

# 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



**Easter Sunday**

**Year B**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2018**

*I have risen and I am with you still.*

On this first, bright, Easter morning, we encounter Mary, Peter and the beloved disciple still gripped by the terrible darkness of Good Friday (**Gospel** John 20:1-9). Mary, in her shock and despair, rushes from the opened tomb to the hidden disciples with news that sends them running out to see for themselves.

The **1st Reading** (Acts 10:34.37-43) tells of Peter's address to the household of Cornelius and, from first-hand witnesses, attests to the resurrection of Christ and what this means. Being a witness calls for the joint response of belief and proclamation.

Today's **Psalm** (117) is an exultation of the 'day of the Lord' for which we rejoice and give thanks. The Easter Sequence is an ancient poem of Resurrection narrative with the wonderful line: 'the tomb the Living did enclose'.

St Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (**2nd Reading** 1 Corinthians 5: 6-8), compares the Christian life to the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. Through Christ's death (the true Passover) the Christian community is marked by integrity and purity (a never-ending feast of Unleavened Bread). Thus, Paul strives to show them the influence they have on each other for good and bad alike.

This Easter we pray that, like the disciples, we may have the courage to enter the emptiness of that tomb and that it may evoke a response of belief in us which will send us back out into the world with gifts of hope and love and joy.

**FR MARTIN WISHES EVERYONE A VERY  
HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER.**

**Easter Offertory Collection:** Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Together with the Offertory taken at Christmas this provides a major part of his income for the year. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

**Divine Mercy Novena: Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Divine Mercy Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March: After the 3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March: 9.30am

Easter Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April: 10.45am

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>, Fri 6<sup>th</sup> April: After morning Mass

Weds 4<sup>th</sup> April: After evening mass

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April: After 12.00 noon Mass

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April: 10.45am

**Christmas Bazaar – Thank you!** Thanks to all who came to the Christmas Bazaar – we raised a fantastic £5,181.72. A special thanks to the PTA who put in such a tremendous effort to make it such a great success.

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** The Gift Aid envelopes for the next financial year are now ready for collection at the back of the church. Please note we are still awaiting delivery of some of the envelopes which should be with us next week.

**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 Betty and her family in your prayers. May she Rest In Peace.

**Simone Mescall:** Simone's funeral will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11am. Please keep Simone and her family in your prayers. May she Rest In peace.

**RCIA Candidates:** Please keep in your prayers those adults who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil and those who will receive other sacraments. There are five for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion, five to be confirmed and make First Communion and one who will be confirmed.

**Quiz night** - in the parish hall Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets £5 each, bring your own drinks and nibbles, there will also be a raffle. Max. tables of 10 please and please no children under 10. To book a table or for more details call Joanne on 01708 747026

**Lenten Project – StreetInvest:** There are still some money boxes left in the porch if anyone would like to take. Please return your box contributions after 8<sup>th</sup> April. More details to follow but please also see their website [www.streetinvest.org](http://www.streetinvest.org). This is a joint Parish & School Lenten project.

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

**Happy School Bag Collection:** The Happy School Bag collection is coming around again. It is the same principle as Cash for Clothes but run by the PTA. Donations are to be dropped outside the Van Meenan Room (without blocking the side door to the church) at all masses on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Unfortunately we **cannot accept** curtains, duvets or towels.

**Memorial Plaques** Would you like a memorial plaque placed on one of our pews for a much missed love one? Application forms in the church porch or ring Brenda on 01708 452442. £200 per plaque.

**First Holy Communion:** I would like to wish everyone a happy and holy Easter. I especially would like to thank all the catechists for their support and help they give our programme throughout the year. Jane.

**Pass It On!** Every first Saturday, 2-4pm in the parish hall. This is a free social event for older generations to pass on stories, skills and advice to younger generations. All welcome! If you require help with transportation or for more info call Joanne on 01708 747026.

**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...

**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 40th Jubilee of Father Ticao's ordination on 8th 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.

**Sacred Heart Alumni:** We wish to warmly invite you to a Reunion to be held at the school on Saturday 7th July 2018 between 2pm and 5pm. Come back, meet up with some old friends and teaching staff and have a look around the school to spark fond memories! Please save the day in you diary and spread the word to any past pupils you may still be in contact with. Check the school website for details of how to join us and how to buy a ticket.

#### **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 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018:**

|                 |      |         |                                    |
|-----------------|------|---------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Readers:</b> | Sat. | 6.30pm  | Sharon Flevin / Warren James       |
|                 | Sun  | 8.00am  | Susan Squire / Nicola Stacey       |
|                 |      | 9.30am  | Michael Olaniyan / Amanda Thompson |
|                 |      | 11.30am | Nonita Emilianus / Nneamaka Ajoh   |

**Bidding Prayers:** Brian Rodgers

**Coffee Morning Rota:** 100 Club

**Church Cleaning:** Group 1

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

|               |                        |                |  |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Holy Saturday | 31 <sup>st</sup> March | <b>8.00pm</b>  | George & Dorothy Ruddiman RIP /<br>Mabel Willis  |
| Easter Sunday | 1 April                | <b>8.00am</b>  | Jisma Joseph RIP / Matthew Ward RIP              |
|               |                        | <b>9.30am</b>  | All Parishioners                                 |
|               |                        | <b>11.30am</b> | Sam Farrugia RIP / Susan Brady RIP               |
| Monday        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  | <b>10.30am</b> | Nora Maguire RIP /<br>Julianna & Joe O'Kelly Int |
| Tuesday       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April  | <b>9.00am</b>  | Jack Louro RIP / Helen Bray Int                  |
| Wednesday     | 4 <sup>th</sup> April  | <b>7.30pm</b>  | Simon Smith RIP                                  |
| Thursday      | 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | <b>9.00am</b>  | NO MASS  |
|               |                        | <b>12.00pm</b> | Requiem Mass – Betty Long                        |
| Friday        | 6 <sup>th</sup> April  | <b>9.00am</b>  | Thanksgiving Mass / Norah Lenehan RIP            |
| Saturday      | 7 <sup>th</sup> April  | <b>12.00pm</b> | Andy & Kathleen Coughlan RIP                     |
|               |                        | <b>6.30pm</b>  | Josephine & Anthony Camilleri                    |
| Sunday        | 8 <sup>th</sup> April  | <b>8.00am</b>  | All Parishioners / Margie Smith Int              |
|               |                        | <b>9.30am</b>  | Martin Doherty RIP                               |
|               |                        | <b>11.30am</b> | Eamon Commings 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.***

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies in this newsletter!