



St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Margaret O'Donovan



Fifth Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 10th May

Vigil Mass: Saturday 2nd May 6.30p.m. For the Holy Souls.

9a.m. Alexandrine Martins

11a.m. People of the Parish

5 p.m. HOLY HOUR, BENEDICTION and SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Monday 11th May

10a.m. **Funeral Mass – Rosalita Granil R.I.P.**

Tuesday 12th May

10a.m. Winifred Winum R.I.P

Wednesday 13th May - Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

10a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

Thursday 14th May – St. Mattias, Apostle

10a.m. Andrew C. Gomes R.I.P.

Friday 15th May – The Blessed Virgin Mary; Health of the Sick

10 a.m. Joseph Lunn

Saturday 16th May – Feast of St. Simon Stock

10a.m. For your intentions

Vigil Mass 6.30 p.m. Antoneta Gouveia R.I.P.

Sunday 17th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

9a.m. People of the Parish

11a.m. Peter and Mary Tite – Special Intentions

5p.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.



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Headteacher; Mr Justin Dachtler.

Merton Catholic Deanery

www.mertoncatholics.org.uk



V.E. DAY – Victory in Europe

These past days our Nation has been united in remembering what happened 75 years ago. Let us remember all those who lost their lives as a result of war and pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and of our fellow men and women; that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for peace and the welfare of nations.

At our Sunday Masses this weekend we will remember the men and women who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny. We thank God for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We owe so much to that generation; may they never be forgotten.

Friday's 10a.m. Mass – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, HEALTH of the SICK and Help of Christians, our Advocate, bless our Parish, help suffering humanity, save us from the evil of this pandemic and obtain for us every good necessary for our salvation and sanctification.

In the weeks and months to come we shall see many more people donning masks. It is what we need to do when we find ourselves in spaces where numbers of peoples and confines of space do not allow the physical distancing required to combat the Coronavirus. I am hoping that someone in the Parish or in my family will make me a few. I wouldn't stand a chance of making one myself. Our identities are partially veiled, making it difficult to recognise with certainty the other party.

As we continue our journey through the Easter season the Gospels tell us of a different type of masking. We see our Lord Jesus not instantly recognised by those who knew Him before his death on the Cross. We hear of the identity of Jesus being "masked" in such a way that He was not instantly recognisable. A good example that we heard recently was the Risen Lord walking on the road to Emmaus with two companions who did not recognise Him (Luke 24: 13-35). The reason was He now lives in a glorified state in virtue of his Resurrection. The Risen Lord is no longer bound by time or space, a condition unknown and hence unrecognisable to those who remain so constrained.

Dear friends, this does not mean, however, that Our Lord Jesus does not want to be recognised. On the contrary, He makes His presence known in a beautiful and powerful way. Those two companions, hearts broken at what they saw unfold back in Jerusalem their experience; a wonderful and sacred moment. These two men recognised Him in the Breaking of Bread, The presence of Jesus, the Risen Lord, will henceforth "masked" under signs, visible and recognisable only to the eyes of faith.

We are blessed to know and see these signs. From that same Gospel passage, and from others in Sacred Scripture, we know that He is wondrously and substantially present under the signs of bread and wine in the "breaking of bread" otherwise known as the sacrament of the Eucharist – HOLY MASS. In these tough days when physical presence at the Holy Mass is not possible, with so many ready and willing to offer up their Eucharistic hunger to save others, it is a powerful witness to their Catholic faith. So, it is good to recall other ways in which the Lord is really present in sign.

You are blessed if you know and appreciate that He is present in His Sacred Word. Jesus is the Word of God Incarnate. Reading the Holy Bible then, is not leafing through lifeless pages, but an encounter with the Living God. Can you find time to meet Jesus in His Word by reading (and meditating on) Sacred Scripture?

Matthew 18:20 also reminds us that He is present whenever two or three are gathered in His name. Those sacred encounters when we meet the Risen Lord in our midst are rich in blessings.

Matthew's Gospel quickly reminds us that Jesus is also to be met in persons who are poor, marginalised or in any way needy (Matthew 25:31-46). Cafod and many others are begging us not to forget them. So, in these challenging times for all nations, how do we try, with the realm of what is possible, to feed the hungry, visit the sick, reach out to the lonely? These are privileged and blessed encounters with the Risen Lord.

When this crisis is over, when the pandemic is over, we shall leave behind the habit of masking ourselves. The abiding presence of Our Lord will, however, remain veiled. Let's develop – and keep – the habit of recognising and encountering Him where He is found.

