



St. Teresa's Morden

Canon Michael Scanlon, KHS Parish Priest

Fr Roshy Robert, Resident Priest

Pastoral Assistant: Deacon Con Diver

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

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

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



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

CONFESSIONS AFTER ALL MASSES

Mass Times and Intentions-Year C:

Sunday 19th December – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Expectant Mothers Blessing

- 9am People of the Parish
- 11am Larsen Family Intentions
- William Hanrahan RIP

Monday 20th December

- 9.30am Rosary
- 10am Freda McKeon Birthday Intentions

Tuesday 21st December – St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor

- 9.30am Rosary
- 10am Renath Rodtyler RIP
- The Williams Family Intentions

12noon Requiem Mass Sheila Borg RIP, 1.20pm NE Surrey Crematorium

Wednesday 22nd December

- 9.15am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
- 10am Holy Souls
- Holy Family in Thanksgiving

Thursday 23rd December

- 9.30am Rosary
- 10am Christopher Patrick Murphy RIP

Friday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9am Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary
- 10am Maurice Mills RIP
- 5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass – Children of the Parish
- 8pm Christmas Mass – Sick & Housebound
- 11.30pm Carols

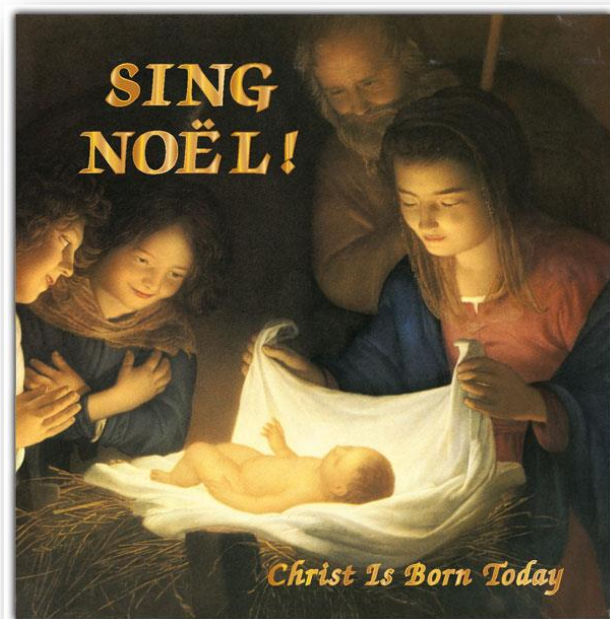
Saturday 25th December – NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word was made Flesh

- 12am Midnight Mass - People fo the Parish
- 9am Celebrants Intentions
- 11am Celebrants Intentions
- No Vigil Mass

Sunday 26th December – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

- 9am Milagnes Coelho RIP
- 11am People of the Parish



St Teresa's School, Montacute Road, Morden.

Tel No 020 8648 1846

Headteacher; Mr Justin Dachtler.

Merton Catholic Deanery

www.mertoncatholics.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Masses are also available online at
<https://www.stcm.org.uk/>
All Services are streamed on YouTube

Mass Times and Intentions-Year C:

Sunday 26th December – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

No Vigil Mass

9am Milagnes Coelho RIP

11am People of the Parish

Monday 27th December – Feast of St. John the Evangelist, Apostle

9.30am Rosary

10am Joseph & Lena McBride RIP

Tom & Bridgid Moorhead & Family Intentions

Tuesday 28th December – Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9.30am Rosary

10am Holy Souls

Fiona Beagan RIP

Wednesday 29th December – St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

9.15am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

10am John Duffy RIP

Thursday 30th December

10am Kevin McKeon's Intentions

Melstine Radi Machado Wedding Anniv.

