

Monday in 4th Week of Lent – 16th March 2026:

Without the Resurrection, there is no Christianity! We believe that on the '*Last Day*', we will share in Christ's Resurrection. But, if this is the last day, what is the point of the Resurrection? Isaiah speaks of a new state of life in the '*new heaven and the new earth*' to come. As at the first creation, where God created everything, only He will be able to establish this new reality. We believe this will be a '*time*' when sin and death have been conquered and that this new creation will be marked by an eternal joy. In this new reality, God makes his dwelling with humanity, and for the just, there will be no more distance between heaven and earth, for they will exist together. We should not sit around waiting for this reality to come true; no, we pray always for the coming of the kingdom. Currently, our world is divided, and we are far from the peace of God's Kingdom. Those who have begun to co-operate with God and work to usher in his kingdom do not need miracles because in the Church, the Mass and the sacraments we have already seen and accepted the need to live as citizens of the kingdom.

The Feast (in England) of St Patrick, Bishop – Tuesday 17th March 2026:

While in captivity, Patrick was drawn to know God in prayer, appreciating him as a loving Father. His captivity became a place where he was converted as he experienced the Lord's mercy. After escaping captivity, he returned to Britain to continue his ongoing formation in the faith. When properly formed, Patrick returned to Ireland, and as a bishop, his task was to bring the people to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their redeemer. As a slave he worked as a shepherd; now he carried the crosier as a symbol of his apostolic office. St Patrick shows us that we do not journey alone on our mission: *Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my Heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.* When we preach the Gospel and teach the Faith, we have the authority of Christ and His Church behind us. If we preach the faith with love, our words are trustworthy and true.

Wednesday in 4th Week of Lent – 18th March 2026:

The religious authorities wanted to kill Jesus because he alludes to his divinity. Even the early Church struggled with this. Despite the Nicene Creed which taught Christ was *consubstantial* with the Father, for about 70 years, the Church falls into the Arian Heresy, only accepting Jesus is of a *similar substance* to the Father. Fortunately, wiser heads prevailed and we profess Jesus as God from God, true God from true God!

The Sol. of St Joseph, husband of the BVM – Thursday 19th March 2026:

We venerate St Joseph as the guardian of the Church, seeking his protection over our families: *our community, parish and the domestic Church at home*. We implore his intercession that when we must make a choice we would rather not make; when we are expected by society to do one thing but must in charity do another because what is right is not always popular, may St Joseph be our guide. May his intercession help us do all we can to help those who are innocent and vulnerable, who are condemned or discarded unjustly by others. May St Joseph remind us that we are called to play our part in the salvation of souls for the eternal life. We might not always understand what we are being asked to do, but we have been taught to listen to God and discern our vocation in life, so that we are ready to help those whom God sends across our path. We pray for courage, for we may think the service that the Lord is calling us to is above our ability; we may be reluctant to undertake our share in the Church's mission, but we can be assured God gives us the grace necessary to succeed.

Friday in 4th Week of Lent – 20th March

Wisdom warns us to be careful. The evil lie in wait, setting a trap for the Lord's righteous ones, hoping that we will slip up and fall from grace. Never was the saying '*a pride comes before a fall*' more appropriate. We should never take anything for granted, and live each day for the Lord, from our '*morning offering*' right through to our '*examen*' at the end of each day. As we enter '*Passiontide*' tomorrow, this is a good time to consider if our life is truly an image of the Cross, as a reflection of a holy way of life. A Christian's life always involves some form of sacrificial service of God, His Church and His Holy People. Christianity is a radical religion for we recognise that as God's chosen one, we have been set apart, to live not according to the kingship of other nations, but to trust in the Lord, that he will provide us with everything we need, and strikingly, this involves a share in the life of the cross, in imitation of the Son of Man who came *not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many*.

Saturday in 4th Week of Lent – 21st March 2026:

Considering the persecution he faces, Jeremiah opens his heart and shares with God his fears. Jeremiah is seen as a figure of Christ, rejected by his own people for calling them back to the Father's love. This Lent, we are called back to the Father, to announce the gospel, even though we may receive push back from our own families.