

# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam 07930 510218

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm and by appointment

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.15am-4.00pm



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year B

11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*We are God's work of art.*

The readings for this '*Laetare* ('Rejoice') Sunday' reveal the Lord's desire to save his people.

In the **First Reading** (2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23), the exile of the people, and later their release through the pagan king Cyrus, are understood in terms of God's judgment and mercy.

Today's **Psalms** (136) speaks of the desolation that is experienced when the Lord's goodness is no longer felt. In exile, the people could not be joyful. They could recall the presence of the Lord, but only with regret at its apparent loss.

The gift of the Lord's presence is given, ultimately, through God's loving gift of his Son to the world (**Gospel** John 3: 14–21). God loved us so much that he has led us back from the exile of sin, and in bringing us to life in Christ, he has made us a 'work of art'. Jesus is the means by which we are saved, so that we might live 'the good life' of grace in return (**Second Reading** Ephesians 2: 4–10).

Let's pray, this week, for a greater awareness of the Lord's wonderful gift, full of grace, that frees us from the darkness of exile to the light of joyful living.

***HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!***

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday during Lent at 7.00pm followed by **Evening Mass on Fridays** at 7.30pm during Lent.

**Saturdays in Lent** Exposition and Confessions from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. Mass at 12.00 noon (except next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March due to a wedding).

**Recently Deceased:**

**Patricia Crudginton:** Patricia's Funeral will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am.

**Pat Mills:** Pat's Funeral will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am. Her body will be received into the Church on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm.

**John Overton:** John's funeral will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.30pm

**Betty Long:** Betty's funeral will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00pm. Her body will be received into the Church on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm.

Please keep Patricia, Pat, John & Betty and their families in your prayers. May they Rest In Peace.

**SVP Collection:** There will be a second collection this weekend for the SVP.

**Children in Year Five:** Will the children in year 5 please see Fr Martin after mass.

**Lenten Project – StreetInvest:** This year, the Parish and the school will take on the Lenten project to support StreetInvest who work with children on the street. This is a global charity founded by Fr Patrick Shanahan, a missionary priest for over 40 years. StreetInvest is a global charity which exists to create positive sustainable change for street children. They are experts in a social practice called street work which is based on building empowering relationships of trust with street children. For a street child, knowing that they have an adult they can rely on to be there, to listen without judgement and to support them for as long as they need, is the first step towards changing their young lives. Details can be found on [www.streetinvest.org](http://www.streetinvest.org). Further details as to how you can donate will follow.

**Reconciliation Service in preparation for Easter** on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

**Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Week:** Please volunteer to assist on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil by putting your names on the list in the porch.

**Eucharistic Ministers & Readers** are invited to renew their commitment to their ministries in our Parish at the mass of the Last Supper on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm.

**FHC - Stations of the Cross:** On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00pm the First Holy Communion children will be doing the Stations of the Cross. It is based on the work of CAFOD. We will be having a collection afterwards so that we will be able to send a Lenten donation to CAFOD to support them in their immeasurable work.

**Easter Eggs** from the Real Easter Egg Company are now on sale in the repository shop.

**Interested in the Catholic Faith (RCIA)** Why not come and see? We meet on ***Mondays at 7.30pm until 9pm*** in the Van Meenen Room (room jutting out from church in the car park). Contact Fr Martin or Eileen Jonas or enquire at the Parish office. You are most welcome. Bring a friend!

**St Mary's School** is looking to appoint 2 Relief Mid-day Assistants, lunchtime only (11.40am-1.05pm) - 1hr 25 mins a day as required. For further details and an application form, please contact Mary McLeavy at St Mary's School Office on 01708 448430.

**Can you help?** We are looking to build a team of parishioners who are willing to work on a flexible rota basis in helping Fr Martin by carrying out some of the essential but unseen tasks that we all take for granted. These range from putting out new candles and clearing away the old used ones, through to preparing vestments generally and ensuring the altar

and sacristy is left tidy after Mass. If you are able to give **any** help, please contact Jack How 0774 0778 723 ([john.how@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.how@ntlworld.com)) for more information. Many hands...

**Bishop Alan goes #SiLent!**: For 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop Alan will be completely silent (except for occasional communication with his cat, Delia). This is part of a national initiative, "Million Minutes," adopted this year by the BCYS, to encourage all of us to (re)discover the peace, tranquility and value of silence: within the stillness, God speaks. Every minute of silence can also be sponsored, raising money for projects led by young people in our Diocese. For more details, and all the resources, look at [www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood](http://www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood). To sponsor Bishop Alan go to <https://be.wonderful.org/bishop.alan/2018/staysilent>. To find out more about all our opportunities for young people go to [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

**Sacred Heart Spring Fayre** will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 12.00pm-3.00pm.

**BRASIL:** In 1993 Kerry Meola, on behalf of St. Mary's Justice and Peace group, wrote to a priest in a parish in Sao Paulo. Padre Ticao responded & this began a dialogue of Solidarity, Fellowship, Friendship, and Prayer which still continues. Fran Marshall was the first individual to visit the parish of St. Francisco de Assis in 1994 and this led to a group of 12 visiting 20 years ago in February 1998 and an amazing group from Ermelino coming here in 2000. It is the 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Father Ticao's ordination on 8<sup>th</sup> July and there is an open invitation to anyone who wishes to attend. If you are interested in meeting together to remember, share or discuss our past, present or future solidarity with this parish please contact Lily Thomson on 07790505881.

