



St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

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Third Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 26th April -

Vigil Mass: Saturday 6.30p.m.

– Cosme Damiao Martins R.I.P.

9a.m. – Zacarias and Juliet Rodrigues R.I.P

11a.m. – People of the Parish

Monday 27th April

10a.m. – Slimon and Laura Gonovatnon

Wedding Anniversary

Tuesday 28th April

10a.m. – Victoria R.I.P.

Wednesday 29th April - St. Catherine of Sienna

Patron of Europe

10a.m. – Rose Cunnane – Get well intention

Thursday 30th April

10a.m. – Young Breda's Special Intention

Friday 1st May – St. Joseph the Worker

9a.m. Requiem Mass – Marie Berry R.I.P

10.15 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12.30 p.m. FIRST FRIDAY MASS – for all who are sick at home and around the world

Saturday 2nd May

10a.m. Mass for your intentions

Vigil 6.30 p.m. Margaret Flannery R.I.P.


Sunday 3rd May - 4th Sunday of Easter

9a.m. People of the Parish

11a.m. For Nurses, Doctors and all on the frontline

SUNDAY – 26th APRIL - 5 p.m. HOLY HOUR,
BENEDICTION and SPIRITUAL
REFLECTION

Pope Francis
Prayer for protection from Coronavirus



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

St Teresa's School, Montacute Road, Morden.

Tel No 020 8648 1846

Headteacher; Mr Justin Dachtler.

Merton Catholic Deanery

www.mertoncatholics.org.uk



Dear Friends,

I hope you are coping with the challenges that we, our nation and our world are facing. Stay in the World of Prayer, stay connected with your Holy Rosary, with devotions and Novenas. In the weeks to come we will journey to the feast of Pentecost. As we do so, we enter into the month of Our Lady. As a parish we shall have some very special Masses in her honour. We need her blessing and her support.

She can help as we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. She supported St. Peter and the Apostles in the Upper Room. The door to that room is open for you to enter, rest and pray.

If your thoughts take you into the Pandemic that we are facing, remember; and it's very important – the Coronavirus is not some form of divine punishment but a tragic event that, like all suffering in one's life, is used by God to awaken humanity. Pray for humanity, seek Heaven's blessings for all Nations. Seek the support and intercession of the Archangels and your Guardian Angel.

This week we are blessed with feasts. One of them is St. Catherine of Sienna – the patron Saint of Italy. Please keep the Italian people in your prayers on that day. This wonderful saint used to say: "*Don't wait for time because time won't wait for you*". This one sentence, we should never forget. Let us love God in the present moment, doing his will with all our heart.

Candles for Your Intentions

Please let me know if you would like me to light a candle for your intentions at Our Lady's Shrine or the Sacred Heart. I will also say a prayer for that private intention.

Some Spiritual Thoughts....

One of the most direct roads to God is our neighbour.

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It is better to be less perfect while remaining in unity with our neighbour than to be more perfect but in disunity. Because perfection does not lie in ideas or in wisdom but in love.

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We have to see one another the way God sees us, not out to criticise and condemn, but filled with mercy and ready to help one another.

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Those who assist the sick should be like Angels whose efforts go unnoticed but who are missed when they are not around. This is the trait of love.

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PERFECT CONTRITION AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

What to do if you cannot go to Confession or Holy Communion due to the COVID-19 coronavirus:

If you have to self-isolate or are quarantined, you will be unable to receive the sacraments as normal. In these circumstances, there are devotions through which you can receive absolution for your sins (under certain conditions), and the consolation of Eucharistic grace.

The following devotions are officially encouraged by the Church and have been practised by saints.

How to make an Act of Perfect Contrition

Through an act of Perfect Contrition, you receive pardon for your sins outside of confession, even mortal sins, on condition that you are determined to amend your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as this becomes possible for you.

Perfect Contrition is a grace from God, so sincerely ask for this gift throughout the day prior to making you act of contrition: *'My God, grant me perfect contrition for my sins.'*

1. In reality or imagination kneel at the foot of the crucifix and say to yourself: “ *Jesus, my God and my Saviour, in the midst of your agony, you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wished to wipe away my sins*”
2. Contrition is ‘perfect’ if you repent your sins because you love God and are sorry for having offended Him and causing the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Before the Crucified Christ remember your sins, repent of them because they have bought our Lord His sufferings on the cross. Promise him that with His help, you will not sin again.
3. Recite, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focussed on the goodness of God and your love of Jesus: “*O my God, because You are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against You and by the help of Your grace I will not sin again. Amen.*”
4. Make a firm resolution to go to a sacramental confession as soon as practically possible.

How to make a Spiritual Communion

The key to Spiritual Communion is to grow in your heart a constant desire for the Blessed Sacrament.