Friday 31st December – NEW YEARS EVE – St. Sylvester I, Pope

9am Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

12noon For New Special Intentions

Saturday 1st January – NEW YEARS DAY – FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD - 1st Saturday

11.00am Rosary

12noon People of the Parish

No Vigil Mass

Sunday 2nd January – FEAST OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9am Aikins Family Intentions

11am People of the Parish



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<https://www.stcm.org.uk/>
All Services are streamed on YouTube

Mass Times and Intentions-Year C:

Sunday 2nd January – FEAST OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

No Vigil Mass

9am Aikins Family Intentions

11am People of the Parish

Monday 3th January

9.30am Rosary

10am William Coyne RIP
Mother Mary

Tuesday 4th January - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9.30am Rosary

10am Matthew Ivan Kitandwe RIP

Wednesday 5th January - St. John Neumann, Bishop

9.15am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

10am Peggy Cherry RIP

Thursday 6th January - FEAST OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10am Veronica Gorrod RIP 1st Anniversary

Chris & Angela George, Wedding Anniversary

12.30pm Requiem Mass - Theresa Mason RIP, 2pm Burial

Friday 7th January – FIRST FRIDAY

9am Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

10am Patrick O'Halleran RIP

Saturday 8th January

5.30pm Joseph Lunn RIP

Sunday 9th January – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9am People of the Parish

11am Eileen Paul RIP



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CANON MICHAEL

Stay Well, Stay Safe, Stay Blessed

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

My dear people, with Deacon Con and Fr. Roshy we send out our blessing to you and your family.

It has been a tough year for many. With Covid still spreading we have to be extra careful. Many families have lost love ones. Many are facing great challenges over Christmas and into the New Year.

We hope to see you at holy Mass in these days to come. Together we will thank our Heavenly Father for the extraordinary gift of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ and all that it points to – the wonder of His Love, the extent of His love and the constancy of His purpose.

And we thank Him for the most extraordinary thing of all, that He came in Christ not simply to a few but to all – to good and bad, saints and sinners, to ordinary everyday people like us. He reaches out and accepts us as we are.

We thank Him for He chose Mary, Our Blessed Mother, representative of the powerless to be the one to bear His Son; He chose shepherds, examples of the socially marginalised; to be the first to hear the good news; to fulfil scripture, He chose Bethlehem, symbol of the least and lowest, to be the place where Jesus was to be born.

I urge you to enter more and more into the world of prayer. To seek Heaven's help for family and friends. To be an Apostle of Divine Mercy, an Apostle of Prayer for our Church and for all the nations of the world.

Keep in prayer the poor, the hungry, the homeless – those for whom this Christmas will simply be another day in the struggle for survival; for those caught up in war, violence and persecution – those for whom this Christmas will be their last; for the unloved, the lonely, and the homeless – those for whom Christmas merely heightens their sense of isolation.

As a parish family united in prayer, we pray for the anxious, the troubled and the fearful – those for whom Christmas will be swamped by worries, for the sick, the suffering, the broken in mind and body – those for whom this Christmas means only another day of pain; and we pray for the bereaved, the divorced, the estranged – those for whom Christmas brings home the memory of happier times.

A sincere word of thanks to all who have supported the parish throughout the year. You have been a living page of the Gospel. We have been blessed with a new Deacon and it has been good to welcome back to the sanctuary our altar servers. A word of thanks to James and Bernadette for their hard work in achieving this goal. For the return of our musicians who are playin once more; our Catechists who have shown great dedication. Our parish office and Finance Team have gone from strength to strength, our Stewards who have enabled the church to stay open...

To one and all **THANK YOU!**



*You will be remembered and prayed for in these days to come.
May the Word of God guide your footsteps,
the power of God equip you for parish service,
the grace of God surround you always.
May your vision be clear,
your commitment resilient,
and your faith strong,
May peace flood your soul
and light shine from your heart.
May Our Lady and Saint Teresa intercede for you.
May Christ be your constant companion on the path of discipleship,
until the journey is over and you meet with God face to face,
May God's Mercy be your Mercy,
May the Good Lord bless you and keep you safe
as you journey to the Father's Kingdom.
Amen.*

O LORD PLEASE HEAR OUR PRAYERS

For all who are on our Parish Sick List, for family and friends,
We pray for those who are unwell.
Those struck down by serious disease.
Those awaiting a diagnosis or operation.
Those receiving treatment for cancer.
Those with debilitating, chronic conditions.
And those with terminal illness.
From our Altar, from our hearts may we also send out our blessing to all who are unwell at home in our Hospitals, Care Homes, Nursing Homes and those in Hospice care. Amen

