



St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Con Diver

Parish e-mail address: morden@rcaos.org.uk

250, Bishopsford Road, Morden. SM4 6BZ. Tel. 8648 4113

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

Parish Secretary: Mrs Margaret O'Donovan



16th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 19th July – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil Mass – Saturday 18th July:

6.30p.m. Intentions of the Parish Family

9a.m. Francisco Ordillano R.I.P.

11a.m. Paddy and Josie Murphy R.I.P.

5 p.m. *Adoration, Benediction and Spiritual Reflection*

Monday 20th July – Votive Mass of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

10a.m. Chiara Muscas R.I.P. (1st Anniversary)

Tuesday 21st July – Votive Mass of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10a.m. Living and deceased members of the O'Donovan family

Wednesday 22nd July – Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

10a.m. Intentions of Joe Lunn and family

Thursday 23rd July – Feast of St. Bridget – Patron of Europe

10a.m. Intentions of Andrew, Melissa and Bernadette

Friday 24th July – Votive mass of the Holy Souls

10 a.m. Carmel Denny R.I.P.

Saturday 25th July – St. James, Apostle

10a.m. For Your Special Intentions

Vigil Mass 6.30p.m. James McKeon

Sunday 26th July – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9a.m. Intentions of Primrose Gunaratnam

11a.m. For the Parish Family

5p.m. *Adoration, Benediction and Spiritual Reflection*

Our Church will be open for Mass on:

Sundays at 9a.m. and 11a.m.

Weekdays at 10a.m.

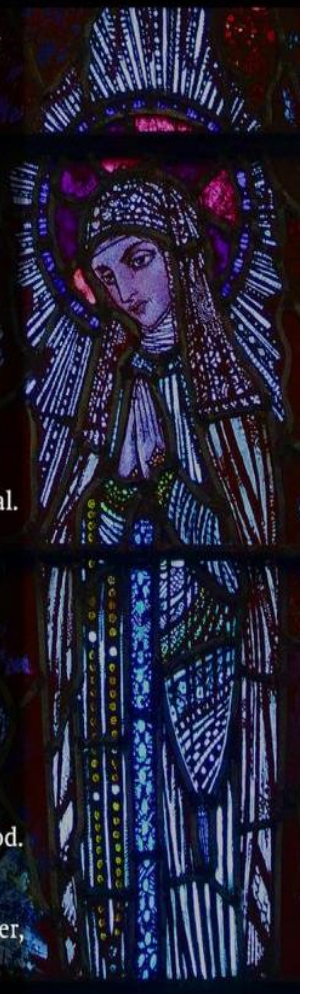
see [below for details](#)

but no longer for PRIVATE PRAYER on Friday and Saturday

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



Interested in Becoming Catholic? – We Can Help!

I am thinking of becoming a Catholic. What does it involve?

God calls us in different times and in different ways to know Him, love Him and Serve Him.

The first word is WELCOME. We are happy to open our door to the Catholic faith. We are happy to answer your questions. Our faith is sacred and we do our best to share what we know and what we understand.

You are invited into a relationship with the God who loves you. That is the message that is at the heart of the Catholic experience.

Catholicism is more than a list of its teachings. That is to say, we could investigate every aspect of Catholic teaching and experience and still fail to comprehend what it's all about. This is because our faith is more than a comprehension of and acceptance of a set of beliefs. Instead, a Catholic exists in response to a relationship with the eternal and infinite God, and the Catholic faith exists to point all people towards the wonder and reality of that relationship.

We are God's creation and every one of us is special. We are sons and daughters of God, called to do the same as Christ Jesus (see Philippians 2), aware that we belong to one another as we reveal the compassion and truth of Jesus Christ to the world. Our faith is priceless, yet we also clearly state that our faith is not a philosophy of life, a humanitarian movement, a school of thought, a political party or 'self-improvement' spirituality.

We, the Church, have much to offer you. Our Catholic faith is quite straightforward. God loves you and holds you in being: Jesus, His Son, wishes to live in you and transform you into a son or daughter of God: the sacraments (there are seven of them), are given to you to assist you with this transformation. You are to live your life by revealing Jesus' presence in you to the world and by helping those whose struggles make living the life God has for them difficult. The Holy Spirit has been poured into your heart to give you the strength and healing you need. Everything else is secondary.

So, let's look at how we help you on your Journey of Faith. At St. Teresa's we try to keep it a simple, prayerful and spiritual experience. Our team are members of the parish and have the gifts to lead a good meeting every week.

So, to remind you we are going to enter into a relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This relationship is priceless and comes to us in a specific way. When we say 'God' we mean God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, into whose life you are invited and sustained by means of the sacraments, a life of prayer and living in accord with the teachings of the Church.



