



St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Con Diver

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<https://www.stcm.org.uk>

Parish Secretary: Mrs Margaret O'Donovan



6th Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 17th May

Vigil Mass: Saturday 16th May 6.30p.m.

Antoneta Gouveia R.I.P.

9a.m. First Holy Communion Children and their families

11a.m. People of the Parish

5 p.m. ADORATION, BENEDICTION and SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Monday 18th May - Votive of Pope Saint John Paul II

10a.m. For the Parish Pastoral Council

Tuesday 19th May – Votive of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

10a.m. Pupils, Teachers and Staff of our Parish School

Wednesday 20th May – Requiem Mass

10a.m. Funeral Mass – Desmond Raynor R.I.P.

Thursday 21st May – ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

10a.m. Chris George and Family Intentions

Friday 22nd May – St, Rita of Cassia

10 a.m. For Parish Widows and Widowers

Saturday 23rd May – Our Lady of the Cenacle

10a.m. For your intentions

Vigil Mass Intentions of James Bush

Sunday 24th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

9a.m. People of the Parish

11a.m. Parish Catechists

5p.m. ADORATION, 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



Parish Prayer:

With St. Teresa, Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless the people of our parish. Help us to know you in a new and deeper way. Help us to listen to your word in our daily lives. In the power of your Spirit, open our hearts to your healing grace that we may be more faithful in following You; *“The Way, the Truth and the Life”*.

Lord bless all the families in the parish that may be experiencing hidden and special difficulties. Bless our parish school and the children and young people of our parish family and through the protection of your Blessed Mother deliver them and protect them from all that is evil.

Bless the elderly, the lonely, the poor and the sick, the unemployed, those in need, those in sorrow and despair. Bless and protect us from the consequences of the Corona Virus. Please, bless and protect and bring back those who have lost their way.

May Your love be upon us as we place all our hope in You.

Amen.

Prayers for the Clergy – Thank you for your support, especially for those who are sick at this time, or who are awaiting or undergoing surgery or treatment. These days are challenging and difficult for many priests, deacons and bishops. Your prayers are valued and greatly appreciated.

Prayers for Priests who have Died – Thank you for keeping in your prayers the following priests of the Archdiocese, or who have worked in the Archdiocese, who have died recently: Fr. Henry Reynolds, Fr. John Castelli, Fr. Gerry Flood and Archbishop Peter Smith; Emeritus Archbishop of Southwark.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS – The Archbishop has appointed as HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING – MRS MARY-JANE CROWLEY. Mary-Jane has extensive experience in the Metropolitan Police, the B.B.C. and the Scouts. We wish her all the best in her new role and keep her and her team in our prayers. Helen Shepherd takes on the role of leading on training. Her expertise will be greatly valued across the Diocese.

Archbishop Michael Bowen R.I.P. – It is good news, that in tribute to Archbishop Michael Bowen, the Finance Office, based in Westminster Bridge Road, will be renamed *“BOWEN HOUSE”*.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020:

Dear boys and girls,

I know that you and your family were looking forward to your First Holy Communion Day. So were we! This weekend and next weekend we hoped to see 80 of you receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. Your big day will come, and we look forward to that very much.

As soon as we can our Parish Catechist Team will swing into action to fast track your special day. At this time, it is not easy to give you a date, but with your parents help, we will do all we can to make it happen as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing our Churches open again. I look forward also to seeing you back in your favourite bench at St. Teresa's. In the meantime, if you are watching Holy Mass on-line, I encourage you at Holy Communion time to pray that very special prayer so many are praying these days – An Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer:

“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.”

MARRIAGES – PLEASE NOTE:

No one expected 2020 to turn out to be such a challenging year for us all. Couples in our parish had booked their big day and this is true up and down the country – couples are having to reorganise their special days. When parish life is back to normal, we will do our very best to work with couples and their families to facilitate the best possible Wedding Day. We look forward to that happening.

For marriages taking place in our parish or taking place in a Catholic Church elsewhere in the United Kingdom we wish to point out the following: BLUE FORMS, required by the registrar are valid for a period of 12 months from the time of issue. If the marriage date is re-arranged for within the 12month period that the Blue forms are valid, it is permissible to use the forms to satisfy the civil requirements. However, it is not possible to use these forms once the date of their validity has expired. In this instance, the couple need to apply for a new license from the Registrar’s office.

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 **22nd May**.

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, Coronavirus. 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 Coronavirus. 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 are 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.

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:

For those who have died recently and for those whose funerals are soon to take place especially:

Desmond Raynor R.I.P. Wednesday 20th May

Glynys Mary Marsh R.I.P. Friday 29th May

Marlene Rozario R.I.P. Monday 1st June

May Christ who was crucified for your sake, free you from torments;

May Christ who died for you, deliver you from eternal death;

May Christ, the Son of the living God, set you down in the fresh beauty of His paradise and may He, the Good Shepherd, claim you as one of His flock;

May He forgive all your sins and grant you a place among the elect at His own right hand.

There may you behold your Redeemer face to face and ever stand before Him, enraptured by the beauty of TRUTH itself and placed in the ranks of the Blessed, may you delight in the vision of God for ever and ever,

Amen

We pray for all those who are buried in our local cemeteries: and we commend to God's mercy parishioners, family members and friends and especially those who have been buried recently: Paddy Joyce, Antonio Peretti, Mary Berry, Eileen Drudy, Margaret McCarthy and Mary Ann Doyle.

May their suffering be lessened, their joy increased, may the light of glory shine on them and may they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

Pope Saint John Paul II – May 18th 2020

We shall celebrate a special Mass to honour this wonderful Servant of the Church. This Monday is the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II. For the centenary of the birth of St. John Paul II, the Polish bishops are encouraging people to use the hashtag, #THANKYOUJOHNPAUL2 on social media.

The idea is to use the hashtag to publish on social media short video, photos or statements thanking St. John Paul II for his pontificate. It is also a way to share memories of the late Pope for "younger

generations who have not had the opportunity to get to know him more closely, but who are very present on social networks". Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, president of the Polish Bishops Conference is encouraging us all to thank God in prayer in these days to come.

Breaking News....

The sainthood causes of St. John Paul's parents were formally opened in Poland last week. His parents Emilia and Karol Wojtyla lived lives of heroic virtue, they enjoyed a reputation for holiness and are regarded as intercessors. Their son always spoke highly of them and their witness to the faith. He once said that "*Saints are born of saints, nurtured by saints, draw life from the saints and their call to holiness*". May Emilia and Karol – John Paul II's parents be numbered among the Saints. I ask their blessing for you and your family!

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 your 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 £738.46. Offerings £38.02 Total - £776.48

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.



Pope Saint John Paul II - pray for us!