Thank you for praying for:



Anne-Marie Mendonça, Moira Macklin, Maureen Smith, Maureen Flaherty,
John McDonagh, James Diver, Francesco Gargano, Theresa McGoldrick, Patricia Jayasena,
Jean Lue, Ruba Santipillai, Baby Alexander Lynch, Erika Geddes, Denise Waaldijk, Valerie Somerset,
Leonard James Connolly, Thea Haddad, Margaret Lahy, Brian Wratten, Ann Van Essen and Jane
Turner, Kevin Mooney, John Mooney, Angela Patcheye, Leonard Paice, Ken and Margaret
Peacock, Michael and Madge Durkan, Jocelyn De Silva, Mary Jeanette Connaire, Mary Reilly, Alan
O'Leary, Bill and June O'Keefe, Gerry Gillan, Bella Harding, Eileen Stevens, Dave Herris, Gabriel
Lyons, Sylvester Forya, Antonina Urbni, Tony London, Kevin McKeon, Vincent Moyle, John Antao,
Stella Carrasco, Gerald Pereira, Pope Francis and Pope Benedict, Pope Emeritus.

May they receive your special blessing.

*If you wish to be prayed for on our Parish Sick List, please let us have your name.
Every First Friday we offer and remember you in Holy Mass. We also keep you in our daily prayer, our times
of Adoration, Novena's and the Holy Rosary.*

PLEASE continue to remember the Sick Clergy of the diocese and send out your blessing in prayer to all the Nations of the World, as they do their best to combat the pandemic and natural disasters that many nations are battling with at this time. THANK YOU!



RECENT DEATHS

Now At Rest And Kept In Prayer

Avril Jean Costella RIP
Shirley Johnson RIP
Dermot Peter Long RIP
Lourdes Mary Fatima
Irene Ward RIP
Sarah Marie Frost RIP
Veronica Gorrod RIP
Finbarr Francis Hurley RIP
Lolito Laydia RIP
Michael O'Kelly RIP
Newton Coutinho RIP
Anna Darby RIP
Mary Creighan RIP
Michael Joseph Nihill RIP
Gerald O'Toole RIP
Sarah Hedy Connolly RIP
Sotelo Cabrera RIP
Noel Ryan, RIP
Michael Scott RIP
Anna-Maria Fantocchi RIP
Giovanni Corsini RIP
Gerry Kirrane RIP
Gay Phillips RIP
Tony Byrnes RIP
Jane Neyman RIP
Christopher O'Byrne RIP
Jose Goncalves RIP

Francis Assisi Mendonça RIP
Joseph Antony Quintus Rabindran RIP
Jayandradevi Rabindran RIP
Remo Dipre RIP
Alan Frederick Burridge RIP
Jonny Purvis RIP
Ann Donaldson RIP
Baby Angelika Hobbs RIP
Annie Francis RIP
Giovanni Mansini RIP
Joseph Lunn RIP
Norah Mary Williams RIP
Francisco José Carrasco RIP
Eva Sereny RIP
Steven Duggan RIP
Lena McBride RIP
Mary Whelan RIP
Mary Connolly RIP
Kevin Mattimoe RIP
Michael Bourke RIP
Dorothy Gertrude Cleary RIP
Frances Healion RIP
Douglas Banks RIP
Robert Peter RIP
Dennis Leadley RIP
Daniel Samuels RIP
Michael McAndrew RIP



Recent Southwark Diocese Clergy Deaths

Deacon William Boyd RIP
Deacon Jim Hayes RIP
Fr. Paul Sanders RIP
Canon Richard Hearn RIP
Fr. Richard Diala RIP
Fr. Michael Boland RIP
Fr. Robert Copsey SOLT RIP

May They Meet The Risen Lord

*Remind us Dear Lord, of the great company of your people who have been called before us,
famed or forgotten, celebrated or overlooked, all who have run their race and kept the faith,
walking the way of Christ to their journeys end.
Hear our prayer and the prayer of our Rosaries for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.*

FR. ROBERT ELLIS RIP

Funeral details are:

