

15 February 2026—Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

Welcome to our services today

Bishop Andrew

In the last few days, the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson, has shared with the Diocese the sad news that he has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the pancreas and liver. Please pray for him and his family at this time, and also for those in the Diocese who are likely to be having to take up significant additional responsibilities in difficult circumstances.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

Your church is now seeing the benefits from this scheme, with less paperwork to complete and Gift Aid coming from HMRC within days.

If you have not yet applied to join, please do so: you can apply by post – spare forms are available from our team – or phone PGS on 0333 002 1260, or apply online (www.parishgiving.org.uk). Should you have any questions or need help, our acting treasurers Keith Blanchard, Allen Brown, Susan Brown and Tony Evans, with assistance from Stella Nettleton and Jan Reed, will be happy to help you.

Lent begins this week

Lent begins **this Wednesday (18th)** with sung Mass in Holy Trinity at 6.30 pm. The Imposition of Ashes will be available for all those who so wish. Whether or not you are able to attend, you are strongly encouraged to make time in the day to mark the start of this holy season. In the traditions of both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, Ash Wednesday is kept as a day of fasting and abstinence.

Next Sunday evening there will be a service of Stations of the Cross at 6 pm in Holy Trinity.

The **Bible Study Group** will not be meeting this week.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The sick and infirm: June Anderton, Janet Dadson, Jenny Gibson, Ian McRea, Paul Moore, Janet Murton, Roy & Jackie Phillips, Dave Powers, Mike Reed, Pat Rorison, Shirley Whiteley, Bishop Andrew, John, Mark, Neville, Phil

The recently departed & their family: Pam Gunn

Anniversary of death: Margaret Riach, Alan Warr, Fr John Wyatt

THIS WEEK

• All events at Holy Trinity—*unless shown otherwise* •
*Weekday Readings: Week 6 in Ordinary Time, Year II
then Weekdays after Ash Wednesday*

Monday

7.00 pm: MU AGM & Supper—*Trinity Hall*

Wednesday **ASH WEDNESDAY**

6.30 pm: Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes

N.B. No Bible Study group this Thursday

Friday

11.00 am: Mass (10.30: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)
Psalm R: *A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.*

2–4 pm: Tea at Two—*All Saints Hall*

Saturday

11.00 am: Walsingham Cell Mass
(10.30: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament)
Psalm R: *In my distress I called upon the Lord.*

Next Sunday—**First Sunday in Lent**

9.15 am: Mass with hymns—*All Saints*

11.00 am: Sung Mass

6.00 pm: Stations of the Cross

Mothers Union

The MU meet for our AGM **this Monday (16th)** in Trinity Hall at 7 pm, followed by a fish and chip supper. Please speak to Sue Evans **today** for your menu choice. We look forward to seeing you.

Friday Lenten Lunches

Our tradition of Lenten Lunches (vegetarian soup and bread) begins on Friday week (27th). Volunteers are sought for making the soup! – please speak to Rita.

Walsingham Cell Mass

The Walsingham Cell meets at Holy Trinity **this Saturday (21st)**, with Mass at 11 am preceded by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome. There will not be a bring-and-share lunch on this occasion. Members are reminded that the 2026 subscriptions of £23 are now due.

‘Tea at Two’

We meet every Friday from 2 – 4 pm in All Saints Hall. Come and join us for great cake, tea/coffee and conversation. We look forward to seeing you!

Quinquagesima

Today is known as Quinquagesima, which means fiftieth in Latin and marks the start of the fifty days before Easter. In earlier times Quinquagesima had a semi-Lenten character, because Lent started gradually rather all at once on Ash Wednesday, as is the case now.

The liturgy reflected the imminence of Lent, and the liturgical colour was violet. On this day, Eastern Orthodox Christians ask each other for forgiveness to begin Lent with a good heart, to focus on the spiritual life, to purify the heart from sin in confession, and to meet Easter with a pure heart.

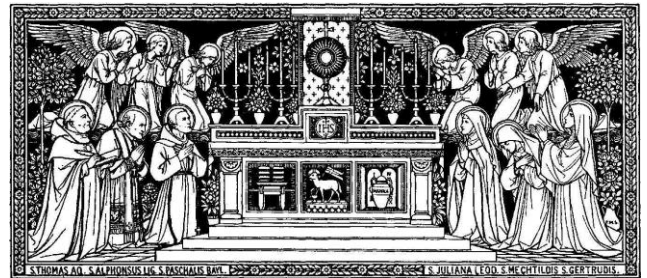
Collect for Lent from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leviticus 19: 1 – 2, 17 – 18

Israel, God's own people, must set about treasuring and imitating God's own holiness. God's people must treat the poor and unfortunate as God treated them when they were poor and downtrodden in Egypt. This is to be holy as God is holy. There must never be vengeance, but the same love and forgiveness which God demonstrates. Jesus will take up this demand / command in the Gospels. As we approach Lent, let us pray for the sanctification set out in holy scripture.

Sunday 15th Feb. 2026
Sunday next before Lent
/ 6th in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matt. 5: 17 – 37



Jesus's avowed purpose is to 'fulfil the law'. In his teaching Jesus is not supplanting but intensifying the teaching of the Old Testament that points to Him and anticipates the fulness of the promises God gave. Jesus very rarely teaches anything not already present in the Old Testament.

A careful reading of his advocacy of unconditional acceptance and non-violence in the face of aggression discovers that both of these messages are present in the Scriptures as Jesus received and knew them.

Jesus's teaching is that faithful law-obedience is not enough in itself; law-obedience is not the end of the project but the beginning. The goal is holiness of life – sanctification, the wholesale translation of virtuous law into virtuous living. And to aid us in this, Jesus has given us the sacraments of the Church to be channels of the grace we need if we are to grow in holiness. The summons to holiness begins with law but can only ever be achieved by grace, God's gift of his own life to us.