

The Catholic Parishes of Borehamwood
St Teresa of the Child Jesus 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG
SS John Fisher & Thomas More 28 Rossington Ave, WD6 4LA
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22nd February & 1st March 2026: 1st & 2nd Sunday of Lent (Yr.A)

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Services for the forthcoming week

Saturday 21st February	Vigil Mass: 1st Sunday of Lent	(SSJFTM) 6pm Pat Staunton RIP
Sunday 22nd February	1st Sunday of Lent	(SSJFTM) 8.30am Kiera Walsh Curran RIP (St. T) 10am Special Intention (St. T) 12pm Ann Coogan RIP Ann. (St. T) 9.15am Edwin Igbeta - Health (St. T) 9.15am Sofiya Filali Int.
Monday 23rd February	Lent Feria	(St. T) 9.15am Gavin Smith RIP
Tuesday 24th February	Lent Feria	(St. T) 9.15am Geraldine & Ann Murphy RIP
Wednesday 25th February	NO MASS	(St. T) 7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday 26th February	Lent Feria	(SSJFTM) 6pm Lenny Parsons RIP Birthday & Kathleen & George Parsons RIP
Friday 27th February	Lent Feria	(SSJFTM) 8.30am Tatiana Foundation (St. T) 10am Jose Trindade RIP (St. T) 12pm Alvarino & Joao Mateus Afonso RIP Birthday Ann. (St. T) 9.15am Benjamin Watwit RIP (St. T) 9.15am Guadalupe Quesada RIP
Saturday 28th February	Vigil Mass: 2nd Sunday of Lent	
Sunday 1st March	2nd Sunday of Lent	
Monday 2nd March	Lent Feria	(St. T) 7pm Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 3rd March	Lent Feria	(SSJFTM) 6pm Centenary Item Donors
Wednesday 4th March	NO MASS	
Thursday 5th March	NO MASS	
Friday 6th March	NO MASS	
Saturday 7th March	Vigil Mass: 3rd Sunday of Lent	

Saturdays: Confession at St. Teresa's 11-11.45am and SSJFTM 5-5.40pm Pope Leo's February Prayer Intention: For children with incurable diseases.

Fr. Jude Writes: *The Joy of Lent*

A few days ago, in the Office of Readings, I reflected on a passage from Ecclesiastes 7:2: *"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for that is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart."* These words invite us to sobriety. They call us to confront the truth of our human condition and to live with eternity in view. Lent is precisely such a season. It is the sacred time when we come to terms with the reality of our existence. We hear the solemn words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel," or "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Lent summons us to return to God, to amend our ways, and to clothe ourselves in spiritual seriousness. This sobriety grounds us in the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. As St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians: *"Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation"* (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8). To sustain this sober spirit, the Church gives us three pillars: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. These are not optional devotions; they are essential disciplines for the Christian life. In the Gospel, the Lord Jesus does not say *if you pray, if you give alms, or if you fast*. He says, "When you pray." "When you give alms." "When you fast." The expectation is clear: these practices belong to our identity as believers. They are works of love, expressions of a heart transformed by grace.

Christ warns us not to pray like hypocrites who seek public recognition. True religion is a matter of the heart. As the Psalmist prays, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit." Authentic prayer flows from within. We are not to stand on street corners or in synagogues seeking admiration. Those who do so have already received their reward—the praise of men. Instead, the Lord instructs us: "Go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father in secret. The Father who sees in secret will reward you." When we examine our manner of prayer today, we must ask ourselves honestly: do we truly listen to the Lord?

Fasting, too, requires deeper reflection. Yes, it involves abstaining from food. But perhaps in our time, we must also fast from social media, from gossip, and from the constant noise that disturbs the heart. This does not mean ignoring the news or withdrawing from responsibility, but it does mean moderating our consumption and reclaiming time for prayer, recollection, and communion with God. Almsgiving purifies our love of neighbor. When we give, we must not perform for applause. Even within the Church, there can be a temptation to seek recognition. This is not the spirit of Christ. Our intention must be purified. We give not to be seen by men, but to be pleasing in the sight of God.

Thank you for your generosity with weekly offerings.

Loose Plate: £559.28

Envelopes: £91

Total: £650.28 **Weekend: 14 & 15.02.26**

January: Contactless = £1449 (transaction fees to be deducted) Standing Orders: £2869

Thank you to our Counters and to our Bookkeeper, Amanda.



If you would prefer to give your offertory by contactless and you can't get to the machine, please use the QR code here which is for St Teresa's.



