

THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 26th April 2020

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This coming Friday we begin the month of May. The 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.

Each Friday at 7.00pm in May there will 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 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. 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 3714568.

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.

It is with great sadness that funerals cannot be held in churches at the moment. The Archbishop has stated that funeral services must be held at the graveside or in the crematorium chapel. On the day of a funeral the Priest will offer a Mass of Requiem 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 for their families. However, do please then make a special effort to bring them in prayer to the Lord in whom we are all one.

For those who have died from the parish: Tim Crowley, Mary Black, Elizabeth Creasy, Pauline Conmee, Thomas Carew, Helena Komisarczuk, Winifred Clarke, Margaret McLaughlin, Francesco Di Maria, Pat Fitzpatrick, Peter Marshall, Mary Reddington and Norman Hough.

Our prayers have also been asked for others who have died recently: Fr Bernard O'Connor, Cathy MacLeod, Fr Andy Kenny and Bishop Leo McCarty.

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.

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.

During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for: Colette While (RIP); Maureen Sheehan (RIP); June O'Keeffe (RIP); Peggy Leydon (RIP); Eilish Enwright (RIP); Jessica and Nigel (Sp Ints); Delrose Joseph (RIP); Arun Thomas (Ints); Eileen Kilkenny (RIP); Anna Mathew (RIP); Rod Bolton (RIP); Tom Brosnan (RIP); Sean Molloy; Catherine Conboy; James, Gill and Margret Farrington (RIP); Neil McNicholas (RIP); Ross and Lee family; Patrick McCullagh (RIP); Carolyn Cunningham (RIP); Bill Heffernan (RIP); Mary Power (RIP); Rose Bradley (RIP).

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

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."

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.

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. Our Lady, Help of Christians: pray for us.

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 pestilence 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.

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 either phone 020 74483607 or visit the Magnificat website at www.magnificat.co.uk

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.

Pope Francis' prayer to Our Lady during Coronavirus Pandemic: O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, the salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

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



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.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14,22-33

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified.

Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 27th April

Acts 6: 8 – 15; Psalm 118; John 6: 22 – 29

Easter Feria

Tuesday 28th April

Acts 7: 51 – 8: 1; Psalm 30; John 6: 30 – 35

Easter Feria

Wednesday 29th April

1 John 1: 5 – 2: 2; Psalm 102; Matthew 11: 25 – 30

Feast of St Catherine of Siena

Thursday 30th April

Acts 8: 26 – 40; Psalm 65; John 6: 44 – 51

Easter Feria

Friday 1st May

Acts 9: 1 – 20; Psalm 116; Matthew 13: 54 – 58

St Joseph the Worker

Saturday 25th April

Acts 9: 31 – 42; Psalm 115; John 6: 60 – 69

St Athanasius