

MASS INTENTIONS — ALL MASSES TO BE SAID IN PRIVATE

Sat 21 Mar	Vigil for the 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
6.00 pm	Mass <i>Our Parish Community</i>
Sun 22 Mar	The 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
08.00 am	Mass <i>Gwilym Michael. RIP Anniversary</i>
10.30 am	Mass <i>David & Timmy Leahy. RIP Anniversary</i>
Mon 23 Mar	Weekday of Lent
09.30 am	Mass <i>Avelyn Kearney. RIP Anniversary</i>
Tues 24 Mar	Weekday of Lent
09.30 am	Mass <i>Agnes D’Cunha. RIP</i>
Wed 25 Mar	The Annunciation of The Lord
09.30 am	Mass <i>Marie-Josee Bogherts-Truyens.</i> <i>RIP Anniversary</i>
Thur 26 Mar	Weekday of Lent
09.30 am	Mass <i>Ellen Scannell. RIP</i>
Frid 27 Mar	Weekday of Lent
09.30 am	Mass <i>Raj Daniels. RIP</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 28 Mar	Weekday of Lent
5.00 pm	<i>Holy Hour with Exposition & Confessions</i>
Sat 28 Mar	Vigil for the 5th Sunday of Lent
6.00 pm	Mass <i>Our Parish Community</i>
Sun 29 Mar	The 5th Sunday of Lent
08.00 am	Mass <i>Steve D’Cunha. Intentions</i>
10.30 am	Mass <i>Tony Chainey. RIP Anniversary</i>

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Unless otherwise stated, there is a Holy Hour every Saturday from 5 pm, during which time the priest will be available in the Reconciliation Room to hear confessions. Confessions are also available whenever Fr Matthew is in the Presbytery, or by appointment at any time.

PARISH NEWSLETTER



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THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 22 MARCH 2020

LAETARE SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday will be more difficult this year for many people as social distancing rules come into force. Plans to mark this day by meeting with parents and grandparents have probably been set aside, and if you have met with family in recent days, it has been with the knowledge that it may be much more difficult if not impossible to do so again for some time.

Liturgically this fourth Sunday of Lent recognises another mother that we all share: holy mother Church. The lightening of the Lenten purple at the halfway point in our journey towards Easter signifies our joyful gratitude for all that God gives us through the church that he has established, the family of believers united as one body and joined to Christ our head. As a mother the church nurtures us, nourishes us and prepares us for the life that is to come. And now we are faced with the reality of enforced distancing from this mother and this family, as well as from our own families. Although it may seem to us that we are in a never ending Lent, giving up more than we ever imagined on Ash Wednesday but with no idea when it will come to an end, it will still be Easter in a few weeks’ time whatever form our celebrations take and the glorious victory we celebrate at Easter is what gives us hope in times of trial and even in the face of death.

The Mass is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) said “*It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!*” This is an extraordinary claim that many people would think absurd. But our gospel for this fourth Sunday of Lent highlights the importance of sight – not only physical sight but spiritual sight. The man born blind not only receives physical healing, but like the woman Jesus met at the well, he is led on a journey of faith. Faith is itself a gift from the Lord, a gift that is

given to all who seek it, which allows us to know that God is a good and loving father. With the eyes of faith we can know that the eucharist is not merely a symbol, but truly the body and blood of Christ given to us as food for eternal life. When a priest celebrates the Mass, the sacrifice of Calvary, by which the whole world is reconciled to the Father, is re-presented to him and the whole church benefits from this in ways beyond comprehension each and every time.

This is an important thing to grasp at a time when we're are no longer able to attend Mass perhaps for several weeks or even months. As the Bishops have made very clear in their announcement, **the Sunday obligation to attend Mass does not apply as there is no public Mass to go to.** No-one's conscience should be troubled, though it is entirely natural that we feel this absence in our spiritual lives very keenly. Let us hold on to the truth that though we may have to isolate ourselves we are never completely isolated as members of the body of Christ. Indeed, the fact that self-isolation is hard to bear is a reminder that it goes against our very nature as creatures made for communion with one another and with God. That communion is still a reality even if we are physically separated from each other and unable to join by our physical presence in the offering of the sacrifice of the Mass. The holy Mass will be offered here day by day for the benefit of all. Unless announced otherwise, the Mass will be offered at the usual time, for the stated intention – knowing this, I invite those who can't be present to unite themselves spiritually to this offering in a moment of prayer, perhaps reading the readings, or praying the rosary; and I will be very conscious of all those who are not able to be present as I stand at the altar, holding you all in prayer. I especially encourage families and individuals to set aside time for prayer at the time you would normally come to Mass on Sundays. The Mass readings for each day are available at <https://universalis.com/mass.htm> and you can find a link to this on the parish website. A number of churches round the world offer live-streamed Masses via the internet or televised e.g. on EWTN. In our local parish partnership, Ss Peter and Paul's live-streams all Masses at <http://ssppilford.org.uk/wp2/live-stream-church/> whilst masses from the national shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham are live-streamed at <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

