

# 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: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.00am-1.00pm



**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**



*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right*

Today's 1st Reading is from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:4-7), who ministered in Judah. The conquest of the northern kingdom of Israel by Assyria terrified the people of the south. This text was his attempt at encouraging them to keep hope in the God of salvation.

The Psalm (145) shows us what the salvation of God means - faithfulness, justice, sight, food, freedom - God's special concern for those to whom life has dealt serious disadvantage, so that all might sing 'praise to the Lord'.

In the 2nd Reading (James 2:1-5) James illustrates that faith in God means learning to identify with God's ways. Faith is not an abstraction but is about discipleship. We are called to see beyond the appearances of miracles and beyond our own assumptions of others to the heart of faith: the needs of our neighbour and the power of God at work in us.

Mark, in the Gospel (Mark 7:31-37), evokes Isaiah's promise that God's power is at work in his people through gifts of speech and hearing. God has opened our ears too, to hear his Word, and loosened our tongues that we might say with Isaiah: 'Look! Here is our God. He comes to save us.'

**Year of St. Joseph**

**Patron Saint of the Catholic Church**

**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 or on a Wednesday 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.

**Confirmation 2021 - 2022:** There will be a meeting for all young people of our Parish with their parents / guardians who wish to be Confirmed and are in Year 11 and above from this September. This will take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm** in the Parish Hall. We look forward to seeing you all.

**Altar Server Training:** All children who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to become Altar Servers. There will be two training practice sessions in the Church at 9.30am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Each session will last about 1 hour. Children will need to be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

**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.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** Mass on Friday will be at the earlier time of **8.15am** which gives the opportunity for our school children and their families to attend Mass at the beginning of the day.

**Gardening Club:** We are looking for volunteers to help look after our Parish gardens and parking area. We hope this will be on a monthly basis. Please speak to Father Martin or contact the Parish office if you can help.

**First Holy Communion:** Please keep in your prayers our young children who will be starting their First Holy Communion preparation this September. May it be a wonderful experience for them and their families.

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

**Altar Servers:** As a result of the pandemic, we have less active Altar Servers at present. If any adult or young person would like to help Altar serve, please speak to Father Martin.

**Congratulations:** to Jessica Birtles and Ross Fisher who were Married at St. Mary's on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**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.

**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	4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Geraldine, Domenica & John Int / Frank Mollaghan RIP / Margaret da St Jorre RIP
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>8.00am</b>	Joaquina D'Souza RIP / Clive McDonagh RIP
<i>Twenty-third Sunday in ordinary time</i>		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	Sam Farrugia RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Claude Callegari RIP
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>9.15am</b>	Patrick Joyce RIP / Maureen Crowe RIP
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>7.30pm</b>	Rita Thompson RIP / Janet Buckle RIP
<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>11 – 1pm</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>8.15am</b>	Arthur Sapsford RIP / Mr & Mrs Chilton RIP
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6:30pm</b>	Andrew Shanahan RIP / Josephine, Anthony & Paula Camileri RIP
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>8.00am</b>	Mary McCarthy RIP / Ray Watson RIP
<i>Twenty-fourth Sunday in ordinary time</i>		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11:30am</b>	Eamon Commings RIP / Rev Father Eric Cadwick RIP