



# Church of Our Lady of the Assumption

## Archdiocese of Southwark

(Registered Charity number: 1173050)

3 The Hill, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9ES

Parish Office ☎ 01474533689; ✉ [northfleet@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:northfleet@rcaos.org.uk)

Website: [ourladyofassumptionnorthfleet.com](http://ourladyofassumptionnorthfleet.com)

Facebook Name: [Our Lady of the Assumption R. C. Church](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheAssumptionR.C.Church)

21/22 March 2026

+ LENT 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY +

### LITURGY TIMES

#### Sunday Mass

5pm (Sat.), 8.30am,  
11.00am

#### Weekday Mass

Tue. – Fri: 10.00am

#### Holy Days of Obligation

10.00am & 7.00pm

#### Exposition/Adoration

Tue. – Fr. 9.00am

#### Morning Prayer

Tue. – Fri.: 9.30am

#### Benediction

Tue. – Fri.: 9.45am

### BAPTISM

See the Parish Priest.

*Preparation is  
obligatory*

### CONFESSIONS

Sat., 4.20 pm – 4.45 pm  
or on request

### MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Priest  
6 months in advance

### Parish Office

Tue. & Fri.: 11.00 am –  
2.00 pm



*From the Parish Priest's Desk*

**I am the resurrection and the life; whoever lives  
and believes in Me shall never die. (Jn 11.25-26)**

The theme of death features in all our three readings today. As the end to all mortal life, death, as the *Catechism* teaches us, is part of the natural process of life measured in time. Certain as sunrise, it puts a definitive end to earthly life. With respect to human beings, death is also the consequence of sin (Rom. 8.10) that would not have occurred had the human race not fallen into sin (Rom. 5.12). Yet, for those who fear that one day they will surely die, death is not the end of life, but the gateway to life in its fullness. One of the prefaces used for funeral Mass reminds us that for God's faithful people, life is changed, not ended. There is hope, then, for all who desire life in its fullness, hope in the Lord who died, rose to life again, and now lives forever. He, the risen Lord, is in fact the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Him, whether they live or die, are beyond the grasp of death (Jn 11.25). For the Christian and for all who die in grace in the Lord, death is a participation in His death and leads to the glory of the resurrection. Dying in Him has great profits (Phil. 1.21) and enables us to live perpetually with Him in the joys of heaven. Knowing where death leads us to, we should, like St Paul, long to be with the Lord (Phil 1.23). Since everyone dies only once and after death comes judgement (Heb. 9.27), there is no second chance for anyone to relive this earthly life. Aware then of the inevitability of death, and of the fact that we live this earthly life only once, we should use the limited time we have in this life to bring our lives to fulfilment (cf. *Catechism*, 1005-1014) by using every opportunity that we have to grow in grace. There is no need to fear death. The only thing to fear is what the Scripture calls 'the second death,' that is, eternal damnation (Apoc. 20.14).

## Readings of this Sunday



### First Reading, Ezekiel 37.12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm, Ps 130(129).1-2,3-4, 5-6,6-8

**With the Lord there is mercy, in Him is plentiful redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let Your ears be attentive  
to the sound of my pleadings. **R/**
2. If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with You is found forgiveness,  
that You may be revered. **R/**
3. I long for You, O Lord,  
my soul longs for His word.  
My soul awaits the Lord  
more than watchmen for daybreak. **R/**
4. More than watchmen for daybreak,  
let Israel hope for the Lord.  
For with the Lord there is mercy,  
in Him is plentiful redemption.  
It is He Who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities. **R/**

### Second Reading, Romans 8.8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to You, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in Me shall never die. Glory to You, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

### Gospel, John 11.3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it He said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who is coming into the world.' Jesus was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled. And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how He loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not He Who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me.' When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in Him.

### Communion Antiphon

**Everyone who lives and believes in Me will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

# MASS DURING THE WEEK

|                             |                             |         |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar.  | + 5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF | 5pm     | Parishioners                               |
| Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar.  | LENT                        | 8.30am  | Jean and Alex Gemmell                      |
|                             | <i>Divine Office, Wk 1</i>  | 11am    | Maryann Okonji, Birthday T/Giving          |
| Mon. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar.  | Feria                       | NO MASS |  |
| Tue. 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar.  | Feria                       | 1.30pm  | Funeral Mass of Oliver Macklin             |
| Wed. 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar.  | ANNUNCIATION                | 10am    | Alfred & Sarah Tolhurst, RIP & Descendants |
| Thur. 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar. | Feria                       | 10am    |  |
| Fri. 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar.  | Feria                       | 10am    |  |
| Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb.  | + PALM SUNDAY               | 5pm     | Lily Morrin, RIP                           |
| Sun. 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar.  | <i>Divine Office, Wk 2</i>  | 8.30am  | Julia, Henry & Tony Wright                 |
|                             |                             | 11am    | Parishioners                               |

## NOTICES

**Poor Parishes Collection** is taken this weekend, to help the archbishop give grants to poor parishes. Your generous support is solicited and will be highly appreciated.

