

The Catholic Parish and Ordinariate Church of S. John Vianney Clayhall

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First Sunday of Lent 22 February 2026

What is Lent?

What are your priorities in life right now? Lent is an invitation to rearrange your priorities—to focus on what matters most and leave behind what matters least.

Lent is the season where the Church prepares for Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent spans 40+ days until Holy Thursday. In the fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying and preparing for his mission. Lent is your opportunity for that same focus.

- Lent is your invitation to take your spiritual life seriously.
- Lent is the perfect time to form life-giving habits and abandon self-destructive habits.
- Lent is your chance to discover the abundant life Jesus invites us to at Easter.

Take these 40 days to explore God's dream for your life and it will change everything. Are you ready?

The Temptations

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

Lent at SJV



Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays 9:30am, Fridays 8pm



Forty Hours Devotion (Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration)

7am Saturday 21 March starting with Mass
until 11pm Sunday 22 March – Benediction

Readings and psalm responses

Psalm response

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

First reading

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

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Second reading

Romans 5:12-19

Parish Finance

Offertory, Mass stipends, candles,
repository, average standing
orders, online donations £1,444.70

Ways to give to our church

- Scan the QR code on the front page
- justgiving.com/page/stjohnvianneyclayhall
- dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations
- Cash or Dona machine in church
- Planned giving envelopes
- Standing order: sort code 40-13-22
A/c no 41576704 'Catholic Church Clayhall'

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions to and parallels with the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

Baptism/confirmation/reception of adults

If there are any adults (over 18s) who would like to explore the possibilities of receiving the Sacraments of Initiation or becoming Catholics then please do see me **today** as I will be starting the formation sessions on **Tuesday 24 February**.

Fr Rob Page

Parish Priest

Notices and SJV events

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Confession is usually available on Saturday mornings between 10am and 10.30am and at other times by arrangement.

In addition, during Lent, confession will be available during the daily period of Eucharistic Adoration and on Friday evenings at 7.30pm (before Stations of the Cross).

Mass intentions

Please complete a Mass request envelope, insert your donation and give it to Fr Rob or Sonia. You can also use the card reader or QR code but add your name and complete an envelope so that we have all the details of your request.

Most Sundays from 26 April onwards are available as well as earlier weekdays.

Monday evening Mass

Mass in Latin will be celebrated at **6.30pm** on **Monday 23 February**, a feria.

Walk with Me booklets still available

The repository still has a few copies of the Lent 2026 *Walk with Me* booklet at £1.50. "Lent is a sacred moment in the Church's year; a time of conversion and inner renewal," writes Cardinal Vincent Nichols in the introduction to this lovely accompaniment on our journey of prayer towards Easter.

First Holy Communion programme

The next session of the First Holy Communion programme will take place on **Saturday 28 February** at 11.30am in the parish room. Parents are asked to attend too.

First Holy Communion outfits

Carolina in Woodford Bridge, run by our parishioner Lina Caracino, has a fine collection of First Holy Communion dresses, accessories and suits for your child's special day. There are 15 dress styles and they

guarantee not to sell the same dress to anyone making their communion in the same church on the same day. Alterations available if required. Visit Carolina at 708 Chigwell Road IG8 8AL, or contact 020 8504 6420 or carolinaschooloutfitters@outlook.com.

Walk with Me booklets still available

The repository still has a few copies of the Lent 2026 *Walk with Me* booklet for sale at £1.50. The booklet, which includes an introduction by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is a lovely accompaniment on our journey of prayer towards Easter.

Volunteers needed

We need people to make up the bouquets to be presented to mothers in church on Mothering Sunday, 15 March. The bouquets will be made on **Saturday 14 March from 10am**. It should take only an hour if we get enough volunteers. No expertise needed; just turn up with secateurs if you have any, though still welcome if you don't.

Living Rosary – intention for February

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Health of the sick, pray for us. Amen.

Legion of Mary

Weekly meetings of active members take place on most Sundays after the 10am Mass. Auxiliaries are most welcome to join us.

Our lamps

Our Lady of Walsingham's Lamp burns this week for the intention of Anton Paul Sivalingam RIP at the request of Preya Senthel.

You can sponsor any of our six lamps – Our Lady of Walsingham, S. Joseph, Our Lady's Altar, Sanctuary Light, S. John Vianney and S. John Paul II, for an intention of your choice. Please complete an envelope from the narthex – suggested stipend £7 and give it to Fr Rob or Sonia.