Adult Initiation (R.C.I.A.)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process, restored in the Roman Catholic Church in the 1970's, celebrated once to prepare unbaptised adults for membership in the Church. Also called the "Catechumenate" this process of Christian initiation has several stages and ritual steps, leading up to the reception of all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, usually at the Easter Vigil – Easter Saturday. People undertaking this journey of initiation are called "catechumens".

If you have been baptised Catholic, but have not been Confirmed or received your First Holy Communion, then we would normally request that you join the R.C.I.A. process. People who are undertaking this journey are called "candidates".

If you have been baptised in another Christian tradition and wish to become a Catholic, your baptism is fully recognised by the Catholic Church. Baptism can only be celebrated once. Please note: we would wish to see your original baptism certificate to ensure that it was a Christian Baptism, and then you would be invited to join the R.C.I.A. process as a “candidate”. Finally, if you have been away from the Catholic Church for a long period of time, and wish to reconnect with Church teachings, then the R.C.I.A process might be a suitable place to start. This can best be worked out by meeting with Canon Michael or one of the R.C.I.A. team.

Where Do I Go From Here?

If you feel God calling you to follow Him as a member of the Catholic Church, we encourage you to pray about this call and when you feel comfortable, to contact the Parish Office or Canon Michael, to explore this call more deeply within a supportive and understanding community.

Lord, eternal source of light, justice and truth, take me under your tender care. Give me a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of right judgement and courage, a spirit of knowledge and reverence, so that, as I continue to seek You in my life, I may be filled more and more with wonder and awe in Your presence. Amen.

Our R.C.I.A. group meets once a week, in a relaxed, informative atmosphere for those seeking to deepen their relationship with God. We hope to restart our meetings in late September, with Corona Virus precautions in place. Watch out for announcements in the parish newsletter and on our website.

May They Rest in Peace

Please pray for ERIKA MATTIN R.I.P. – she has been called to Eternal Life. Born in Germany of Swiss parents, she was one of eight and is survived by a brother and sister who live in Germany. Erika married Abdul an International Journalist. They were blessed with a loving and caring daughter, Annie. Her daughter and son-in-law are arranging the funeral. We send out a blessing to all branches of the family. *May she rest in peace and Rise in Glory.*

We keep in prayer family, parishioners, friends, deceased priests and deacons, those who have died from the Corona Virus, those who have died in our local hospitals, care homes, hospices and especially those whose anniversaries occur during this month.

Lord Jesus, we love you and wish to prayerfully remember all our loved ones and friends who have been called to Eternal Life. Our parish wishes to reach out to one and all. Please give them comfort and hope and may they be at peace knowing that they will rest in God's arms eternally. Thank you for our sweet memories of them and for the good times we shared. Without hesitation we commend their holy souls to your Mercy. We keep them in prayer, in love and ask Our Blessed mother to intercede for them. May they reach their Heavenly destination. May we too stay close to You and may our soul in a state of Grace reach its final resting place. Amen.

Archbishop John Wilson KC*HS

This Saturday, 25th July, sees us celebrate Archbishop John's first year as our new Archbishop. His first year has been difficult and challenging. He has shown outstanding leadership and spiritual wisdom. Please keep him and our Diocese in your prayers.



You may like to pray this prayer:

*O God, eternal shepherd of the faithful,
who tends your Church in countless ways
and rules over her in love,
grant we pray,
that your servant
Archbishop John Wilson
whom you have set over your people,
may preside in the place of Christ
over the flock whose shepherd he is,
and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine;
a priest of sacred worship
and as one who serves them by governing.
We ask Your blessing for him, his Priests, his Deacons
and all who live out their faith in our parishes, schools and hospitals.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ONE GOD, for ever and ever,
Amen.*

Compassion for the Sick

Several families are facing difficult challenges ahead. When sickness comes through the door, life changes. We reach out in spiritual support to the One who is sick and carrying the Cross of Suffering. We also desire and ask Our Lady to hear our prayer for all the family and the friends of the family.

Can I encourage you to keep all the sick in prayer; those at home, in hospital, in nursing and care homes. We also send out a blessing across the diocese to all who are on the sick lists of all parishes, including those in hospice care.

This Litany is the one we pray on First Fridays at our Mass for all those who are sick. Can I encourage you and your family to become “Prayer Warriors” for the sick in their hour of need? Thank You!!

Litany of Compassion for the Sick

V: Lord have mercy. *R: Lord have mercy.*
V: Christ have mercy. *R: Christ have mercy.*
V: Lord have mercy. *R: Lord have mercy.*
V: Christ hear us. *R: Christ graciously hear us.*

[Repeat ‘*Lord, be close to give your comfort*’ after each phrase.]

