

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.
In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R. 1

R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul. **R.**
- He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R.**
- You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 8:12

R: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
R: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

(a longer version may be read: John 9:1-41)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

March 15th, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday and Mothering Sunday)

The gospel today is a long and complex passage from St John. It is not only the story of a blind man who is able to see after his encounter with Jesus, extraordinary and miraculous though that is. It is also a rejection of the idea that inherited disabilities are the result of someone's sin. And it is a study in how we cling to our prejudices and rationalisations despite the evidence that is before our own eyes. The religious leaders could not allow themselves to believe the plain fact that the man's blindness was cured by Jesus because it contradicted their existing beliefs.



Entrance Hymn

106 The God of love my shepherd is

Offertory Hymn

486 I heard the voice of Jesus say (*during this hymn the collection is taken. Please give as generously as you can.*)

Recessional

550 Oft in danger, oft in woe

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THIS WEEK (Year A[2]; Psalm week 4)

ALL MORNING PRAYER SERVICES, EXCEPT ON THURSDAYS, ARE NOW ONLINE. To attend online Morning Prayer visit www.stanselm.co.uk and select 'Services and events' and then 'Online Morning Prayer' and click on 'MORE INFO'.

16th: Monday of 4th week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0900 online.

17th: *Feast of St Patrick, Missionary and Bishop. Morning Prayer 0900 online. Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 1700.*

18th: Wednesday of 4th week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0900 online. Online Evening Prayer and bible study 1700 (details on the church website: www.stanselm.co.uk)

19th: *Solemnity of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Morning Prayer 0945 and Mass 1000 – IN CHURCH. Evening Prayer online 1700*

13th: Friday of 4th week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0900 online.

14th: *Saturday of 4th week of Lent. No services in church or online.*

NEXT SUNDAY

22nd March. Fifth Sunday of Lent. Mass 1000.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

29th March: Palm Sunday. Mass 1000.

2nd April: Maundy Thursday. Mass, washing of feet, and vigil 1900.

3rd April: Good Friday. Church open for prayer, contemplation, and Stations of the Cross 1200-1400. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 1400.

4th April: Holy Saturday liturgy – New fire, readings, renewal of baptism vows, and 1st Mass of Easter.

5th April: Easter Day. Mass 1000.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Sylvia Fenton, Desiree Loderick, Mr & Mrs DeGale, Wioletta Dębska, Mahshid Farsha, and Peter Wickham. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Fr Josiah or Fr Stephen.)

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Bernard Brayer, Angela Biggs

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

15th: Margaret Thoady, Veronica Murray, Surinder Soor, Len Wheeler

16th Ethel Adey-Moore, Maud Pearce, Leslie Robert Tuckwell, Raymond Morris

17th: Jessie Barnes, Ella Hobbs, Roger Mann, Shane Gunnigle

18th: Jack Daniels

19th: Michael Lackner-Zemlin

20th: George Burton, Gladys Skinner

21st: Doris May

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH: Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work at the end of mass...

FINANCIAL POSITION: During February 2026, our income was only £685.31, and our outgoings were £2,552.06. We had to move £1,000 from our reserve account to the current account and we still spent a further £1,550! We cannot go on like this. Could you help us by making a small increase in your contribution to St Anselm? Please flash this QR code to get started!



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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA, COFFEE, AND FELLOWSHIP!