Sunday 19th December 1400: Reception of the Body St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Ham Street, Ham Common, Richmond TW10 7HT

Funeral Mass Monday 20th December 1200 noon: English Martyrs Church, Goring Way, Goring by Sea, BN12 4UH 1200

Committal at Worthing Crematorium 1400: Horsham Road, Findon, BN14 0RQ

It is with sadness that we learn of the death of our former assistant priest Fr. Robert Ellis. In May 1991, Robert was appointed as an assistant priest at St Teresa's where in the words of Archbishop Michael Bowen "...he proved to be highly effective." This was to be Robert's final appointment as an assistant as in January 1995, Archbishop Michael wrote appointing him as parish priest of Our Lady Immaculate, Surrey Docks. In his letter to Robert, Archbishop Michael wrote, "It remains for me to say a very warm word of thanks for the work you have done in Morden as an assistant priest. I know you will be very much missed, but I hope you will settle happily in Surrey Docks."



Since 2016 he has been Parish Priest of St Thomas Aquinas, Ham. After a very short term of illness Fr. Ellis died on Friday 29th October in Kingston Hospital.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Robert Ellis and for the comfort of the Holy Spirit upon his family, friends and brother priests.

May Fr. Ellis Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

SHEILA BORG RIP

Funeral – Tuesday 21st December, 12 Noon Mass at St. Teresa's then 1.20pm N.E. Surrey Crematorium

Sheila died at the age of 86 years and our prayers and condolences go out to her two daughters Teresa and Jenny and her grandchildren and great grandchild. Sheila became a Catholic when she married her husband Charles who was Maltese in 1959. Charles was born in Malta and died suddenly in Malta whilst on holiday there in 2009. Sheila was a very kind, generous and loving person who always put her family first. Sheila was very much loved by all of her family and will be loved and missed forever.



May Sheila Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

THERESA MASON RIP

Theresa Mason RIP sadly died on Monday 6th December after a time of illness. With the support of her family, Theresa was received into the church only week's before. Her family were very grateful for the joy this gave Theresa during her time of illness. Our prayers and condolences are with the family and for the soul of Theresa. Funeral details will be announced once known.



May Theresa Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

FR. ROSHY

Fr. Roshy is hoping to return to Saint Teresa's on Monday 20th December, however, he will have to spend some time in isolation. How long will depend on the Covid situation at the time.

We keep Fr. Roshy, his family, especially his mother, and his friends in our prayers.

ALTAR SERVERS – READERS – EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS LIST

The lists for Altar Servers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers over the Christmas and New Year period are now available in the Sacristy. If you would like to volunteer, please put your name down against the Masses you are able to attend.



RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022



This year, once again, due to Covid restrictions, we are approaching the Reconciliation & First Communion Programme somewhat differently.

We would like to invite families to an information meeting followed by Mass on **Saturday 8th January at 10:45am** in the church. At this meeting, you will be able to pick up an application form if you wish your child to make their first communion at St. Teresa's. ALL application forms need to be returned to the parish office along with a copy of your child's baptism certificate, and a fee of £15, no later than Wednesday 19th January.

1. The cost of the programme, is £15. Cash will be accepted, please make cheques payable to

'St. Teresa's Church'

2. Each child will receive a book 'I BELONG', at their first meeting. Children need to bring their books to each meeting; they will also use these books at home.

3. Each meeting in church will last 45 minutes. We ask you to please have your child in church at least 5 minutes before the class starts, and to collect them promptly at the end of the session. We will be using the parish hall for the children's meetings, while parents are expected to remain in the church for updated information, where necessary, and Adoration.

4. We will have 2 x 45min sessions each day, on the dates specified below, so prompt attendance and collection is a must. We envisage 2 groups of 30/35 children for each session, depending on numbers. Numbers will be capped at 70.

5. The first session of the day will start at 9:30am ending at 10:15am

6. The second session of the day will start at 10:30am ending at 11:15am

Church session dates: **Saturday, February 5th, 12th, 26th**
Saturday, March, 12th, 19th, 26th
Saturday, April 23rd, 30th and Saturday May 7th

Children will make their First Confession on 19th March. We will give you more information nearer the time. First Communion dates/times will be confirmed as the programme progresses. Please remember to complete and return your child's application form to St. Teresa's Parish Office as soon as possible as late applications will not be accepted after 19th Jan.

