

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH



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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Sacramental Coordinator: Jane Tatam 07415 602774

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment

Parish Office Hours in August: Monday & Friday 9am-1pm



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

25th July 2021

*You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant
all our desires*

This Sunday's readings remind us that God provides for us physically as well as spiritually.

In the **First Reading** (2 Kings 4: 42–44), Elisha assures his servant that one hundred people will be fed with just twenty barley loaves because the Lord has promised it, while the Psalmist (Psalm 145) praises the Lord who, by feeding us from his own hand, 'answers all our needs'.

St Paul, writing to the Church at Ephesus (**Second Reading** Ephesians 4: 1–6), assures the Christian community that, despite any evidence to the contrary, God, who unifies the people, is in control.

The three readings are brought together in the **Gospel** (John 6: 1-15) account of the Feeding of the Five Thousand (which is a foreshadowing of the Eucharist and the only miracle of Jesus that is recounted in all four gospels). Not only does Jesus outdo Elisha's miracle, he demonstrates that, by feeding the people from his own divine hands, God is unifying the people through meeting their need.

Let's pray, this week, that we might know ourselves to be in the hands of the Lord, and that our lives may bear abundant fruit as a result.

**Year of St. Joseph
Patron Saint of the Catholic Church**

Masses in the Church: As you are aware, the Government have relaxed restrictions. However, Father Martin and the Parish Council have agreed to keep in place many of the good practices we already have, so that we can continue maintaining a safe environment for all. So going forward all will need to continue to book in for Mass, wear a face mask / visor, sanitize hands and be guided by our team of stewards. Social distancing will be relaxed in the body of the Church except the side aisles. We will continuously review our regulations. Thank you all for your understanding and co-operation.

Mass bookings: Please contact the Parish Office, preferably by email, to book for weekend masses. If you wish to book by telephone, please try to call during office opening times (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri mornings) and please do not call after 7.00pm if possible. Please give your name, telephone number, which mass you are booking for and the number of spaces you need. Your booking will be automatically accepted so please do not expect a response unless we cannot accommodate you. Please remember at all masses in the Church you will need to wear a face mask.

Missionary Appeal: Father John Downey, a Comboni Missionary Priest will be making an appeal at all Masses on the weekend of 28th/29th August for their work overseas. Father John has worked for many years in Brazil. There will be a second collection at these Masses. Please be as generous as you can.

Thursday: The church will be open for private prayer and adoration between 11am – 1pm on Thursday's. Please remember to wear a face mask.

Rosary Thursday 7.30pm: The Rosary will be said in the Church. Please enter through the side door of the Church by the Van Meenan room. All are welcome to come and join us. Please note no Rosary on Thursday 5th August.

Confirmation 2021 - 2022: Application forms are available in the porch for those young people who would like to be Confirmed in our Parish. You will need to be in Year 11 and above in September 2021. We hope to run a preparation course for those who will be in Year 10 from September in the spring term of 2022. More details on this and application forms will be given out at a later date. We are looking for volunteers to help us run the Confirmation programme in our Parish this year, either as a Catechist or in some other way. Please contact the Parish office or speak to Father Martin.

Altar Servers: As a result of the pandemic, we have less active Altar Servers at present. Anyone young or old that would like to help serve at Mass please speak to Father Martin.

Help Needed: Could any knitters or crocheters contact Jane Tatam on 07415 602774 to help with a new Parish project. Thank you.

Finances: Please feel free to drop an offering into the presbytery or alternatively, you can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off or by a regular Standing Order. The details are as follows:

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference when you make your donation. Any donations are very gratefully received.

RCIA Journey in Faith: For those that are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please speak to Father Martin or contact the Parish Office.

BCCS RELAY100: continues during the summer holidays. We are going to walk 2 more legs during August. Thank you for your support and donations of about £80, so far. We will let you know the full amount in September! We hope you have a happy and safe summer. If you would like to make a small donation, please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Relay100> (mention Frances + Brian, St. Mary's) or pop a penny or two in an envelope (addressed 'RELAY100') into the Parish Office. Thank you. F+B.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially: Margaret Baan, Ashley Baptist, Grant Cambridge, Martin Chandler, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Betty Gemba, Sharon De Giorgio, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, Anne Humphrays, Yvonne Ingham, Sajy Joseph, Cathy Lennon, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Bina McCarthy, Carly Menon, Mary Pickton, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Josie Walsh, Evelyn Ward 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.**

Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift. Be present to those in need in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good. Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent. Enable us to succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary, Help of Christians. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	24 th July	5.30-6pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Margaret Newman RIP / John Coughlan RIP
Sunday	25 th July	8.00am	Thelma McDonagh RIP / Mike Yeo Int
<i>Seventeenth Sunday in ordinary time</i>		9.30am	All Parishioners
		11:30am	McSweeney Family RIP / Pat Mossman RIP / Charmalie Lankatilleke RIP
Monday	26 th July	9.15am	Norah Lenehan RIP / Mrs Andrews RIP
<i>SS Joachim & Anne</i>			
Tuesday	27 th July	9.15am	Joseph Sealy RIP / Mr Hagler RIP
Wednesday	28 th July	7.30pm	Eddie O'Donoghue RIP / The Barratt Family RIP / Patrick Sarsfield RIP
Thursday	29 th July	11 – 1pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<i>St Martha</i>			
Friday	30 th July	9.15am	Anna Wiggell RIP / Our Lady in Thanksgiving
Saturday	31 st July	5.30-6pm	Confession
<i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>		6:30pm	All Parishioners
Sunday	1 st August	8.00am	Jim Shanahan RIP / Hector Brunton RIP
<i>Eighteenth Sunday in ordinary time</i>		9.30am	Ethel Nichol RIP / The Coughlan Family RIP / Baby Albie Davis Int
		11:30am	Sam Farrugia RIP / Lena & Billy Delahunty RIP

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.