What is a NOVENA? The word Novena originates from the Latin '*Novem*' meaning nine. Novenas consist of a prayer, or series of prayers that are said at the same time for nine consecutive days or for nine hours. St. Teresa of Calcutta used the *MEMORARE* as her emergency hourly Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Enjoy seeking the Angels, Saints and Mary's assistance when you pray, knowing that as they celebrate with the Risen Jesus, they already hold his affection and friendship.

The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the prototype of all Novenas. It commemorates the nine days between the Ascension of the Lord and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost.

This year our Novena to the Holy Spirit begins on **Friday 20th May**.

Remaining Steadfast – The Rosary is the prayer of the humble and of the saints. In its mysteries, we contemplate, along with Mary, the life of Jesus; the merciful face of the Father. O, how much we all need to be truly comforted; to feel the embrace of His loving presence!

As Pope Francis said recently: *"The truth of this experience is measured in our relationship with others, who at this moment, are our closest relatives. Let us be close to one another, being charitable, understanding, patient and forgiving."*

Although you may be confined to your own homes, allow your heart to expand so that it may be available and welcoming to all.

In these difficult times Lord for my family and so many others may I ask you My Lord, please wrap your arms around my family and draw us closer to you and keep us safe.

Why is Our Lady of Fatima Important? With the Church around the world, we shall honour her this Wednesday. Her feast will bring us many blessings, which we and the whole world needs. Fatima is one of the most important Catholic shrines in the world dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Fatima's Sanctuary welcomes millions of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world.... may and October are months that stand out and especially the 13th May – the anniversary of Our Lady appearing to three young Portuguese shepherds Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco.

Our Blessed Lady asked the children to pray the Rosary for peace, for the end of World War One, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. This is why Our Lady of Fatima is called Our Lady of the Rosary. Our Blessed Mother also requested us to pray the following prayer at the end of each decade of the Rosary: *"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy, Amen."*

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us! Our Lady of the Rosary pray for us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us!

Our Sick and Housebound – We have many 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 pray for all elderly people, especially those who are ill or housebound. We also send a blessing to the bedsides of those in hospital – especially Irene and Anna. For those facing operations, receiving treatment for cancer, those suffering or recovering from Covid-19 – you are remembered every day in our Masses and Rosary

We ask Our Lady and St. Teresa to intercede for all the Sick and Housebound. May our prayers and those of the parish family, see them on the road to recovery. We keep in our prayers Irene Matthews, 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.

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 on Thursdays at 7p.m.

14th May	Bishop Robert Byrne CO at Newcastle Cathedral
21st May	Bishop Mark Davies at Shrewsbury Cathedral
28th May	Bishop Terence Drainey 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.

May they Rest in Peace: Every Church, every tabernacle, glows more brightly than the sun because love dwells there. Our soul is priceless and LOVE dwells there. It is a tabernacle of the Most High. When life comes to an end our soul leaves our body to meet our Creator. We meet the Mercy of God.

In these past weeks we have seen God's call for some members of our parish family and many from communities up and down the country. It has been a very sad time for many family and friends of the deceased.

Once again, we call out to God family and friends names. Prayer helps us through these dark days. The Lord's promise comes to mind: *"Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted."*

We remember those who are recently deceased: *Desmond Raynor, R.I.P. Philominammah Packiynather R.I.P. Colleen Conroy R.I.P. Bob Gibbard R.I.P. Gary Morgan R.I.P. and Marlene Rozario R.I.P.*

We also keep in our prayers those whose funerals will take place this month: *Rosalita Granil R.I.P. and Fr Gerry Flood R.I.P. – Monday 11TH May*

Desmond Raynor R.I.P. – Wednesday 20th May
Glynys Mary Marsh R.I.P. – Friday 29th May
Edward Eze Durueke – arrangements to be confirmed.

We continue to keep in our prayers those whose funerals have taken place recently:
Eileen Drudy R.I.P Margaret McCarthy R.I.P. Antonio Peretti R.I.P. Paddy Joyce R.I.P
Marie Berry R.I.P. Mary Ann Doyle R.I.P. Gorden Conroy R.I.P. and Mabel Anosike R.I.P.

May all Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May:

“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 prayer 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 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 to overcome this time of trial. I keep you all 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, 25th April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

First Prayer:

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and preserved in your faith.
“Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
To conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us,
through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
do not despise petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

Second Prayer:

“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 realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bonds that unite 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.

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.

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.

Last weekend's Offertory - Standing Orders £729.00. Offerings £59.00 Total - £788.00

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.