We look forward to meeting all families very soon.

VATICAN SYNODAL PROCESS - Parish Consultation Phase

Our Archbishop, on behalf of the Holy Father Pope Francis, has asked each of us to take full part in the first step of global Church Synodal Process during December and January.



We start now the Synod's Local Listening Phase, at our Parish level here at St. Teresa's. This means that the whole Church Hierarchy wants to listen to us, to me and to you!

At all Masses this weekend, we will collect your responses to the three questions in the questionnaire which was given out at Mass last weekend. Copies are still available for you to have Your Say!

The questions are;

- 1) What do we do well that we should continue doing?
- 2) What is missing that we should start doing?
- 3) What are we doing not so well that we might pause doing?

This Phase, listening to you and me, is part of the process of "Communion, Participation and Mission".

As individuals and families, men and women, younger and older, let us allow the Holy Spirit to come into our lives, to give us the gift of participation and discernment, and to reach out to all who, as we all do, need the body of Christ.



QR Code to Questionnaire online

Here is some information from the Diocese to help you reflect and consider your responses.

Questions for Use in Parish Listening, Sharing and Reflection

The Synod website provides suggestions on how to pose these questions to various groups of people in simple and engaging ways (<https://rcaos.org.uk/synod>).

Each diocese, parish, or group should not aim to cover all the questions but should discern and focus on those aspects of synodality most pertinent to its context.

Participants are encouraged to share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing in what they share with one another. Frameworks for sharing can be found in the **Facilitating Local Spiritual Conversations** document.

This Synod poses the following fundamental question:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together.’ How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together’? (PD 26)

By growing together in communion, the people of God deepen their participation in the life of the Church and so become more effective missionary disciples in the world.

Read all of the questions. The questions in **bold** are the main ones we suggest you explore but you may wish to focus on the three thematic areas using the other questions offered here.

Communion

The Church is Catholic because she is sent to all, in order to gather the entire human family from every nation and culture, under the Lordship of Christ and in the unity of his Spirit.

- 1. What are the ways in which your parish most successfully brings people together?**
2. In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) does your parish feel and act as one?
3. In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?
4. How is the Holy Eucharist the main focal point for your parish?
5. Is the parish the sole locus for Communion in your area?
- 6. Christ is present as the head united to his body (Ephesians 1:22-23) in our parishes and communities. How is this reflected in your parish/community life? Are there other reasons that you gather together?**
7. In what ways can you help to build up communion effectively and authentically in the coming months and years?

8. How do you relate to members of the Church who have drifted away from practice?
9. How does your parish relate to other parishes nearby and the diocese as a whole?



Participation

Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. The authority of pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the Head for the building up of the entire Body.

- 1. Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in your parish been affected? Were these issues there before?**
2. How can participation be strengthened moving forward into the future?
3. What are the means by which different voices can be heard in your parish (particularly those on the periphery of parish life)?
4. Which groups and individuals are least included in your parish?
5. How can you broaden the way you include people whilst keeping always true to the Gospel and our core Christian identity?
6. How do you currently participate, personally, in the life of the Church? How much responsibility do you have as an individual?
- 7. How can we better enable full participation and co-responsibility in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?**
8. How does your parish effectively identify and use the gifts of its people?
9. How do families and young people effectively participate in the life of your parish?
What do you do to support them?

Mission

The People of God are on pilgrimage through history towards the heavenly homeland. Each one of the baptised is to be honoured with the same dignity as children of God and appointed to the same mission, the proclamation of the Good News and the building of the Kingdom of God.

1. Given what you see of the Church (words and actions), in the parish and beyond, what would you say is the Church's mission?
2. How might we find a shared understanding of mission in the different parishes and Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese of Southwark?
- 3. Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?**
4. From a missionary perspective, how would you characterise both the local situation and local needs in your parish and community?
5. How is your parish set up for evangelisation? How does your parish reach out to the broader community with the Good News?
6. Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to mission and service today?
7. In what ways do you already intentionally and actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?