**Third Scrutiny:** This RCIA Rite will take place at the 11am Sunday Mass. Please keep our Elect in your prayers.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER PROGRAMME**

**Palm Sunday:** Sat. March the 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm;  
Sun. March the 29<sup>th</sup> @ 8.30am & 11am

**Chrim Mass:** Wednesday April the 1<sup>st</sup> (at St George's Cathedral) @ 11am

**Holy Thursday, April the 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Institution of the Holy Eucharist @ 7.30pm

**Good Friday, April the 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Stations of the Cross @ 2pm; Passion Ceremonies @ 3pm

**Holy Saturday, April the 4<sup>th</sup>:** Morning Prayer @ 10am;  
Easter Vigil @ 8pm

**Easter Sunday, April the 5<sup>th</sup>:** Mass of the Resurrection @ 11am

**Penitential Service with Individual Confessions:** Tuesday, March the 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6.30pm; Saturday April the 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11am.

**A Massive Thank You:** We thank God for the successful celebration of our mothers last Sunday. We thank our mothers themselves for raising the sum of £1,515.00 for the parish, and for the big reception they had for all of us at the end of Mass. We all had so much to eat and drink and were beautifully entertained by the mothers. May God bless and reward them abundantly.

**Stations of the Cross,** every Friday at 7.00 pm throughout Lent. Come and join us and retrace the steps of Our Lord's final journey during His earthly life, from His condemnation by Pontus Pilate to His death on the Cross.

**BOOKING OF MASS:** You can request that a Mass be offered for any intention of yours, in thanksgiving, in petition for for your needs, for the peaceful repose of a deceased loved one, or for any other good intention. Please use the brown envelope at the back of the church to book a Mass. The archdiocese recommends a donation of £10 or more for each Mass.

**Pope's March 2026 Prayer Intention**  
 "Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence."

### Divine Mercy Devotion

Sun. after the 11am Mass

### St Pio Meeting & Rosary for World Peace

Thur., 9.45 am – 10.45 am.

### Tea & Coffee

Last Sunday of the month, after  
the 11am Mass. Please join us.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS

21/22 February 2026

Loose Plate - £  
SO/Contactless - £

Thank you so much.

**“My house shall be called  
a house of prayer.”**

Mt 21.13; Jer. 7.11

Please be sensitive to those  
who want to pray in the  
church.

*Before Mass – Talk to God  
During Mass – Listen to God  
After Mass – Talk to each  
other*

### **KEY PARISH VOLUNTEERS**

Safeguarding: **Anastasia Appah**, Ph: 07894890967;

[northfleetsg1@safeguardraeos.org.uk](mailto:northfleetsg1@safeguardraeos.org.uk)

Vice Chair, Parish Council: **Solomon Appah**

Chair, Finance Committee: **Cyril Okolie**

[northfleetfc@raeos.org.uk](mailto:northfleetfc@raeos.org.uk)

Gift Aid Coordinator: **Dixciam Costa**

Bookkeeper: **Eileen Norris**

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School:** Springhead Rd.,  
Northfleet, DA11 9QZ; Ph: 01474533515; Email: [office@st-  
josephs-northfleet.kcpsp.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-northfleet.kcpsp.org.uk); Mrs Lucy Owen; [www.st-josephs-  
northfleet.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-northfleet.kent.sch.uk)

**Our Lady’s Pre-School:** Springhead Rd., Northfleet, DA11  
9QZ; Ph: 01474365877; [ourladyspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyspreschool@gmail.com); Mrs A.  
Franco; [www.ourladypreschoolnorthfleet.com](http://www.ourladypreschoolnorthfleet.com)

**Get Well Soon:** Please pray for Mandy Ermis, Rosemary Reilly, Rasma Gurskiene, John Prior, Sheila Griffin, Billy Damer, Sharon Docherty, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Josephine Umeh, Michael Mitchel, Cathy Reilly, Sandra Gomes, Pedro Spina Jr., Ekenedilichukwu Lourdes.

**The Week’s Death Anniversaries:** John Herbert O’Neill, Peter Bishop, Hilda Elizabeth Steel, Marion Rosetta Pocok, Helen Mulroy, Geraldine P. Mary O’Mara, Rosemary Brown, Michael Hawkins, Peter Baldwin, and James Rock. May they rest in peace.

### DONATE TO HELP PAY OUR BILLS

You can donate for your weekly offering by:

- Using the QR Code on the right,
- Setting up a Standing Order, or
- Sending your offering envelope to the Parish Office.

Our bank details are:

**NatWest Bank; Sort Code: 60-09-10**

**Account Number: 71502122**

Please let us know when you set up a Standing Order. Thank you.



**Parish Priest: Fr Livie ONYEBUCHI msp**

☎ 01474533689; 07459718783 ✉ ✉ [livinusonyebuchi@raeos.org.uk](mailto:livinusonyebuchi@raeos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon: Revd John FOGARTY**

✉ [johnfogarty@raeos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@raeos.org.uk)