

THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3rd May 2020

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Today Mass will be available on our website and Social Media pages at 11am. **Holy Hour** will be on Fridays at 7pm.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is kept as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Diaconate. As well as praying that more men and women may answer the call of the Lord, so we also pray for those in seminary, convents or monasteries who are exploring and discerning their vocation. Especially we remember in our prayers Shalana, Alan and Alan who are engaged in this at that moment. We pray also for our parish, that it may be a faithful community in which vocations may be nurtured and nourished.

A Prayer for Vocations: Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of souls, who called the apostles to be fishers of men, raise up new apostles in your holy Church. Teach them that to serve you is to reign; to possess you is to possess all things. Kindle in the hearts of our young people the fire of zeal for souls. Make them eager to spread your Kingdom upon earth. Grant them the courage to follow you, who are the Way, the Truth and the Life; who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for: Ross and Lee family; Patrick McCullagh (RIP); Carolyn Cunningham (RIP); Bill Heffernan (RIP); Mary Power (RIP); Rose Bradley (RIP); Anne Moriarty (RIP); Teresa McCafferty; Rita Saldaha (RIP); James Murphy (RIP); Carolyn Cunningham (RIP); Josbin and Betsy (Thanksgiving); Jim Lawlor (RIP); Victor Boguniewicz (RIP); Noreen Cody (RIP); Eddie Walsh (RIP); Bridget O'Connor; Brid Hurley (Ints); Packie Doherty (RIP Anni); Kathleen Delaney (RIP).

Masses will be offered privately each day by the priests, and all intentions which have been previously booked will be honoured and fulfilled.

This month of May is 'a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne', wrote Paul VI in his Encyclical, *Mense Maio*, in 1965. Why not make the prayer of St Bernard, the Memorare, part of your daily devotion to Our Blessed Lady in the month of May:

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

This Friday at 7.00pm there will again be a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction. During this time, we would encourage everyone to join us in the praying of the Holy Rosary. This Friday we will be contemplating the Mysteries of Light, and it will be available via our website and Social Media pages; details of which can be found at the top of this newsletter.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Please could the families of all patients in the QE Hospital make sure that the ward is notified that the patient is a Catholic and they would like to see the Chaplain. This means the Chaplain will be notified.

Q.E Hospital: If you, or family members are in hospital, please let the ward know that the chaplain is notified. In these high-pressured times, he won't have the time or freedom to go around searching. People will be missed if the hospital staff aren't informed. In non-urgent cases you can leave a message for him on 0121 371 4568.

Care Homes in the Parish: If you have a family member in one of the Care Homes in the Parish, and they need a visit from the priests in an emergency, this needs to be requested through the staff at the care home.

If you need to speak to either one of the priests, it is encouraged to do so via a phone call or email. Similarly, if you should require a priest in an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Presbytery.

Baptisms: due to rules concerning gatherings, baptisms (apart from those in *periculo mortis*) are to be delayed until such a time as the church building reopens.

Easter Duties 2020 from the Bishops Conference: "Many of you will be aware of performing your "Easter Duties"; that is, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again."

It is with great sadness that funerals cannot be held in churches at the moment. Until such time as the present restrictions are lifted, the Archbishop has stated that funeral services must be held at the graveside or in the crematorium chapel with close family. On the day of a funeral the Priest will offer a Requiem Mass privately for the deceased. As soon as we can gather once more, there will be an opportunity for a public Requiem Mass with family and friends at request.

As a parish community it is particularly sad when we can't be present at the Funeral Masses of those whose who have been part of the fabric of our parish and express our sorrow and affection. However, do please then make a special effort to bring them in prayer to the Lord in whom we are all one.

The dates below in brackets are the day of the funeral. This is so that those, apart from close family attending, can remember them in their own prayers that day.