8. **How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc. aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?**
9. How can the call to holiness and the call to mission be reflected in different aspects of parish life?

Terms from the Synod documents

Discernment

The Synodal Process entails a discernment process. In this process, we listen to each other in order to discern what God is saying to all of us. This kind of discernment is not only a one-time event, but ultimately a way of life, grounded in Christ, following the lead of the Holy Spirit, living for the greater glory of God. Communal discernment helps to build flourishing and resilient communities for the mission of the Church today. Discernment is a grace from God, but it requires our human involvement in simple ways: praying, reflection, paying attention to one's inner disposition, listening and talking to one another in an authentic, meaningful, and welcoming way. Discernment in this spiritual key plants seeds that can bear the fruits of fraternity, healing, communion, mission, and more. God comes to lead and inspire us as we seek to discern His will.



Communion

Synodality is a living expression of the Catholicity of the Church as communion. In the Church, Christ is present as the Head united to His Body (Ephesians 1,22-23) in such a way that she receives from Him the fullness of the means of salvation. The Church is Catholic also because she is sent to all, in order to gather the entire human family in the richness of the plurality of cultural forms, under the Lordship of Christ and in the unity of His Spirit. The synodal path expresses and promotes her Catholicity in two ways: it shows the dynamic way in which the fullness of faith is shared by all members of the People of God and it assists in handing it on to all people and all peoples. (ITC, Syn., no. 58)

Participation

A synodal Church is a Church of participation and co-responsibility. In exercising synodality she is called to give expression to the participation of all, according to each one's calling, with the authority conferred by Christ on the College of Bishops headed by the Pope. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. The authority of Pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the Head for the building up of the entire Body, not a delegated and representative function of the people. (ITC, Syn., no. 67)

In the synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will. So, in coming to formulate their own decisions, Pastors must listen carefully to the views and experiences of the faithful. Canon law stipulates that, in certain cases, they must act only after having sought and obtained the various opinions according to juridically established procedures [82]. (ICT, Syn., no. 68) At the same time, the path of synodality requires much wider participation than only that which is required by the law.

Mission

The Church is missionary because that was the way of Christ. We are told in the Bible that 'God so loved the world that he sent his only Son' (John 3:16). Jesus was sent into the world to reveal God's love. In turn, Jesus said to his apostles, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you' (John 20:21). 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The mission of Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom



of God to all people has been handed onto the Church and individual believers, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* sets out a vision of the nature and mission of the Church as communion, with the theological presuppositions of a suitable re-launch of synodality: the mystical and sacramental conception of the Church; her nature as People of God on pilgrimage through history towards the heavenly homeland, in which all her members are by virtue of baptism honoured with the same dignity as children of God and appointed to the same mission; the doctrine of sacramentality of the episcopate and collegiality in hierarchical communion with the Bishop of Rome. (ITC, Syn., no. 40)

The full document explaining terms can be found on the diocesan website:

<https://rcaos.org.uk/synod> and on the General Secretariat for Synod of Bishops own site:

<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

PRAYER FOR THE LAITY

Lord God, you willed the power of the Gospel to act as a leaven in the world and you called the lay faithful to live out our lives amid temporal affairs. Let us be so on fire with Christian spirit that as we engage in our role in the world we will build and proclaim your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Synod Prayer:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

REPARATION TO OUR LADY

For the remaining Saturdays in Advent, St. Teresa's will begin the devotion of the Rosary of Reparation to Our Lady, prior to 5.30pm Mass and Confession in fulfilment of the request of Jesus to Sr. Lucia in 1925.

The Rosary will begin at 4.45pm on Saturday's in Advent and in the New Year this devotion will continue on the First Saturdays of every month. Here is some background to the devotion of the Five First Saturday's



Five First Saturdays

The Five First Saturdays devotion, first revealed by Our Lady at Fatima on Fatima on 13 July 1917, was requested on 10 December 1925, when the Blessed Virgin, appeared again to Sr. Lucia, together with the Child Jesus, who said: ***"Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them."***

The Great Promise of Our Lady

"I promise to assist at the hour of death all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."



