delighted to have a new job but worry that we may not be up to it. Parents are delighted to be expecting a new baby, but very nervous about the responsibilities.

Something beautiful can be overwhelming, but we can be so anxious about how we are going to handle the treasure. This is where we need to trust God and trust ourselves to take on something and do it well. So, the words, *"do not be afraid"*, can be reassuring and transfigure us into stronger people.

For Jesus and the Apostles, the Transfiguration wasn't just one event: Jesus in his ministry develops into the Shepherd, the Light, the Bread from heaven, the Healer and all that was part of his ministry. The Apostles too developed from fishermen into witnesses of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. This is a very important truth for us. We change and be changed many, many times in our lives. When you are single, you marry and become a parent and a grand-parent – these are all transformations in our lives. Through our work we can wear many different hats. We become painters and decorators; nurses or medical people; carers or teachers; priests or sisters, etc. All these callings in life turn us into different people. Is this not the very basis of TRANSFIGURATION?

Yes, we become new and different people by the job we do. And then in smaller ways, day by day, we can become effective witnesses and ambassadors for Christ and be transformed into his likeness.

Yes, life is about change and not staying static. My time for moving on is getting nearer. At the Parish Pastoral Council on Wednesday last, I made the formal statement that I would be retiring this coming July. I feel I have given all I can over the past 52 years. It's a hard decision but I feel now is the time. On the inside of this newsletter I've made a few more comments. I'll miss the active ministry, but hope to be able to help out as and when in other parishes. Please pray for me, as I will for you.

Have a blessed week. Fr Joe

## RETIREMENT IN SUMMER 2023:

I have indicated to Cardinal Vincent, Bishop John Sherrington and the Vicar General, Mgs. Martin Hayes, that I will retire from the parish in mid-July this year.

The arrangements for a new Parish Priest are already underway, as is a suitable retirement place for me, here in the diocese. Some people have been saying, you can't retire and still not really accepting the reality of priests' retirement. In the good old days, Parish Priest didn't retire basically because there was no place to retire to, (and you `died with your boots on!). The reality was that for the most part a Parish Priest had 2-3-4 assistants. They were able to carry the load for the aging Parish Priest, so he was able to carry on in charge – now the Parish Priest is on his own!

I will be very sorry to leave St John Vianney, after 20 years. I feel I've offered as much as I can in my 52 years of ministry. Hopefully, I will still be able to help out in other parishes as and when I'm able and needed. It is a difficult decision to retire, because it means being cut off from friends and parishioners who have been part of my life for so many years. When most people retire, they have their home, families and their support networks still intact – but not for the priest. It's a new beginning in a different place. This doesn't get any easier when you get old. That's enough about me! Fr Joe

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTIONS

### PARISH ACTIVITY –TEAS /COFFEE MORNING TEAS/COFFEE

In the Parish Hall on Sundays, after 9am and 11am Masses.

***We also welcome parishioners and newcomers on Thursday mornings after the 9.15am Mass***

### CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES 2022

For any enquiries, please contact Sr. Anabel on 07455544065 or the Parish Office.

### SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Next session: **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March after 9am Mass**



### FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

**Next session on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

**Next session on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

A programme for adults who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.  
Application Form at the back of the Church

### BAPTISM FOR INFANTS

Application Forms at the back of the Church. Please contact the Parish Office or Sr. Anabel

## CAFOD LENT FAST DAY on 3rd March

The theme this year is: *"This Lent, help families like Dristy and Rupali's fight the effects of the Climate Crisis"*.

Fast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Envelopes will be collected this weekend on **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.**

Please give generously.

## 27 February – 12 March: FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

Making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet. On Tuesday 28 February, Fairtrade launches the Endangered Aisle. This will be a pop-up experience in Shoreditch, east London. It will be open to the public from 28 Feb-2 March..