When the healing process goes slower than hoped,
When terrified by treatments or therapy,
When it is hard to let go of long-held plans,
When the feeling of alienation arises,
When worn out and weary,
When troubled by impatience and negativity,
When loneliness adds to anxiety,
When sickness makes it difficult to communicate,
When discouragement or despondency sets in,
When fear makes it impossible to face the future,
When the ravages of disease attack self-esteem,
When anger and resentment assail,

When beset by worry or fretfulness,
When it is hard to rely on others for care,
When envy arises towards those who are healthy,
When pessimism or cynicism holds sway,
When anguish is intensified by the need for reconciliation,
When sickness is mistaken for punishment,
When loved ones are far away,
When financial hardship from illness leads to worry or despair,
When afflicted by the feeling of nothing to hope for,
When weakness makes it impossible to even think,
When friends draw back fearful of disease,
When illness makes those who are suffering moody or irritable,
When haunted by regret and the shame of past sins,
When it is difficult to sleep,
When there is a loss of appetite,
When there is resistance to necessary change,
When tempted by denial,
When nobody seems to understand,
When bound to home or restricted in movement,
When listlessness and apathy threaten,
When medication seems to make things worse,
When all that is needed is a caring touch,
When it is impossible to maintain familiar routines,
When it is hard to find the strength to go on,
When it becomes difficult to pray,
When suffering of any sort becomes hard to bear,
When death draws near,
Our Father...

Let us pray:

Most merciful Father, your beloved Son showed special compassion to lepers, tenderness to those long sick, and healing to the infirm. We place before you all those who are ill and in need of your healing grace.

May the love and mercy of the Divine Physician raise up all who suffer from sickness and restore them to health and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We continue to keep in our prayers: Leonard James Connolly, Thea Haddad, Maureen Smith, Irene Ward, Jean Lue, Ruba Santiapillai, Baby Alexander Lynch, Joseph Lunn, Erika Geddes, Barry Falcon, Denise Waaldjk, Lena McBride and Valerie Somerset.



Mass at St. Teresa's

Over the past few weeks our Parish and many others have worked diligently to implement the health and safety protocols necessary to welcome back our congregations.

I am truly grateful to our Parish Reopening Team. They have made it possible for us to go from private prayer to the public celebration of Holy Mass.

At this time, we are limited to 40 attendees per Mass. Our thanks to our parishioners for their patience and the responsibility they have shown to others attending Holy Mass. The pandemic is still with us and so the following guidelines are still in place:

St. Teresa's Parish General Protocols.

The Cardinal and the Archbishop wish to reassure you that THE DISPENSATION of the faithful from the obligation to attend SUNDAY MASS remains in place for the time being. **NO ONE IS OBLIGED to attend Holy Mass** whilst dispensation is in effect.

- All **Sunday and Weekday Masses will continue to be Streamed Live** on the Internet via the usual link.
- Attendees and volunteers from demographic groups at a greater risk of serious illness, such as people 65 years of age or older and individuals with chronic medical conditions, are encouraged to stay safe by avoiding public gatherings, but are not prohibited from attending Mass if they so choose.
- Anyone attending Mass does so at their own risk.
- All attendees are strongly encouraged to wear a mask before entering the church, until they leave. Each person should bring their own masks.
- **Another reminder:** ANYONE who has even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain home.
- THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY, (at this time), at Holy Mass is JUST 40 to be compliant with physical distancing guidelines issued by The Bishop's Conference and the Government
- Until further notice: Our Parish will adopt a **FIRST COME, FIRST-SERVED** approach at all our Masses.
- Please watch out for signage. Separate points of entry and exit will be clearly designated.
- **We are required to keep a register of all attendees. So please put your name, address, contact telephone number, email address (if applicable) and the Mass you are attending on a piece of paper which you will hand in on entrance to the church.**
- All attendees will be directed to their own special seat so as to monitor occupancy.
- Two benches will be designated for families.
- Infants and children should remain with their parents **AT ALL TIMES**.
- It is O.K. to wear disposable gloves. Those cleaning or altar cloths, replenishing candles or handling the parish collection should wear disposable gloves.
- We will have one point of entry in order to control the number of people entering. Once the maximum number of attendees is reached, no one else will be allowed entry.
- Doors will be locked until 25 minutes before Mass begins.
- If weather permits, all doors will be propped open before Mass as you arrive so that you do not need to touch the handles or doors to enter.
- At the end of Mass, exits will be signposted and indicated by the parish priest to expedite the guided departure and minimise chances of people encountering one another. In all cases, **PHYSICAL DISTANCING MUST BE OBSERVED**.
- I will be delighted to see you back, but please note that I must refrain from greeting you personally at the end of Mass. I must not impede or delay the orderly and rapid departure of you and your family.
- The Parish Church is closed at the end of each Mass for a special cleaning. Our thanks to the parish team.

