



# St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Con Diver

Parish e-mail address: [morden@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:morden@rcaos.org.uk)

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

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

Parish Secretary: Mrs Margaret O'Donovan



Our Church is open for Mass weekdays at 10a.m. and on Sundays at 9a.m. and 11a.m.

Please see the Mass Attendance [Protocols](#) below

24<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mass Times and Intentions:

*Sunday 13th September – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Education Sunday*

Vigil Mass – Saturday 12th September:

6.30p.m. Intentions of the Mendonça and O'Donovan Families (**Online Only**)

9a.m. Teresa and Brendon Dillon R.I.P.

11a.m. For the Parish Family

**2p.m. First Holy Communion Mass**

\*Please note – all seating for First Holy Communion Masses is reserved for the children and their family.

(No 5p.m. Service today)

*Monday 14th September – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

10a.m. Intentions of Charles Roshan

*Tuesday 15th September – Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial*

10a.m. Archbishop Michael Bowen R.I.P.

*Wednesday 16th September – St. Cornelius, Pope, and St. Cyprian, Bishop; Martyrs*

10a.m. Antoneta Gouveia R.I.P.

*Thursday 17th September Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit*

10a.m. Intentions of John Mooney and Family

*Friday 18th September – Votive Mass of St. Joseph*

10 a.m. In thanksgiving to St. Joseph

*Saturday 19th September – Votive Mass of The Resurrection of The Lord*

10a.m. Baptisms, Confirmations, First Holy Communion, and Reception into the Catholic Church of 9

R.C.I.A. Candidates – **Online Only**

Vigil Mass 6.30p.m. Chrishantha Nandini Christopher R.I.P. **Online Only**

*Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)*

*Home Mission Sunday*

*(First National Mass Count)*

9a.m. Bonny and Helen, Wedding Anniversary

11a.m. Roland Rosa R.I.P. and People of the Parish

(No 5p.m. Service today)

## 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)



## **A Prayer for our Parish**

*Mother of our Parish, Most Gracious Lady, watch over us as we struggle with sickness, financial crisis and uncertainty about our future.*

*Be with us, Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth in prosperity and adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and sickness, in life and in death.*

*Teach us to look to Jesus, your Son, and find solace in all adversities. Amen.*



## **Weekday Masses**

We welcome a good number to Mass. In the days to come, most of the Welcoming Team will be leaving us to return to work, University or College. The team has been excellent and reliable. We thank each one for their willingness and commitment to serve the Lord and the Parish. We could do with about six new members to join the Weekday Team. If you would like to join the team and are NOT in the vulnerable category please let us know.

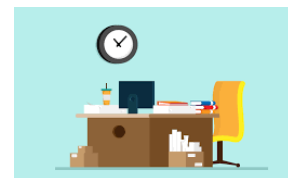


## **Parish Office**

As you know, the parish office has been closed since March. We have been doing our best to answer queries and letters etc. and will continue to do our best but please be patient.

We have been receiving requests for school forms to be signed

– I am trying to arrange for this to be done online this year or in some other safe way. Please bear with us while we try to sort out the logistics of setting this up.



## **Joe Lunn and his Fundraiser for Rays of Sunshine**

Thank you for keeping Joe and his family in your prayers. A few weeks ago we informed you that Joe was seeking sponsorship for a charity – *Rays of Sunshine* – that has given him and his family great support over the past sixteen months. So at home, under the watchful eye of his Mum and Dad, he spent eight hours on his exercise bike cycling 100 miles for 1,000 smiles.

Well done Joe! So far, you have raised at least £15,495 for Rays of Sunshine. You have the love and support of our parish family as you journey into the months ahead.

Please consider making a donation at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joelunn>

or if you wish, you can hand in an envelope marked 'Joe Lunn' with your donation.

THANK YOU!!



## **May He Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!**

The family of Gerry Fernandes have informed us of his call to Eternal Life. We offer our blessing and spiritual support to his wife Alvina, his three sons and Gerry's two grandchildren, as they begin to arrange for his funeral, to take place from St. Teresa's.

## The Death of Two Southwark Priests

Late August saw two long-serving priests called to Eternal Life.



- **Canon John McNamara**  
Canon John was a retired priest of the Archdiocese and served faithfully in pastoral ministry, making significant contributions to education and catechesis.
- **Fr. Charles Briggs** (Parish Priest of Chislehurst)  
Following a recent diagnosis with a very aggressive cancer, Fr. Charles faced his illness bravely with humility and generosity of spirit. He received excellent support from Archbishop John, Bishop Kevin, Bishop Pat and his priest friends.

