



# St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Margaret O'Donovan



## 7th Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

### *Mass Times and Intentions:*

#### *Sunday 24th May – Our Lady Help of Christians*

Vigil Mass: Saturday 16th May:

6.30p.m. James Bush's Intentions

9a.m. People of the Parish

11a.m. Nathan Pacheco

5 p.m. **ADORATION, BENEDICTION and SPIRITUAL REFLECTION**

#### *Monday 25th May – St. Bede the Venerable*

10a.m. Welfare of Jason Sigalas

#### *Tuesday 26th May – Requiem Mass*

10a.m. For the Unknown Victims of the Coronavirus

#### *Wednesday 27th May – St. Augustine of Canterbury, Apostle of England*

10a.m. Remo and Marina Dipre  
65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

#### *Thursday 28th May*

10a.m. Phyllis Donnelly R.I.P.

#### *Friday 29th May – St. Paul VI - Pope*

10 a.m. Funeral Mass - Glynys Marsh R.I.P.

#### *Saturday May 30th – Holy Mary; Fountain of Light And Life*

10a.m. For your intentions  
Vigil Mass 6.30p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Catechists

#### *Sunday 31st May – Pentecost Sunday*

9a.m. Intentions of Teresa and David Lees

11a.m. People of the Parish

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](http://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.

***The Bishops of England and Wales*** are continuing to work with the Government to enable our Churches to be opened as soon as possible for private individual prayer. Places of worship are important for all faith communities. Our bishops, and your priests fully support the quest to see our Churches open once again. In the early days of this happening we will need to be cautious. The Cardinal is leading the Task Force. Guidelines are being formulated and will soon be published. When this happens, we will be in a position to act.

Therefore, please begin to consider how we might be able to open our Parish Church for visits by individuals for private prayer.

- This will be for limited times each day, or even on certain days of the week.
- In this first step, it will NOT be for the celebration of Mass or any of the other sacraments, but purely for individual prayer.
- It will have to be well supervised and will need a team of volunteers to manage the process who are not in the COVID 19 vulnerable category.
- There will need to be the facility for socially distanced queuing to enter the Church building.
- Hand sanitisation will probably need to be available on entrance and exit.
- The entrance and exit to the Church building will need to be different routes.
- The floor and seating spaces will need to be properly marked out and social distancing will need to be enforced.
- Holy Water will not be available and, depending on demand, visits may have to be limited to a certain length.
- We will try to keep all areas of the Church open with statues available to venerate and will try to make it possible to light candles.
- Those supervising the entrance, exit and interior of the Church will need to wear protective items such as masks and gloves.
- There will need to be cleaning and hygiene regimes in place.
- Risk assessment will need to take place before we open our doors once again. Our Parish Pastoral Council will be involved at all stages.

It will be early July at the very earliest before we can open our doors to the Church FOR PRIVATE PRAYER. Please bear with us in the meantime.

Detailed information about this will be forthcoming when we are nearer to a date of opening. We need, as a parish, to work out the best plan possible. We can do that – with your help!

We have at least a month to think through what is being asked of us. It is very important to understand that:

1. Churches will only be allowed to open if the parish can demonstrate that it can put necessary measures in place.

2. Any parish which cannot do this, for whatever reason, is not obliged to open. At this first stage, opening will be a matter for local determination with full support from the Archdiocese for any parish that cannot manage to put in place the requirements necessary.
3. The diocese is exploring the possibility of centrally purchasing cleaning, hygiene and protective clothing materials, both to ensure a good supply and reduce costs. These will be available from designated locations.

So, dear friends, we do not have a date as yet, for when Churches will be allowed to open by the Government. But discussions are underway. We thank those who are on the Task Force, we are in unity with Archbishop John and his team. All our services will continue on-line. I will keep you informed of any positive developments. Please God, it will not be that long before we are opening our doors for private prayer, but also for Holy Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments.