- What does Our Lady ask all of us to do?
- Go to confession – this can be up to 8 days before or after the First Saturday itself.
- Receive Holy Communion - on the day itself, in a state of grace, with the intention of making reparation as above.
- Recite five decades of the Rosary.
- Meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes: this is not difficult, e.g, slowly read the Gospel account of the mysteries, or use a booklet on the Rosary.

Each part of the devotion should be made with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months.

For more details about the Five First Saturdays devotion, or the Message of Fatima generally, please contact:

WAF Tel No. 07786 487557

email: info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Saint Teresa's

LIFE is remembered

LOVE is deepened, HOPE is rekindled,

*FAITH is awakened, FAITH is renewed, FAITH is
strengthened,*

Where BLESSINGS from Heaven await you.

Where the LORD OF DIVINE MERCY forgives you.

Where the Mother of God prays for you.

Where Saint Teresa intercedes for you.

Where Saint Joseph seeks to help you.

Where the Parish Family pray for you.

WELCOME - WELCOME - WELCOME

ARE YOU CONSIDERING GETTING MARRIED?

Please be aware of the following change in the law which takes effect from 1ST July 2021!

Immigration laws for EEA nationals will change from the 1 July to reflect the changes brought about following EU Exit. These changes will impact EEA citizens who wish to marry in England and Wales as the definition of a relevant national has changed. A relevant national, from the 1 July 2021, will be classed as:

- A British Citizen
- An Irish Citizen
- An EEA National who has been granted Settled or Pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) or those with a pending application submitted before the 30 June 2021.

Currently couples who are subject to immigration control must make an appointment at one of 75 Designated Register Offices within England and Wales to give notice to marry. **From the 1 July 2021, all register offices will be designated for the purposes of taking a marriage for these couples.**

An EEA national who does not hold a status under the EUSS will be treated as all other foreign nationals and will have to give notice of their intention to marry (together with their partner) at a register office in the registration district where either resides and be issued with a Marriage Schedule.

PARISH FINANCE

Sunday Collections and Donations



Tithes and offerings

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 written request via the parish office with contact details.

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, was approximately £2,400 a week (*pre-COVID*). 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.

giftaid it
Making donations go further



Thank you to everybody who continues to support the parish through the collection, standing orders, gift aid and dropping in contributions. Online donations have seen an increase recently - A big THANK YOU FOR THOSE DONATIONS coming in via our parish website 'JUST GIVING' - Press the button marked **DONATE**. If you scroll down further, we also say 'Thanks' for your support and other ways you can support our parish. Again, THANK YOU.

GIFT AID NOTICE – HAVE YOU COLLECTED YOUR GIFT AID BOX?

**PLEASE COLLECT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES FROM THE
CONTACT CORNER**

For those already signed up, Gift Aid Envelopes are available. Please collect your Gift Aid or Standing Order envelopes before or after Mass from the Contact Corner. If no one is at the Contact Corner, please ask one of the Stewards for Linda or Lorraine.

If you pay tax and would like to join, please have a word with one of the team, it is simple and at no extra cost to you the Church can claim back 25%. See below for more details ***Do You Gift Aid?***

CARD READERS

To make things easier we have now introduced a number of card readers, which you will find throughout the church. The CollecTin reader is near the Icon of Padre Pio, instructions are listed next to the machine. You can use this for all offertories and donations.

The Sum-Up card reader will be situated in the narthex near the statue of St Teresa and can be used only for candles. Coming soon in the Repository will be another card reader so that you can pay for all your purchases using a credit debit card.

COLLECTIN

CollecTin is a card reader on which you can give your offertory and any other donation. All special collections will be listed on this machine and if you **Gift Aid** you need only register once, and it will remember you for all your donations - if you use the same card (*each card would need to be registered*).



CANDLES

SUMUP CARD READER

- IF THE SCREEN IS BLANK ***press the power button***
- ENTER THE AMOUNT YOU WISH TO DONATE
e.g. 5 0 0 is £5.00, press the green tick button
- TAP CARD ***for contactless*** or INSERT CARD ***using your pin***
- SELECT RECEIPT ***use arrows to select option required***

QR SCAN POINTS

There is now the opportunity to donate using a QR Scanner on your phone (if you have one installed). There are a number of Scan points in the church, one by the Statue of the Sacred Heart, one by the Exit side door and one on the noticeboard in the porch.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT – IT'S VALUED AND APPRECIATED!