We keep in prayer these two excellent priests, their family, their friends and the people of the parishes they served so well.

## Pope Francis

*“Gossip is a plague worse than Covid”* asserting that while speaking ill of others comes almost naturally, it is a tool of the devil to divide the Church.

A couple of weeks ago commenting on the Sunday Gospel reading about Jesus telling his disciples what to do when a member of the community errs and requires correction, Pope Francis said that rather than helping others to mend his or her ways, *“when we see a mistake, a fault, a slip, in that brother and sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others – to gossip.”*

Gossiping sows division, he told people gathered in Saint Peter’s Square for the recitation of the Angelus prayer.

*“The great gossip is the devil, who always goes around recounting bad things about others, because he is a liar who seeks to divide the Church, to distance brothers and sisters and not create community,”* the Pope said.

*“Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip,”* he said. *“Let’s try: no gossip, no gossip.”*



## Diocesan News

- **A new Private Secretary for Archbishop John.**  
His name is Fr. Philip Andrews who takes up his new post this week. His predecessor Fr. Philip Glanfield has been appointed parish priest of Whitstable and Tankerton. We wish him well and thank him for his service to the diocese and three Archbishops.



- **Thank you Lord – Four Newly Ordained Priests.**  
Please continue to pray for vocations and especially for the Archdiocese of Southwark led by Archbishop John. In case you missed the news during July, Archbishop John ordained four men to the priesthood:  
Fr Giovanni Prandini  
Fr Peter Sebastian  
Fr Dermot O’Gorman  
And many of you may remember Fr. John Howard. Who spent some time with us last year and gained pastoral experience at St. Helier Hospital under the guidance of Fr.Philip Pak.

May their years ahead in the Lord's service be fruitful and blessed.

- **Monsignor Canon John O'Toole**

In recent times we have been keeping the former Dean of St. Georges Cathedral, and now Episcopal Vicar for Kent, in prayer.

The Holy Father has appointed him as a Chaplain with the title 'Monsignor'. Monsignor John is a truly outstanding priest with

many gifts and his role in the service of Dialogue and Unity at the Bishop's Conference will long be remembered.



- **Agency for Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation**

Following recent rounds of consultation, Archbishop John has announced that the current *Centre for Catholic Formation (C.C.F.)* based at Tooting is to make way for a new model. *The Agency for Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation*. The Archbishop says that *"Our new model will continue to be shaped in the light of collaboration and experience, in the service and grassroots of the Church in our Archdiocese."*

The new agency comes into being this month and will feature an advisory team based around the three areas of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation rather than the current geographical basis. The formation of this new Agency is the right move at the right time. In due course we will be briefed on its vision for our diocese. In the meantime, I echo the words of our new Archbishop – Please pray for a *"continued fruitfulness through the new Agency as, together, we seek to help each other, and those we shepherd, in knowing, loving and serving Christ."*

- **St. Vincent's Residential Youth Retreat Centre, Whitstable.**

For the past 17 years this Centre has played host to thousands of young people from all corners of the diocese. Times are changing and with Covid-19 and other challenges we are facing, St. Vincent's has closed its doors for the last time. Archbishop John says: *"We are sad that this work is unable to continue at St. Vincent's Centre."*

New creative ways are going to be forged of engaging with young people in our schools and parishes. Day retreats at Aylesford Priory, working with the Carmelite community, will bear fruit. As will many other special days and special events.

In the months to come, a new team will emerge, trained and energised to drive forward the vital work of supporting young people in their journey of faith.

I join the Archbishop in saying: *"We give thanks for the many blessings received at St. Vincent's Centre: for each moment of encounter with Christ, for each member of the peer ministry team who has given a year in service to the diocese and for the hospitality and encouragement received by visiting clergy, catechists and youth workers."*

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Monday – Friday following the 10a.m. Mass

Sunday Morning following 9a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass



### **Blessing of Holy Water**

If you wish to bring your bottles or containers,

I am more than happy to bless you and your water.





We continue to keep in our prayers all who are sick: 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.



### **Government Advise on Face Coverings/Masks at Mass**

Face coverings are mandatory now in places of worship. Many of you already attend Holy Mass wearing one – Thank You!

From now on at St. Teresa's all who attend Mass or any other service must wear a face covering, unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass, as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from different households who do not normally meet.

### **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 metres 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.uk](mailto:morden@rcaos.org.uk) or call our parish number: 020 8648 4113

**Sunday Collections**

During the current 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* - £581 Standing Orders: £738.46 **Total - £1,319.46** Thank you.

## **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.