***Mass for the Unknown Victims of Coronavirus*** – In these past days Pope Francis offered prayers for the unknown victims of COVID 19. His prayer highlights our need to support him at the Altar. THIS TUESDAY – 26<sup>th</sup> MAY, I invite you to join me on-line to offer our love and spiritual support for the souls called to eternal life. Thousands at home and around the world have been laid to rest in common graves. For different reasons they have been laid to rest in common graves. Drone images of workers in hazmat suits stacking rows of unmarked coffins has upset many people. So, let us pray in the Holy Mass – a Requiem Mass for all the ‘anonymous’ dead. We don’t know their names or their age, we do not even know their faith – if any. But we know God’s love and mercy, so we can pray for them and commend their souls to God. In, most cases we are looking at the poorest of the poor. Some families are not even able to afford the cost of a loved one’s funeral. Many are also with no family or friends – So, lets befriend them in prayer before God. Let’s help open the door for them to Eternal Life with our Requiem Mass.

### ***What Happens to Us After We Die:***

Q. You mentioned recently about our Passport to Heaven. So, I would really like to know the truth about what happens to us after we die?

Holy Mother Church teaches us that immediately after death, our soul separates from our earthly body and we stand before God for judgement, We then enter Heaven, Purgatory or hell.

Heaven is the ultimate end and the fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. Those who are free from all sin enter Heaven immediately.

Purgatory is a place of purification, for those who die in a state of grace and friendship with God but who are not yet fully purified. Those in Purgatory are assured a place in Heaven after their purification. We pray for those in Purgatory, in the midst of mercy, that they may soon be with God in Heaven.

Hell is for those who have willingly chosen to reject God and His love. If we persist in a state of serious sin, we damn ourselves to hell.

At the end of time, our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead. All Souls will be re-joined with their bodies, and those in Purgatory will be joined to the blessed in Heaven. The Last Judgement will reveal that God’s justice triumphs over all injustices committed by his creatures and that God’s love is stronger than death.

The above is adapted from the *Catholic Catechism for Adults*

**Candles....** lit for special intentions, with a prayer. Please let me know if you would like me to light a candle for your family, your birthday, wedding anniversary, for someone who is sick, in hospital or has to self-isolate. Please contact me by 'phone, text, email or via the parish WhatsApp group.

**May Devotions** – On the feast of St. Augustine, this Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7p.m. Archbishop John will be live streaming May Devotions and a Scripture Rosary of the Mysteries of Light from the Cathedral. Please join him if you can via the Cathedral website – [www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk)

**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. 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.

28th May Bishop Terence Draine at Middlesbrough Cathedral

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

**May they Rest in Peace:** Thank you for your prayers and spiritual support for families and parishioners who have had loved ones called to Eternal Glory.

We have two funerals pending:

*Glynys Mary Marsh* – Funeral will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Requiem Mass at 10a.m.

*Marlene Rozario* – Funeral will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Requiem Mass at 10a.m.

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the de Silva family. Rohan de Silva age 71 was called to Eternal Life last Sunday in Australia. Please pray for him, his funeral will take place this Friday in Australia. We bless his sister Carmen, Nihal and all the family in the days to come.

*May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.* Our loved ones, those who have died in these past weeks, those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We remember Daniel Patrick Carrol and Phyllis Donnelly. We shall keep them in prayer and light candles for them on behalf of our parish family.

### **Our Journey to Pentecost Sunday: Novena to the Holy Spirit**

The novena in honour of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all Novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. We have begun our Novena. These are the prayers we shall pray each day:

#### *Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit*

On my knees I before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of your love. You are the Strength and light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant heareth." Amen.

#### *Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into Heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining Heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

We shall each day focus on one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, followed by a prayer. Our Father.... Hail Mary..... Once followed by Glory Be to the Father..... seven times – the Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

## **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, 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 £320.81 Total - £1059.27

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*