The other part of the Bishops' message is a request that churches remain open for private prayer. I will be keeping our church open every day for at least normal daytime hours and the Grotto is always available for prayer. I encourage those who are able to do so to visit the church and pray especially for an end to the present crisis and for all affected and all those caring for the sick. Visitors to the church are asked to keep well apart and observe the now familiar hygiene rules. If you happen to be in church when a private Mass is being celebrated, please pray quietly - holy communion will not be offered. If I am in church, I will expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar, though I am not able to advertise these times. I will also be happy to hear confessions whenever I am available, as well as during the usual Saturday evening slot. As well as prayer in church for those who can manage it, prayer in the home is going to be even more important in this present time. Indeed, a fruit that may come from these testing times is a revival of traditional practices such as the family rosary.

The other aspect of living in communion is our practical concern for each other. Obviously visiting people at home is discouraged – though I will always visit someone with the sacraments in an emergency – so it will be important to stay in contact with people by phone or by email. If you are in a position to do so, I encourage you to check on vulnerable neighbours and make sure they have what they need. If anyone is struggling by themselves then please call me or email me and I will see what I can do. Equally if you are in a position to help out by offering support to parishioners in need please get in touch (preferably by email).

We can hardly think of motherhood without acknowledging the one who has been given to all of us as Mother, by her divine Son. Next Sunday the whole country will be rededicated as Mary's Dowry, an ancient title meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. This rededication has both a personal and a communal dimension. Our personal promise brings us closer to Mary, the first disciple of Christ. Our communal entrustment unites us together as the people of our country in prayer, by renewing the vows of dedication made to Mary by our ancestors. Not so long ago this was envisaged as a powerful unifying occasion following the divisiveness surrounding Brexit. Now of course there is another dimension. In this time of fear and uncertainty, it is of the greatest importance for us to place ourselves under the protection and guidance of Christ through Mary, Our Mother. Resources for a personal rededication to Our Lady can be found at <http://www.behold2020.com>

Finally, please stay in contact! A Newsletter will be produced in some shape or form each week though it may only be published on-line. There will also be more frequent updates including information on the opening hours of church, and times when I shall celebrate Mass, as well as occasional video messages, on our parish Facebook page – I encourage you to find this if you haven't done so yet: search for **stteresasnewburypark**

**Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us.**

May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr Matthew

LIVE-STREAMING

For those intending to join with the live-streamed Sunday Mass at Ss Peter and St Paul's, please note that this will just be the **9.30 am Mass**. Additionally, Fr Matthew will stream one of the Masses each weekend using Facebook Live - see parish Facebook page for more information.

Parish - Regular Notices

SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is most important to let Fr Matthew know so that the sick person may receive the spiritual help of the sacraments. Relatives or friends should also inform the Catholic Chaplain of the hospital concerned (*at King George Hospital, 8590 9026; at Queen's Hospital, 01708 447761; at Whipps Cross Hospital, 8520 5877*).

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK Please pray for those in our community who are sick and housebound as well as the patients in Goodmayes, King George's and Queen's Hospitals. Also, the sick Priests of the Diocese - Frs Tom Jordan & Martin Nott.

ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH Charlotte Allen, Sofia Delfina Almeida, Francis Amoordon, Billy Brennan, Tony Chainey, John Cahill, Val Carter, Esther Deshaut, Myles Gibbons, Bill Guise, John McGrory, Kathleen Miley, Peter Murphy, Dorothy Newton, Mick Newton, James Nolan, Richard O'Driscoll, Michael O'Neill, Henry Phillips, Charles Roberts, Alice Santos, Maura Swatts and Ann Zammitt. .

BAPTISM PREPARATION If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism in the next couple of months, please speak to Fr Matthew in the first instance who will help you make the appropriate arrangements.