#### **CHURCH EVENTS:**

**Children's Liturgy:** Sundays for children at the 9.30am Mass.

**Baptism Course:** First and second Thursday of the month.

**Baptisms:** Last Sunday of the month.

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** Wednesdays at 8.00pm in the Van Meenen Room.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** *Every Thursday 2.30 – 5.30pm & every First Friday from 9.00am – 7.00pm.*

**RCIA Journey in Faith:** Mondays at 7.30pm in the Van Meenen Room.

**Rosary:** Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Weekdays after 8.30am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel. Saturdays after 12 noon Mass in Our Lady's Chapel.

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** Meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Van Meenen Room. New members always welcome. If you, or anybody you know, would like/need a visit or help from the SVP please contact us through the church office.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH** at home and in hospital, especially Roseleen Ammerman, Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Phil Clerkin, Joyce Cougill, Sharon De Giorgio, Joan Dowding, Leo Duffy, Margaret Faye, William Fernandez, Bernadette Haddle, Kevin Hartie, Baby Nathan Howe, Evelyn Hughes, Mary Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Betty Long, Mary McCarthy, Dinah McMahan, Patrick Medlin, Joseph Mifsud, Patricia Mills, Richard Mole, Sheila Murphy, Maureen O'Neill, Kathleen Payne, Philomena Perry, Molly Peters, Anthony Picton, Jill Ridley, Paul David Ridley, Oliver Roome, Maura Shanney, Jane Stevenson, Anne Sullivan, Edna Sullivan, John Sullivan, Alex Taylor, Pat Taylor, Marie Tweedie, Maria Wallace, Mary Wallace, Josie Walsh, David Wells, Maureen Williams and for all our family and friends who are ill. **Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from our list.**

## WEEKEND 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018:

|                 |      |         |                                       |
|-----------------|------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Readers:</b> | Sat. | 6.30pm  | Maureen O'Brien / Kathleen Brooker    |
|                 | Sun  | 8.00am  | Joshua Duah / Albert Mathew           |
|                 |      | 9.30am  | Alan Sabu Mathew / Albert Sabu Mathew |
|                 |      | 11.30am | Donna Coy / Ray John                  |

**Bidding Prayers:** Jackie Donald

**Coffee Morning Rota:** Group 5

**Offerings 25.02.18:** Envs: £1,191.93

**Church Cleaning:** Group 2

Loose: £995.97      Total: £2,187.90

## MASS INTENTIONS

|                                 |                        |   |  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday                        | 10 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>11.00am</b><br><b>12.00pm</b><br><b>6.30pm</b>                   | <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Confession</b><br>Norman Armstrong RIP<br>Josephine & Anthony Camilleri RIP   |
| Sunday<br>Fourth Sunday of Lent | 11 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.00am</b><br><b>9.30am</b><br><b>11.30am</b>                    | All Parishioners / Frank Mollaghan RIP<br>Stephen Slattery RIP<br>Mick Conroy RIP / Eamon Commins RIP                      |
| Monday                          | 12 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.30am</b><br><b>11.30am</b>                                     | <b>NO MASS</b><br>Requiem Mass – Patricia Crudginton   |
| Tuesday                         | 13 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.30am</b><br><b>5.00pm</b>                                      | Jim Shanahan RIP<br>Reception of body – Pat Mills  |
| Wednesday                       | 14 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>11.30am</b><br><b>7.30pm</b>                                     | Requiem Mass – Pat Mills<br>Winifred Carpenter RIP   |
| Thursday                        | 15 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.30am</b><br><b>2.30pm</b>                                      | Mr Hurren RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP<br><b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>  |
| Friday                          | 16 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.30am</b><br><b>7.00pm</b><br><b>7.30pm</b>                     | Mr Sayers RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Deceased members of the Ireton & How Families                |
| Saturday                        | 17 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>11.00am</b><br><b>12.00pm</b><br><b>12.30pm</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>NO EXPOSITION OR CONFESSION</b><br><b>NO MASS</b><br>Wedding Mass–James Ramsden & Holly Parsons<br>Margaret Farrell RIP |
| Sunday<br>Fifth Sunday of Lent  | 18 <sup>th</sup> March | <b>8.00am</b><br><b>9.30am</b><br><b>11.30am</b>                    | Mary & Sean Clarke Int<br>All Parishioners / John O'Neil RIP<br>Patrick Maloney RIP  |

***Hospital: Are you going into hospital this week for surgery?  
Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick  
after all Sunday Masses.***