Please Be Aware.

At this time, there is an increasing risk of cybercrime and online fraud. If you ever receive an email stating a change in bank account details purporting to be from the Archdiocese or from any of the diocesan parishes, please contact the diocese immediately by telephone on 020 8682 7880 in order to verify that the email is genuine and not a scam.

Covid-19 Omicron variant - Guidance for Churches from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying **any symptoms** of covid-19 should **stay at home** and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That **hand sanitiser** is available to those attending the Church.
- That there is a strong recommendation for people to **wear a face** covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
- That there is **good ventilation** and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to **wrap up well** in church!
- That a positive message encouraging people to get **vaccinated** and have the booster jab, when able, is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick, and vulnerable, should take **regular lateral flow tests** to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

Guidance for Churches – December 2021

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES



General Information

Following the statement by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 9th December, there has been a Government directive that further restrictions to mitigate against viral transmission, especially in the light of the new Omicron variant, will be imposed.

Summarising the Government directives:

- From Friday 10th December, face coverings will be required by law in most indoor settings.
- From Monday 13th December office workers who can work from home should do so.
- From Wednesday 15th December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption.

The requirements for NHS Covid passes will not apply to places of worship and the acts of worship associated with them. However, any social gatherings linked to events in churches will need to comply with new requirements but only when 500 or more people are involved.

Face Coverings

HM Government has made **the wearing of face covering mandatory** in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December 2021 (see [here](#)). However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and are exempt (the guidance for this can be found on the same page as above).

Singing

HM Government guidance states that *“There is a reasonable excuse for someone to remove a face covering when it is reasonably necessary for them to sing, for example, if they are singing as part of a choir, or during a service, rehearsal or for a performance.”* The current Church guidance states that congregational singing should take place with face coverings in place and choirs and soloists may sing without such coverings. As the Church moves towards Christmas celebrations which often involves carol services and other singing events, it is strongly recommended that congregational singing within church buildings continues with the applied face coverings.

Practical Guidance for Churches

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- Face coverings must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption or the person is leading worship or participating in a role that requires the mask to be removed for a period of time.
- That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
- There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant’s viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.
- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible (bearing in mind that the 40+ age group can apply for the booster vaccination, and that the period between 2nd dose and booster is reduced to 12 weeks).
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

Clarification on the Sunday Obligation

The Bishops’ Statement *Honouring Sunday* reflected the pastoral situation of public worship in the light of the pandemic situation at this time. The Bishops have asked for all Catholics to reflect on their personal circumstances with respect to their attendance at public worship. Questions have been raised regarding the status of the Sunday Obligation. The *Code of Canon Law* states that “Sunday... is the primordial holy day of obligation” (Can. 1246§1) and “the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.” (Can. 1247)

At the beginning of the pandemic, from Friday 20th March 2020, the Bishops of England and Wales recognised that the participation of the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration was prevented due to grave cause because of the inception of the covid-19 pandemic and stated that the Sunday obligation could not be fulfilled due to the inherent danger of the faithful gathering in churches for the Eucharistic celebration. On Monday 23rd March 2020, HM Government mandated the closure of places of worship along with other locations.

The Bishops, now having reflected on the current situation in England and Wales, recognise that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that the absolute duty for all to freely attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration cannot yet be fulfilled.

As such, they have asked that all Catholics now reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to their own life of faith and take into consideration their personal circumstances and the reasons as to whether they can now attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration or otherwise. Should a person feel that grave cause honestly persists in their personal circumstances, there is no sin associated with their non-attendance at Mass, and they are encouraged to devote themselves to prayer at home. This may be achieved either through personal prayer or by participating with a live-streamed celebration of Mass from a Church.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas
FINAL
10th December 2021

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 the prayer of St. Alphonsus de' Ligouri – The Prayer of Spiritual Communion
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.



**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.