MASS REQUESTS Special envelopes for this purpose are available at the back of Church. Please use one for each request and place your donation within it.

NEW PARISHIONERS You are very welcome here. Please make yourselves known to Fr Matthew and complete one of the Parish Registration Forms as soon as possible.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH

Parish - In & Around

DANNY MCLAUGHLIN, RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of Danny McLaughlin, an Ilford parishioner with close links to this parish as well, who died earlier this week, for his wife Margaret, their two daughters and family and all who mourn him. Danny's funeral details will be shared when available. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH DIARY Regular meetings of all parish groups **have been suspended until further notice.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS At the present time it is not possible for us to pray this devotion in a public way. If you visit the church you might like to follow the way of the cross yourself. The reflections and prayers by St Alphonus Ligouri which we often use in church are available here: <http://www.dailycatholic.org/waycross.htm>

OFFERTORY COLLECTION The Offertory collection (inc. Standing Orders) for **last weekend amounted to £804.35 of which 65% was "Gift Aided"**. Thank you all for your continued generosity and support.

PARISH FINANCES With the suspension of all Masses for the foreseeable future, many of you may now be wondering how you can continue to financially support the church at this time recognising that there are still bills to be paid regardless of whether the church is open or not. One way of doing this is to take the opportunity and set up a Standing Order through your bank in favour of the church. If you are familiar with on-line banking, the key details for St Teresa's are **Sort Code: 40-13-22; Account Name: Catholic Church, Newbury Park; Account No: 71019716**. If, on the other hand, you would like a form to complete and send to your bank, then you can download one from the parish website or pick up one from the rack in the church porch. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation direct to the parish bank account. Another way is to drop off your donation through the Presbytery door using one of your "Gift Aid" envelopes, if you belong to the scheme, or, in a plain envelope marked "Offertory donation" if you are not. You can also use one of the special light blue "Gift Aid" envelopes which you will find at the back of the Church. **Whatever you decide, please do continue to support the church during these challenging times if you are able to do so.**

COFFEE MORNING The "Coffee Morning" last weekend organised by St Teresa's Ladies Guild for the benefit of the Medaille Trust **raised £170.90** Raffle Prize winners were *1st prize - Margaret Penfold; 2nd Prize - Anne Walsh; 3rd Prize - Maureen Gillan; 4th Prize - Marie Jeffries; 5th Prize -*

Mary Fitzpatrick: 6th Prize – Tarlach Mac Mahon. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and /or came along to support the event.

LENTEN ALMS GIVING There are still plenty of CAFOD boxes at the back of the Church for any of your loose change that might accumulate during the remainder of Lent. Please take one away with you and bring your box back to the Church when normal services are resumed. **Remember, your small change can make a big change.**

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE The remainder of this course *has been deferred* until restrictions on social contact have been lifted..

“GIFT AID” ENVELOPES If you currently use the envelope scheme for your weekly Offertory donation and haven't yet collected your new box of envelopes for the coming financial year, **then please do so now from one of the tables at the back of the Church near the Repository.** Also, if you want to start to “Gift Aid” your weekly offertory donation or have any questions about the scheme itself, then please get in touch with Pat Callaghan, the Parish Gift Aid Organiser, on 020 8220 0306 or email patjcallaghan@gmail.com

RAMFEL The Parish Knights of St Columba will be taking items to the RAMFEL Foodbank in Ilford this week. Donations of non-perishable food may be left by the Presbytery door during the coming week. Unfortunately, RAMFEL is currently unable to accept donations of clothing. For more information please visit www.ramfel.org.uk/wordpress/news/

HOLY WEEK POSTERS Although Holy Week is still a couple of weeks away, the usual posters are now available in church. If you are able to, please take one and display it when Holy Week begins (**Sunday 05 April**). If you know of someone who normally displays a poster but is unable to visit the church you might like to put one through their door together with a copy of this Newsletter.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION The following traditional prayer is commended to those who are prevented from receiving Holy Communion at the present time.

***My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to
You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.***

TWIN PARISH Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the parish of Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, with whom we are twinned and their parish priest, Fr Mandla Makhanya.

HOLY SOULS The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the souls of our departed relatives and friends originates in the early church and is deeply rooted in our catholic culture. Both as an act of charity and as a practical act of mercy, we might also care to remember in this way all the forgotten souls in purgatory. The Donations box on the counter at the back of the church by the Repository has a section that is marked for the “Holy Souls”. All the donations put into that part of the box are used exclusively for Masses to be said for the Holy Souls here in St Teresa's or, are sent to Missio, for the Masses to be said in a mission diocese overseas.