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

## LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP

Meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month after 9.15am Mass, at Verbum Dei Spirituality Centre. All welcome!  
Next session **7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**



## LENTEN ACTIVITIES

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Fridays at 7.30pm**

## PASSOVER MEAL

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available from Germaine.

## ST PATRICK'S CELEBRATION SOCIAL EVENING TEA PARTY

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

7:00pm to 9:00pm.

**Ticket – £5 per person**

Tickets will be available at the back of the church.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT SURVEY

We thank all who participated in the Carbon Footprint survey last Sunday.

Measure your Carbon Footprint at

<https://www.carbonindependent.org/index.html>

## INVITATION TO OUR MONTHLY PRAYER VIGIL

At the Home Office, Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF from 12.30-1.30pm

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Every first and third Monday of the month.

Add your name to our mailing list for future dates and prayer sheets in advance via

[Barbarakentish@talktalk.net](mailto:Barbarakentish@talktalk.net)  
[orjohanmaertens@hotmail.com](mailto:orjohanmaertens@hotmail.com)

## SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

There are several ways of supporting those who are trying to help our brothers and sisters in this tragic situation.

The following are ways in which you can help.

***By using our contactless keypad at back of the church; or Donating through***

**CAFOD** is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

Or donating to

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

## WYD23 LISBON



*"Mary arose and went with haste"*

*(Luke 1:39)*

We are going to the **WORLD YOUTH DAY! Lisbon, 1 to 6 of August 2023**

The invitation is for young people 18+ We could look for sponsorships to be able to do this experience

Please get in contact with Sr Anabel, FMVD, [wgparishsister@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wgparishsister@rcdow.org.uk)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

The repose of the souls of:

**Henry Francois, RIP**

*[widower of the late Anastacia Francois]*

Who died on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

His Funeral Mass on

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am.**

And

**Bridget Gaynor, RIP**

*[sister of the late Anne Comerford]*

Who died on Thursday 16 February 2023

We remember their families and friends in our prayers.

*May they rest in peace.*

**Entrance Antiphon**

*When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.*

**First reading**

**Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7**

**Psalm 50**

*Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

**Second reading:**

**Romans 5: 12-19**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

**Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

**Communion Antiphon**

*The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.*

**THIS WEEK WE PRAY FOR**

**The repose of the soul:**

Bridget Gaynor [sister of the late Anne]

Henry Francois [widower of the late Anastasia]

Teresa McManus [widow of the late Joe]

Johanna Mary Geoghegan [Philip's mother]

Maximiano Fernandes [Candy's husband]

Ashley Geddes Gill [husband of Sheila]

Selvon Lum Kin

**RIP Anniversary**

Maria Szoke – 1<sup>st</sup> Ann

Michael Barry – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann

Pearl Dhanukdharrigh 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann

Demetria Dela Cruz Hoggan 7<sup>th</sup> Ann

Mary Sampson – 8<sup>th</sup> Ann

**Special Intentions:**

The Gaynor Family

The Francois Family

The McManus Family

The Geoghegan Family

**And for the sick and those in our parish**

Ann

Bridget

Ernest Sr

Ivy

Kim

Laura

Merle

Michael J

Monica

Patricia

Sheila

Veronica

**NAMES NOT LISTED ABOVE ARE LISTED IN OUR BOOK OF INTENTIONS**

**MASS TIMES**

**Monday to Friday 9.15am**

**Saturday 6pm – Sunday Vigil Mass**

**Sunday 9:00am and 11:00am**

**ROSARY**

Weekdays at 8.45am (before Mass)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tuesdays after Mass

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Fridays at 7:30pm

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 5 – 5.30pm

**PARISH TEAM**

*Fr. Joe Ryan, Parish Priest*

*Sr. Anabel Gonzalez, Parish Sister*

*Germaine Ng Ying, Parish Adm/Secretary*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon to Fri 9am-12pm & 1pm-5pm**

**To make an appointment**

**Phone: 0208 888 5518 or email**

**westgreen@rcdow.org.uk**

*We cannot guarantee to have anyone available outside of these hours.*