1. If you are aware of serious or mortal sin, make an Act of Perfect Contrition
2. Imagine the sacred words and actions of the Mass or watch online or on TV.
3. Make all those acts of faith, humility, sorrow, adoration, love and desire that you usually express before Holy Communion.
4. Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present – Body, Blood, soul and Divinity – in the Blessed Sacrament,
5. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de’ Ligouri: “*My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You, Amen.*”
6. After moments of silent adoration make all those acts of faith, humility, love, thanksgiving and offering that you usually express through prayers after Holy Communion.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES – MASS FOR THE SICK AND THEIR FAMILIES, NHS FRONT-LINE WORKERS AND THOSE CARING IN SOCIAL CARE: The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries, Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with those who are involved, each week a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live streamed for people to join, This will take place every Thursday at 7p.m.

30 th April	Bishop Richard Moth at Arundal Cathedral
7 th May	Bishop Marcus Stock at Leeds Cathedral
14 th May	Bishop Robery Byrne CO at Newcastle Cathedral
21 st May	Bishop Mark Davies at Shrewsbury Cathedral
28 th May	Bishop Terence Draineay at Middlesbrough Cathedral

By visiting the Cathedral's webpage, or the Bishop's Conference Webpage (www.cbcew.org.uk) links for the live-streaming of these Masses to be found.

OUR SICK and HOUSEBOUND – We have twelve parishioners who are sick and housebound – we bless each of them and keep them in our prayer. We are also aware that some of our parishioners must self-isolate as they have contracted COVID-19, Corona Virus. You are in our prayers and we wish you a speedy recovery. We also have parishioners young and old who must self-isolate for three months. Be assured you are wrapped in our prayers and if you need a chat or a blessing over the 'phone I am more than willing to support you. We remind everyone that we are on WhatsApp, if you wish to join.

We ask Our Lady and St. Teresa to intercede for all the Sick and Housebound, for all who find themselves in hospital, for those coping with the Corona Virus, and other health issues. May our prayers and those of the parish family, see them on the road to recovery. We keep in our prayers Jean Lue, Ms Ruba Santiapillai, Baby Alexander Lynch, Joseph Lunn, Erika Geddes, Barry Falcon, Denise Waaldjk, Lena McBride and Valerie Somerset. We keep those who care for them and all key workers in prayer, with our gratitude.

GRACIOUS and LOVING FATHER hear our prayers for all our doctors, nurses and all on the frontline fighting this Corona Virus. Strengthen them in body and soul, watch over them as they minister to all who are fighting this virus, that takes the lives of young and old. We ask you to bless our hospital chaplains and ask your blessing and protection for all who in our Nursing and Senior Citizens Homes – AMEN.

THE LORD HAS CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE:

GLENYS MARSH. Back in the early 90's the Legion of Mary visited her, she was delighted. Glenys had been thinking of becoming a Catholic. She attended RCIA classes and was received into the Church in 1992. Her faith was strong, She did her best to get to Mass until ill health and age got the better of her. She loved the lord, she loved welcoming Him into her home when one of our Eucharistic Ministers would call each week. She had a small group of friends who reached out to her with support and love. We are her family- please keep her in prayer.

ROSALITA GRANIL was called into Eternal Life on Holy Saturday night. This daughter of the Philippines was a mother of six. Blessed with eleven Grandchildren and six Great Grandchildren – two of her Grandchildren attend out Primary School. She died in her 74th year. She joins her husband who passed away two years ago. She attended Holy Mass, would pop into Church for a few minutes at school time to honour the Lord in Adoration, and her Rosary was well thumbed. We offer her family our blessing and journey with them in prayer to meet the Risen Lord.

GERARD EZE DURUEKE - I announced Gerard's death on Divine Mercy Sunday. We have kept this young man in his mid-thirties, from Nigeria, in our daily prayers. For the past few years he has been a keen and active member of the Legion of Mary. He was also an Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration and prayer were part of his daily diet. We commend his Soul to the LORD of DIVINE MERCY.

MAY ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PECE AND RISE IN GLORY!

The following funerals have been arranged. PLEASE PRAY FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Friday 1st May **9a.m.** Marie Berry R.I.P.

Monday 4th May **9.30 a.m.** Mary Ann Doyle R.I.P.

Monday 11th May **10 a.m.** Rosalita Granil R.I.P.

The Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic is not only affecting the way we take care of the living, but also how we take care of our dead. Without aa doubt it has certainly been a challenging time for Undertakers, Funeral Homes and families alike – trying to come up with creative, yet very safe, to serve families. Since the cancellation of public Masses as a COVID-19 precaution, Undertakers and Crematoriums have been challenged with creating services that are respectful, faith-based and don't involve a group of more than six – the limit set by health officials.