POOR BOX The Donations box on the counter at the back of the church by the Repository has a section that is marked for the “Poor”. All the donations put into that part of the box are used exclusively to help those in need especially those who occasionally call at the Presbytery seeking assistance. Any contributions would, of course, be most welcome and gratefully received.

VOTIVE CANDLES Please be extremely careful when lighting votive candles and only use those provided on the stand.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS If parishioners have any suggestions for works/defects which they think need attention either in the Church, Parish Hall, Pastoral Centre or grounds please let the Fr Matthew. or the Parish Secretary, know either in person, or by email to stteresas.np@gmail.com. Suggestions will be considered and prioritised according to urgency and available funds.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC If you are feeling drawn to the Catholic faith and would like to begin exploring the possibility of baptism or being received into the full communion of the church if you were baptised in another Christian community or completing the journey of initiation if you have not yet been confirmed, please speak to Fr Matthew as soon as possible. You will not be committed to anything at this stage, only encouraged to seek the gift of faith with an open heart.

VISITORS If you are a visitor to St Teresa's then you are most welcome, and we very much hope you enjoy the service you are attending. If you are a tax payer and would like to “Gift Aid ” your Offertory donation, then please use one of the special “Gift Aid” envelopes which you will find at the back of the Church.



FR DOMINIC AT 50 Fr Dominic is turning 50 in September, and to mark the moment he is solo cycling 5000km between now and then – all without leaving Walsingham House at Abbotswick! He is raising money for the BCCS, Help Refugees, HCPT and Walsingham House. You can donate online, and all the details are at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50>. Or send cheques payable to “Fr D Howarth” to FrDominic5000at50, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Essex CM14 5SH.

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN’S CAMP Do you know a child in need of a holiday between the ages of 8 and 13? The St John Bosco Children’s Camp is an activities camp with a Catholic ethos situated in Aldham, Essex. The Camp runs on the following dates

Week 1: Saturday, 25 July - 01 August for Boys

Week 2: Saturday, 01 August - 08 August for Boys

Week 3: Saturday, 08 August - 15 August for Girls

Week 4: Saturday, 15 August - 22 August Mixed Camp

The suggested donation is £165 per week, including transport to and from London. Should you require an application form or more information then please visit our website - www.svpboscocamp.org.uk

THE PASSAGE is raising funds through the “Big Give” **until 12 noon on this coming Tuesday, (24 March)** to support its work helping homeless people to move away from the street to a new home and to return to work. **“Double your Donation, Double your impact”**. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gives £10 online, matched giving would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth on 020 75921886 or email him at andrew.h@passage.org.uk You can donate at <https://bit.ly/334RmGH>

PLANTING TREES FOR THE FUTURE Because of the coronavirus outbreak, plans to plant the 105 trees donated by the Woodland Trust at Walsingham House at Abbotswick (Navestock Side, CM14 5SH) **next Saturday, (28 March) have, regrettably, had to be cancelled.**

FAMILY RESOURCES The Diocese's Marriage and Family Life department has put together a page of resources to support families as the domestic church at the present time: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/>

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE EVENTS Given the evolving situation in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak, all training and BDES events scheduled to take place **up and until Wednesday, 29 April** have

been postponed. The situation will be reviewed before the Easter break and a further decision taken about training and events after 29 April at that point.

LONDON MARATHON 2020 Fr Marek (St Cedd’s) will once again be running in the London Marathon **now postponed to Sunday, 04 October** on behalf of the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society (BCCS). If you would like to support him and this worthy cause, all you need to do is forward a donation to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarekPabis2020>

SPONSORED SLEEPOUT Because of the coronavirus outbreak, plans for the sponsored sleepout **on Friday, 03 – Saturday, 04 April** in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotswick. **have, regrettably, had to be cancelled.**

NEWSLETTER ITEMS If you have any items for inclusion in the weekly Newsletter then please email them to stteresas.np@gmail.com **The copy deadline for including items in the Newsletter is Thursday 12 noon.** Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee to include all requests we receive in the paper edition, but we will make every effort to accommodate articles and insertion requests in the on-line edition including job vacancies.

Job Opportunities

(None to Report)