We pray for those who have died from the parish: Tim Crowley (12th May); Mary Black (11th May), Elizabeth Creasy (22nd May), Pauline Conmee, Thomas Carew, Helena Komisarczuk (7th May), Winifred Clarke (6th May), Margaret McLaughlin, Francesco Di Maria (30th April), Pat Fitzpatrick (6th May), Peter Marshall (19th May), Mary Reddington, Norman Hough (5th May), May Shuttleworth, Martin Shaughnessy, Ronald Marsh (20th May).

Our prayers have also been asked for others who have died recently: Fr Bernard O'Connor (24th April), Cathy MacLeod, Fr Andy Kenny (15th May), Bishop Leo McCarrie (12th May) and Fr Antony Conlon (5th May)

A Prayer written by Bede Jarrett, a Dominican friar:

We seem to give them back to Thee, O God who gavest them to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world giveth, givest Thou O Lover of souls. What Thou givest Thou takest not away, for what is Thine is ours also if we are thine. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee. And while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where Thou art we may be also for evermore. Amen.

An Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The Easter Season continues for another forty-two days until the feast of Pentecost.

A parishioner has passed on to us a prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence:

O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilent and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Weekly offerings can be posted through the St Dunstan's Presbytery letterbox. Please ensure that offerings handed in using a sealed envelope, either the usual Gift Aid ones or a plain envelope and clearly marked whether for St Dunstan's or St Jude's. Please do not push loose change through the letterbox. **There are also other ways of giving available on our Parish website.**

Usually on Good Friday there is the collection for Holy Places and, at Easter, the Easter Offering for the Priests. Thanks to those who have already sent these in. For many of you there is not the opportunity or freedom of getting out, but do not worry, the Archbishop has asked that when we return to public Mass, there will be an opportunity for those who haven't had chance to contribute to these collections.

Let us pray for one another at this time, and especially for the sick and those in our hospitals, care homes and local surgeries who care for the sick: that through the prayers we offer both privately and individually, we may soon be united once more together around the altar of God.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2020: Sadly, the shrine have announced that they are unable to open the pilgrim accommodation during the pandemic and will remain closed until at least the end of July. This means that our pilgrimage will not now be able to go ahead. Although we have paid just the deposits, they will carry these over to the following year. Thanks to Isobel O'Connell for all the work she has done in organising the pilgrimage – and we look forward to returning to Walsingham again!

Also, the priests and brothers based at the shrine at Walsingham do live stream Mass and devotions each day. If you google 'Walsingham National Shrine' you should find a link.

Magnificat Magazine is an excellent resource for us currently. Each edition contains the prayers and readings for Mass each day, a meditation on the theme of the readings each day, a shortened form of Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, and a number of articles concerning our faith, the Saints, and Christian art. It is a monthly publication and can be delivered directly to your home. To subscribe, you can phone 020 7448 3607.

An Act of Spiritual Communion: 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.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass: O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 27th April

English Martyrs

Acts 7: 55 – 60; Psalm 30; Matthew 10: 17 – 20

Tuesday 28th April

Easter Feria

Acts 11: 19 – 26; Psalm 86; John 10: 22 – 30

Wednesday 29th April

Easter Feria

Acts 12: 24 – 13: 5; Psalm 66; John 12: 44 – 50

Thursday 30th April

Easter Feria

Acts 13: 13 – 25; Psalm 88; John 13: 16 – 20

Friday 1st May

Easter Feria

Acts 13: 26 – 33; Psalm 2; John 14: 1 – 6

Saturday 25th April

Easter Feria

Acts 13: 44 – 52; Psalm 97; John 14: 7 – 14



During the Easter Season we don't recite The Angelus, but instead we use the Easter Marian Anthem, the *Regina Caeli*.

6. **R** Egina cœ-li * lætare, alle-lú-ia : Qui-a quem me-
ru- isti portare, alle-lú-ia : Resurrexit, sic-ut di-xit, alle-
lú-ia : Ora pro nó-bis Dé-um, alle-lú- ia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.