

### **Monday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026:**

A real challenge in the Christian Life is our ability to offer mercy and forgiveness to those who have wronged us. Showing mercy is the first step in becoming more like God, for in following mercy, we obtain the grace of heaven. A Christian shows compassion to others by applying the *'corporal and spiritual works of mercy'*. This includes the preaching of the truth, even when it is difficult to hear, for we can never condone sinful choices, especially mortal ones which risk the loss of life eternal. In pointing out error, we distinguish between the error (*which is always rejected*) and the person in error, who never loses their dignity as a person loved by God. We do not condemn a person, because in doing so, we might find ourselves accused of hypocrisy and call down a heavier condemnation upon us instead. All of us fall short of the glory of God and need God's mercy. Let us first accuse ourselves in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for in confession, we anticipate our personal judgement and, thus, have nothing to fear when we come before the Lord and give an account of our lives.

### **Tuesday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026:**

In their day-to-day life, *'Latin Rite'* priests traditionally wear black as a sign of their simple lifestyle & chastity but also as a sign of death, that they lay down their life for the Kingdom to come. The white collar symbolizes the priest's oath of obedience to his bishop, to the gospel and to preaching the Catholic faith in and out of season. At Mass, the priest completely covers their day clothes and instead, put on Jesus Christ and the vestments should convey the noble simplicity of the Roman Rite but the beauty of grace coming to us in the Eucharist, the memorial of Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

### **The Commemoration of St Casimir – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026:**

Casimir was a prince of Poland, and he was destined to cement his father's authority and increase Poland's power. From an early age, he realised his allegiance was to a higher King, Jesus Christ and he stood by that loyalty throughout his whole life. Casimir rejected the luxury and riches of royal life and lived simply and spent time in prayer. He was banished by his father for turning his army back from invading and conquering Hungary because he recognised the campaign was unjust, a position also supported by Pope Sixtus IV. The banishment failed to change Casimir's mind, and he died of lung disease while in exile but never swayed from his allegiance to Christ the King by wholeheartedly by praying, studying, and helping the poor. He is Patron of Poland.

### **Thursday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026:**

The Catholic position is clear: we are saved by our faith in Christ Jesus backed by good works. We agree with St Paul that we are saved by faith and not by works of the Law – that being the religious and moral regulations spelled out by the book of Leviticus. We also agree with the Apostle St James who says that faith without works of charity is dead, which is clearly consistent with the gospel which is unequivocal that the corporal (and spiritual) works of mercy will form an integral part of our judgement. We also reject Pelagianism, which denies original sin and says that we have in us the necessary goodness to reach heaven by our own choices and merits. We cannot be saved apart from Christ and his cross, who takes away the sins of the world, the merits of which are applied to us in the Sacraments, firstly in Holy Baptism that changes us '*ontologically*', the old creation washed away, as we are re-born to eternal life.

### **Friday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026:**

We are not ready to celebrate Easter. Yes, we have received the grace of baptism and are a child of God, but the Church is not ready to declare us a Saint. By spending this season of Lent cultivating our faith, hope and love for God and neighbour we hope to be included in God's harvest. May we use our Lenten Penances as an exercise to prune away anything that is already spiritually dead in our life. All life's chores and duties, even if they seem inconsequential, can be of spiritual merit if done out of love. May Lent help us recognise also our responsibility to help others blossom and flourish, helping them to ripen the gifts and talents that God has given to them for the health of the vineyard – his Heavenly Kingdom that is to come. Allowing the Easter Mystery into our hearts each week feeds and nourishes our souls, making them fit for the heavenly banquet, when we will be declared a vintage and take our place in the communion of saints. '*This will be the day that the Lord has made; we rejoice and our glad*'.

### **The commemoration of St. Perpetua & St. Felicity, martyrs – Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026:**

Perpetua & Felicity were Christian martyrs who died in the Christian persecution in Africa by Emperor Severus. Despite the risks and objection of her father, Perpetua became Christian and was imprisoned and had never known such darkness in prison but nothing comparable to the darkness of being separated from her baby. Felicity was a slave girl and was pregnant and she suffered in the stifling heat. Two Deacons paid to alleviate some of their suffering, showing the importance of prison chaplaincy.