Here at St. Teresa's, we have been offering a Requiem Mass on-line. This has been a great help to families. Extended family, friends and parishioners have been able to come together in prayer. We had three funerals this week and two last week. Being able to see the Mass on-line has been a great consolation. Family and friends have tuned in from all around the world: Bolivia, Ireland, Australia, India, Malta, Italy, Spain, Poland, Jersey and many different places in America. Here in the U.K. it has been a blessing for those not able to travel or attend because of health and age reasons.

The restrictions on crowd size – and for Catholic families, the absence of Holy Mass and the chance to receive the Body and Blood of Christ has been heart breaking. Not being able to hug and console one another at Church or at the Cemetery has not been easy for many. Celebrating a Requiem Mass on livestreaming will help. I will do my very best to make it a special Mass for all the family.

The death of a loved one is always heart breaking. Organising a funeral, learning that it might be four to six weeks, is not easy to deal with. As a parish we support in prayer the family every step of the way. We have three funerals booked for the early days of May and waiting to hear details of three others. We will bless their souls in the prayer of our Masses.

The Pope Prays for Teachers and Students Adapting to On-Line Learning

Pope Francis prayed for teachers and student who are trying to adapt and do their work online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Let us pray today for teachers who have to work so hard in order to do lessons on the internet and other media” the Pope said on April 24th at the beginning of his early morning Mass.

“Let us also pray for students who have to take their exams in a way they are not used to,” he said.

In his homily at the Mass, which was live streamed from the Chapel of his residence, Pope Francis *looked at how Jesus was always teaching his Apostles to be servants who are never afraid to be close to the people and to give them concrete assistance.*

“Jesus loved being in the middle of the crowd” because, in addition to being the best way to serve them, it was *“a symbol of the universality of redemption,”* said the Pope.

But the crowd was *“one of the bigger things that the Apostles did not like,”* he said, because they wanted to be *“close to the Lord, to hear the Lord, to hear everything the Lord said.”*

The Apostles’ attitude was understandable he said, because *“they were chosen and they felt a bit (like) a privileged few, a privileged class an ‘aristocracy,’ let’s say, close to the Lord and the lord did things to correct them so many times.”*

For example, he said, when Jesus got angry with the Disciples who were trying to turn the children away from him for fear of them being a nuisance or the time on the road to Jericho when the beggar was told to be silent, but Jesus wanted him to be brought near.

Jesus was always teaching and showing his disciples to be close to the people of God, the Pope said.

“It is true the people of God tire out a pastor, he gets tired,” he added, and the better the priest is at doing good things for people, the more they will keep knocking and asking for help.

The people of God are always asking for things that are concrete, he said.

Sometimes they are wrong in what they ask for, like how after Jesus fed the multitude, as told in the day’s Gospel reading, they wanted to make him a King, he said.

But they are always asking for something concrete, and, in the reading, Jesus tests the disciples by asking them where they could go to buy enough food for all the people who gathered around them, the Pope said.

Essentially, he was telling them it was their responsibility to get the people something to eat, which is the same thing Jesus is saying to priests today, Pope Francis said.

“You give (the people) something to eat. Are they in distress? You give them consolation. Have they gone astray? You give them a way out. Have they made a mistake? You give them something to solve their problems. You give them something” is the recurring lesson, he said.

“The power of the Shepherd is service, he has no other power and when he mistakenly assumes another power, he ruins his vocation, and becomes, I don’t know, a manager of pastoral enterprises, but not a shepherd,” Pope Francis said.

The pastoral dimension is not found in the “structures,” but rather in the heart of the priest, he said.

“Let us pray today to the Lord for the shepherds of the Church, that the Lord always speaks to them because he loves them so much.”

Last weekend's Offertory - Standing Orders £729.00. Offerings £329.00 Total - £1,058.00

We will be happy to receive any offerings directly by on-line banking or by standing order, which can be arranged through your bank, on-line or by using the [DONATE](#) link on the parish website. With thanks for your continued support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT – Please continue to keep me in prayer and my brother Priests. As we journey to the Feast of Pentecost, call on the Holy Spirit to bless you in your own vocation and pray that the Church, its Priests and Bishops will enter a new era of renewal. The Church will face many new challenges over these next few years. Its leaders will need your prayerful support. Intercessory prayer will be sorely needed. Your witness to the Gospel, your witness to the Commandments, your witness to your Faith will become increasingly important.

Every Catholic is responsible for priestly renewal. Holier priests lead to a holier Church. Pope Francis, our Cardinals, Bishops need your prayers now more than ever. Please try and find time for more prayer, and in your own words speak to God, He is listening. Open your heart to Him. Share with Him your own worries but also your hope for His Church here on Earth.