Parish repository

Our repository stocks a wide variety of gifts, cards, candles and other devotional items.

Open after the Sunday morning Mass and at other times on request. You can pay in cash or by using the QR code or the Dona reader.

Redbridge Foodbank

Your gifts of long-life food and drinks, as well as shampoo, sanitary pads and sizes 5 and 6 baby nappies, are greatly appreciated. Please place your donations on the foodbank tab

Other events

Lenten Lectures at Brentwood

The first talk will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall on **Wednesday 25 February** at 7.30pm. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem will speak on: "I Believe ..." – living and proclaiming the Catholic faith. All welcome.

Parish Mission week

The parish of St Cedd, Goodmayes IG3 8SH, is hosting a Parish Mission, preached by the Redemptorist Fathers, from **Monday 2 to Friday 6 March**. Each day the Mission Service starts at 7.30pm lasting about an hour. It will look at different aspects of our Catholic Faith – prayer, Our Lady, death and eternal life, the Eucharist, and gifts and service. Confessions are available afterwards. Daily Mass at 7am and 10am.

Caritas Brentwood Networking Day

All are welcome to the 2026 Caritas Brentwood Networking day on **Sunday 7 March**, 1-5pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Wanstead E11 2PR. Come and discover how our Catholic community is responding to homelessness, the cost of living crisis, refugees and climate change. Share and connect with parishioners and charities from across East London and Essex. Register at caritasbrentwood.org/network. Attendance is free.

The Book of Genesis – Lenten talk

Fr Adrian Graffy will give a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent, on **Thursday 12 March** at 7pm in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park RM2 6DH. Light refreshments will be available at 6.30pm. This free event will also be livestreamed at whatgoodnews.org.

Mass times and intentions

Sun	22	First Sunday of Lent	
	10.00	Hugh Toussaint RIP & Delsol family	(Rosemarie Delsol)
	16.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	
	17.00	The People of the Parish	
Mon	23	Feria	
	18.30	All Souls in Purgatory	(Maria Josef)
Tue	24	Weekday of Lent	
	9.00	Margaret Maguire	(Siobhan Maguire)
Wed	25	Weekday of Lent	
	9.00	Mr Rimont Magaret Matthew Milton Kishor Kuma	
Thu	26	Weekday of Lent	
	9.00	Mary Pia Rose O'Doherty	(A M O'Doherty)
Fri	27	Weekday of Lent	
	9.00	Breda and Wally Shaw RIP	(Terri and Nancy)
Sat	28	Weekday of Lent	
	9.00	Josefa and Tomasz Milc RIP	(B & L Sharon)
Sun	1	Second Sunday of Lent	
	10.00	Sonia Gable – thanksgiving and blessings	(Legion of Mary)
	16.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	
	17.00	The People of the Parish	
Tuesday to Saturday			
	8.00	Office of readings and morning prayer – week 1	
	8.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday to Friday			
	17.30	Evening prayer – week 1 (19.20 on Friday)	

Stewards

This Sunday Theresa Valerie, Anne Edwards, Yvonne Obi

Next Sunday Bernadetta Sharon, Lionel Sharon, Marilyn Butler

Extraordinary Ministers

This Sunday **10am** Juliet Addai, Julian Roshan, Bernadetta Sharon

5pm Pauline Brooke, Maria Josef

Next Sunday **10am** John Sarpong, Barbara Cheah, Bernadetta Sharon

5pm Maria Josef, Akash Cheeda

Ministers taking communion out today Barbara Cheah, John Sarpong, Antoinette Loroy, Bernadetta Sharon, Marilyn Butler, Julian Roshan, Francis Addai, Heather Steadman

Spiritual communion call Rita Young

Ministers taking communion out next Sunday Bernadetta Sharon, Joseph Loroy, Barbara Cheah, Francis Addai, Marina Julian, Rita Young, John Sarpong, Marilyn Butler, Maria Josef (5pm) *Spiritual communion call* Rita Young

Readers (Please tell Sonia if you cannot read on your rota day)

This Sunday Naomi Augusto, Aidan Julian

Next Sunday Jennifer Alvares, Sally Ann Ashiagbor

Repository Barbara Cheah

Refreshments Cordelia Okosun

Cash counting Yvonne Obi