

St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

1st March 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent

A warm welcome to St Mary's

Do join us for refreshments in the hall after the Sung Eucharist

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12 vv 1-4a *God calls Abram to leave his home and journey to the land of Canaan, which God promises to his descendants.*

New Testament Reading: Romans 4 vv 1-5, 13-17 *St Paul reminds his readers that Abraham was justified by his faith and is the father of all who have faith in Christ – both Jews and Gentiles.*

Gospel: John 3 vv 1-17 *Jesus tells Nicodemus that no-one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven except by "new birth", that is through the creative act of the Holy Spirit in response to our faith.*

Hymns: 408, 339, 439, 383, 368

The Week Ahead

Monday	8.00pm	Lent study group
Tuesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Recital by Ivan Linford (organ) <i>Light lunches available from 12 noon</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9.30am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.30am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
	10.15am	Lent study group
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	World Day of Prayer service at Our Lady and St Vincent Church
	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Saturday	8.30am	Churches Together Prayers here at St Mary's, followed by breakfast
	7.30pm	Hertfordshire Philharmonia concert <i>(rehearsal during the afternoon)</i>

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

5.00pm Evensong

The Eucharist readings will be: Exodus 17 vv 1-7;
Romans 5 vv 1-11 and John 4 vv 5-42.

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

Parish Notices

LENT 2026 at ST MARY'S

Worship As part of your Lenten discipline, in addition to the Sunday Eucharist, why not try to attend one of our regular **weekday Eucharists**? Or possibly **Morning & Evening Prayer**? **Stations of the Cross** will take place **every Friday at 12.30pm**.

Group Study A study group will meet at church on Monday evenings at 8.00pm following a course focused on the Beatitudes. The Thursday group will meet at 10.15am to follow a course entitled "Whole Life Worship". All welcome, even if you weren't able to attend the first sessions.

Lent Sacrificial Giving This year we are supporting the Church Urban Fund. Donations can be made using the yellow Gift Aid envelopes or by bank transfer which should be marked "Lent Giving".

The World Day of Prayer led by women is **THIS FRIDAY**. There will be a service at **11.00am** at Our Lady and St Vincent Church. Please support this service if you can.

Help is needed to assemble the **Mothering Sunday flower posies** on **Friday 13th March** after Stations of the Cross (around 1.15pm). Just come along if you can. Donations of greenery would also be welcome. Further information is available from Liz Perks or Elizabeth Liney.

We are hosting two concerts on Saturdays in March:

- **Next Saturday** at 7.30pm – Hertfordshire Philharmonia
 - **21st March** at 7.30pm – Potters Bar Choral Society
- Details are available on the flyers in the narthex.

Easter Lilies If you would like a lily in memory of a departed relative or friend at Easter, please enclose their name(s) in an envelope (in a yellow Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer) with **£1.50** for each lily. Please give the envelope to Richard, Pearl or Liz Nethercott by **Sunday 22nd March**. As usual, the names of our loved ones will be displayed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Looking ahead there will be a Confirmation Eucharist here on **Sunday 10th May** with Bishop Rob Wickham, an Assistant Bishop in the diocese. If you are interested in being confirmed, please have a word with Fr Stefan.

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Carole Waller, Margaret Terry, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Joan Golden, Robert Peters, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Lisa Collins, Linda, Daren Ellis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Lindsey Lyons, Steven Seal, Robert Wikner

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ron Golden, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte

The recently departed Winifred Garvey, Eileen Irons, Mavis Munhamo, Clare Payne, Marie Jubb, Derek Binstead

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Jean Pond, Angela Smith, Elizabeth Shirley, Harry Halsey, Lily Holmes

Our parish We remember those who live and work in Stamford Close, Stapleton Close and Station Close

Sunday 1 March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the
light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted into
the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that
are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from
your country and your kindred and your
father's house to the land that
I will show you. I will make of you a
great nation, and I will bless you, and
make your name great, so that you will
be a blessing. I will bless those who
bless you, and the one who curses you
I will curse; and in you all the families of
the earth shall be blessed." So Abram
went, as the LORD had told him; and
Lot went with him.

PSALM Psalm 121

The Lord shall keep you from all evil.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by
day,
neither the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul

The Lord shall keep watch over your
going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5. 13-17

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.*

What are we to say was gained by
Abraham, our ancestor according to
the flesh? For if Abraham was justified
by works, he has something to boast
about, but not before God. For what
does the scripture say? "Abraham
believed God, and it was reckoned to
him as righteousness." Now to one who
works, wages are not reckoned as a gift
but as something due. But to one who
without works trusts him who justifies
the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as
righteousness. For the promise that he
would inherit the world did not come to
Abraham or to his descendants through
the law but through the righteousness
of faith. If it is the adherents of the law
who are to be the heirs, faith is null
and the promise is void. For the law
brings wrath; but where there is no
law, neither is there violation. For this
reason it depends on faith, in order that
the promise may rest on grace and be
guaranteed to all his descendants, not
only to the adherents of the law but also
to those who share the faith of Abraham
(for he is the father of all of us, as it is
written, "I have made you the father of
many nations") – Abraham believed in
the presence of the God who gives life
to the dead and calls into existence the
things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

There was a Pharisee named
Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He
came to Jesus by night and said to
him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a
teacher who has come from God; for
no one can do these signs that you
do apart from the presence of God." Jesus
answered him, "Very truly, I tell
you, no one can see the kingdom of

God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to
the body,
and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

For the World Day of Prayer Service 2026 the women of Nigeria have created a service of prayer and sharing that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

Please do join us on Friday 6th March at Our Lady & St Vincent Church at I I am for this beautiful annual event.

Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome.



Nigeria 2026



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242