Welcome Ayomide, Unganai & Uchirail! Our Baptisms usually take place on a Saturday around 1pm, with a Rite of Welcome, at your usual Mass, the weekend before. They are individual ceremonies. **If you would like your child to be Baptised, please contact the Parish Office for a form or pick one up from the back of the church. You will also need to complete a Baptism Preparation Course. This is held on the first Saturday of every month, at St. Teresa's Church, in the Our Lady Chapel.** Please register with the Parish Office in advance.

RCIA/Catholic Instruction: 12 Noon Mass, 22nd February: Penitential Rite. 12 Noon Mass, 1st March: 1st Scrutiny. We keep the Candidates in our prayers.

First Holy Communion: Sunday 1st March 11.45-1pm, St. Teresa's Parish Centre (Fr. Dominic's Hall).

Confirmation: Tuesday 3rd March 6.15-7.30pm, St. Teresa's Parish Centre (Fr. Dominic's Hall).

Lenten Prayer Booklets: Reflections to deepen your faith during Lent. Our booklets are just **£1.20** so you save (recommended retail price: £1.50).



Lenten Stations of the Cross: 7pm on Fridays at St. Teresa's (not on Good Friday). There will be a children's version on Good Friday—details to follow.

Parish Office: Will be closed from Monday 23rd February onwards and will reopen on Monday 2nd March. Please be patient with Fr. Jude as he navigates through additional admin. tasks together with his busy schedule. Thank you for your understanding.

St. Patrick's Day Party! Saturday 14th March, 7pm till late, St. Teresa's Parish Centre (Fr. Dominic's Hall). Tickets: £15 each. Sasha's delicious hot food, live Irish Dance display, bring your own alcohol. Tickets available after weekend Masses or from the Parish Office, weekdays (except Wednesdays) from 10am-2pm—latter cash only. Deadline for purchases: 10th March at 11am. Please make special dietary requirements known when you purchase a ticket and make yourself known to Sasha on the day. We will do our best to accommodate dietary requirements but we cannot guarantee it.



Our Young Adults Mass: Saturday 28th February, 6pm, SS John Fisher & Thomas More Church. 5.30pm start with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—all welcome. Social time after Mass for our youth. All Confirmation Candidates are expected to attend Mass. This evening is anchored by our Young Adults. Well done to them...and enjoy!

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords.

Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP (most likely Oliver Dowden) to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

CONTINGENCY FUND: There will be retiring collections after Masses, 21.02 & 22.02.26. There are envelopes at the back of the church, for UK Taxpayers, which means 25p can be added to every £1 that you give. Thank you.

Lenten Appeal: Supports four key areas for people and communities across the Diocese.

Youth and Evangelisation – helping young people to grow, find their faith and engage actively in parish life.

Social Action – making sure that no one must face life's hardest moments alone, and that support is available in time of crisis.

Education – supporting our schools as they bring the Gospel to life, shaping future generations and developing academic potential; rooted in strong values.

Marriage & Family Life – strengthening relationships and helping the family be a place where faith is nurtured and grows.

Confirmation Candidates will be doing a Sponsored Walk, on Saturday 28th March. They are raising money for the Foodbank & SVP. Details are on the posters at the back of each church. Donations are gratefully accepted by scanning the QR code, using the Contactless machines or cash donations via baskets. Thank you so much.



Young Adults Lent Retreat Day: with the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 21 March 2026 10am – 6pm.** Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and Confessions • faith sharing • mass and social time. Register by emailing rebecca@assumpta-eu.org.

Got unwanted foreign currency or old money that's not legal tender anymore? Mary's Meals can use these to feed the next hungry child. Please put your money in the Mary's Meals envelopes, at the back of each church, and return to the sacristy or Parish Office.

Foodbank: Mayor Collins has recently awarded the Foodbank with the 'Hertsmere Civic Award 2025/26 for Services to the Residents of Hertsmere'. We extend our warmest congratulations to all involved with the Foodbank! We are very appreciative of Mayor Collins' recognition of all the hard work involved.

ZOOM into Bible Study with Fr Fidellis :

Thursdays 7-8pm: Use the following details:
Meeting ID: 914 738 2169. Passcode: 12345

There won't be a waiting room so just join!



PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in the Eucharist. We now place before you all the sick and housebound of our parish. As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and, the joy, the peace and healing of your presence. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

St Teresa's church is monitored by CCTV cameras 24 hours a day. Live streaming of all services takes place at St Teresa's and SS John Fisher & Thomas More. These can be viewed at www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood or through the link on our website.

FIRE SAFETY NOTICE: If anyone has difficulty in hearing, walking or anything else that may slow down safe exit in the event of a fire, please let us know before the service starts, so that we can arrange assistance for you.