

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

23.05.2021

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Pentecost

Saturday	22 nd	6.00 pm	Bonnie Patrick RIP
Sunday	23 rd	8.15am	Mary Murphy-Sopp IP
		10.30 am	Rose Brown & Imelda Torelores RIP
Monday	24 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	25 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	26 th	9.30 am	Intention of the Davitt Family
Thursday	27 th	9.30 am	Thomas & John Walsh RIP
Friday	28 th	9.30 am	Intention of Virginia & Gearoid McNamara
Saturday	29 th	6.00 pm	Patsy Jacob RIP & the intentions of his family
Sunday	30 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	John Hardman RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-11; Galatians 5:16-25; 16:12-15; John 7:37-39

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20

COLLECTIONS: Church: £257 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Norma Markham, Pat Duggan, Anne O'Halloran, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, John Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20 Smith, Mick Brouder, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: STELLA SEVILLE and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Petronella Woods, Elizabeth Scotney, Ray Hudson, Mary Murphy-Sopp, Ernest Wyant, Frank Featherstone, Eileen Kennedy, Hay Fraser, Cherry Stone. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking to recruit a practising Catholic to join our Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. The Governing Body work as a team in co-operation with the Headteacher to ensure legal responsibilities are met and to preserve the Catholic character of the school. Lack of experience should not deter you from expressing an interest if you have a genuine desire to serve the school by devoting your time & expertise. The Governors of English Martyrs School Community are committed to a working environment that is diverse and all inclusive. For further information please contact the school on 01903 502868.

4. THE CHURCH IS OPEN TO VISITORS TO THE CEILING but a few more volunteers are needed if we are to be able to open the church Mondays 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and Tuesdays to Fridays 10.00 am – 4.00 pm as in the past. Currently we are closed on Wednesday afternoons for lack of volunteers. If you are tempted and would like to find out more before committing yourself please contact Teresa 01903 529260 – you have nothing to lose!!

5. CHOIR PRACTICE resumes in the church at 7.30 pm on Tuesday Evening. New members are very welcome to come and join us.

6. PLEASE PRAY FOR MARY'S MEALS: Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through his providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children

6. CAFOD: 2021 - A year of opportunity - An online talk with Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD on 26th May at 7.30 pm, Cost £5. This year the UK will host two major international gatherings: the G7 and the Climate Conference (COP26). Christine Allen will explore ways in which these events could make a difference to our world, especially to the lives of people who live in poverty. She will reflect on the impact of COVID-19 and draw lessons for the future for our interdependence with one another and with our natural world as we seek to recover and heal after the pandemic. You can [book online](#) or T: 01428 642161

7. DONA CONTACTLESS AND ONLINE CHURCH DONATIONS: A steady decline in cash donations in recent years has been further exacerbated by the effects of the lockdown. At the suggestion of the Diocese a new **cashless donation system is now cited in both porches**. This enables you to make Chip & Pin or Contactless donations instead of cash. **A short introduction video is available to view on the front of the parish website**

8. THE RETURN OF MARY'S MEALS: To date we have sent **5,010** backpacks to Mary's Meals and they are now in a position to collect more. Tony has the backpacks but now has a particular need for Flannels, Soap and Toothpaste. Many thanks to all who have so generously contributed to these backpacks in the past.

9. TURNING TIDES (WCHP): Items needed: Cereal bars, Sugar, Coffee, Small Juices, Cooking Oil, Squash, Carton Milk, Crisps. Also Hand Sanitisers, Liquid Soaps, Shampoo, Toilet Rolls, Kitchen Rolls, Toilet Cleaner, Washing Powder, Washing Liquid, Cream Cleaner, Black Sacks, Sandwich Bags, Ante-Bac Spray, Cereal Bowls, Small Tents, Bath Towels. Single Duvets. Men's Jeans, Jogging Bottoms, (Small/Medium) Men's Boxers (New please) Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Luke, in today's first reading tells, us about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the infant church at Pentecost. All the first followers of Jesus - like Jesus himself - were Jewish and Pentecost was a Jewish feast - occurring 50 days after the great Feast of the Passover. In Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles we are told what happened. In Chapter 1 we are told of the Ascension of the Lord - the last appearance of the risen Christ to his followers. Luke tells us what they did when they finally realised they would not set their eyes on him any more in this life. 'All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus as well as his brethren.'

This is the last picture we have of Mary in the scriptures. She is with a small group of Jesus' faithful followers 'devoting themselves to prayer'. This surely is the same group who were gathered together on Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit came, as Jesus had repeatedly promised. 'I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.' (John:14) One of the many titles we give to Mary is to call her 'Mother of the Church'. On Calvary John's Gospel tells us that; 'When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother 'Woman here is your son'. Then he said to his disciple 'Here is your mother'. The disciple whom Jesus loved represents all of us. Jesus is entrusting his mother to all of us as our mother also. So we find her gathered with her son's small band of followers after his ascension 'constantly devoting themselves to prayer. How appropriate it was that the Second Vatican Council should give that lovely title of 'Mother of the Church' to Mary. Before Mary gave birth to Jesus she visited her cousin Elizabeth who called her 'mother of my Lord'. The Council of Ephesus in the year 431 called Mary 'the Mother of God' All the early Councils of the Church were held in Eastern Europe and the language used was Greek. In Greek the title given to Mary at Ephesus was Theotokos, which literally means 'bearer of God'. Mary bore the baby Jesus who was truly human and truly divine, The Council of Ephesus was summoned because the followers of Arius were strongly proclaiming that Jesus was God-like but not really God. In reinforcing the truth of the divinity of Christ the Council emphasised that Mary was the bearer of God. In England this became translated as Mother of God, which indeed is what Theotokos means. Many people, especially non-Christians - would have great difficulty with calling a human being Mother of God. Could God have a mother? But Mary was truly the mother of Jesus and Jesus was a person who was really God as well as truly man. We honour Mary because God honoured her in a way he honoured no other human being by choosing her to be the mother of his only begotten Son. Mary, because she was aware of the divine dignity of her Son, was also aware of the great honour God had bestowed on her. In her great prayer of thanks she cries out :

'My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness.
Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name.' (Luke 1:46-49)

All ages indeed have called Mary blessed. Elizabeth was the first to do so when Mary, carrying the baby Jesus in her womb, visited her. 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb'. (Luke 1:42) We address Mary in these same words everytime we say the Hail Mary. We address her also in the words of the angel Gabriel: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you (Luke 1:28)

The Hail Mary is truly a gospel prayer and calling Mary blessed is truly a gospel thing to do. Mary was very conscious that she was a creature, she glories in being God's servant and glories in her lowliness. But she also glories in the Lord who has done great things through her

Many of you will remember May Celebrations in honour of Mary and crowning her statue with flowers. Maybe next year!