- Please be aware that there will be **NO** toilet facilities.

SAFETY

- Physical distancing of 6 feet or 2 meters is in place at all times and in all directions between people who are not of the same household.
- You will be led by a team member to your seat – please do not move or swap seats.
- **Reminder** – Volunteers and ALL members of the congregation should use the Medical Guidelines that have been issued before attending Mass. If you have ANY symptoms, such as a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat, please stay at home.
- All team members, welcomers and participants – please wear your own personal shield or mask,
- All who attend must observe proper hand hygiene from the point of entry, whilst inside and upon exiting the church.
- Hand sanitising stations are available by the doors of the church.
- Hand washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds (say a prayer) is also strongly encouraged before arriving for Holy Mass.

HOLY MASS

These are some of the main points to note:

- Sacred Vessels will be purified and washed by the parish priest after Mass. This reduces the risk and need to have sacristans and Eucharistic ministers in the sacristy.
- No singing of hymns and no musicians at this time. **SORRY!**
- Entrance and recessional processions are omitted. There will be a simple entrance by the priest.
- There will be only one lector and one reading.
- No Altar Servers so as to minimise the risk of exposure and to properly maintain physical distancing at all times.
- The chalice, paten, ciborium, cruets and lavabo will be on a small table beside the altar.
- Your parish priest will not be wearing a mask during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; therefore, all ciboria will be covered at all times. He will wear a visor if and when he distributes Holy Communion.
- No presentation of gifts will be made.
- No collection is taken up during the Mass. Instead, bins/baskets will be at strategic points for the faithful to make their offerings at the end of Mass. Secure vigilance will be in place over the donations.
- There is no Sign of Peace.
- There will be no Holy Water in fonts.
- All hymnals, missalettes, pew cards, pencils, donation envelopes and other loose items will be removed.
- Newsletters are only available on-line at the parish website.

Regarding the Distribution of Holy Communion:

- The individual attestation at the distribution of Holy Communion (*“The Body of Christ, R:Amen*) is eliminated. Instead, one general announcement (*“The Body of Christ”*) will be made by the parish priest, and one general response (*“Amen”*) is to be made by one and all before distribution begins. Then each person who wishes to receive the Blessed Sacrament comes forward in procession at a safe distance and receives in silence.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed at this time.
- Holy Communion may only be received in the hand.

- For the common good, our Bishops around the world acknowledge that Communion on the tongue is the right of the faithful, ask you please receive ONLY in the hand until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and support.
- When needed, Ministers of the Eucharist may be invited to officiate at Holy Communion time. If called upon, Ministers of Holy Communion must sanitise their hands immediately after receiving Communion BEFORE distributing Holy Communion to the faithful. They must also sanitise their hands immediately after distribution.

Should you have any questions regarding this information please reply by email:

morden@rcaos.org or call our parish number: 020 8648 4113

Read [here](#) or [download](#) Archbishop John Wilson's **Pastoral Letter** - *Concerning the Reopening of Catholic Churches for Prayer and Services*

Holy Sacraments

Please note because of the current situation, in regard to Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriages – all will be deferred until such time as it is safe for all involved to get together in large numbers. For funerals please contact me by email – morden@rcaos.org or telephone- 020 8648 4113.

Sunday Collections

During the current 'lockdown' situation, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the many of you who have kindly signed up to **standing orders**. This is so much appreciated and valued. If you wish to contribute by cheque in lieu of plate collections, this can be sent to the presbytery: St. Teresa's Church, 250, Bishopsford Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6BJ. They may be made payable to St. Teresa's Catholic Church.

Many thanks to those of you who have so kindly offered to set up standing orders in lieu of our Sunday plate collections. This is a most convenient method of planned giving (for all concerned); already used by so many at Morden – and is vitally important at this time. Regular standing orders can be for any amount, no matter how small – just give what you can afford. Please send a request to the parish priest as the parish office is closed for the foreseeable future.

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

Do You Gift Aid?

The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by gift aiding it if you are a taxpayer. The parish learns nothing about your private financial affairs. The average weekly collection between plate and standing orders, is approximately £2,400 a week. If only half of that was GIFT AIDED, it would mean an extra £300 a week, or £15,600 a year to Parish funds. We are genuinely grateful to those who are Gift-Aiding. If you haven't been doing so, please print off a Gift Aid form from the parish website. At the present time the parish income is down about £5,000 each month. Hopefully, when parish life returns to normal, we will soon see these financial worries and concerns disappear.

Last weekend's Offertory - Standing Orders £738.46

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.

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:



**Prayer for
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.



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.