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**The First Sunday in Lent** 

6.00 pm Joseph McStravick RIP Saturday Sunday 8.15am Mary Ellis RIP Debbie Beirne RIP 10.30 am **7**th Monday 9.30 am The Parish 8<sup>th</sup> 9 .30 am Tuesday Jane Melhuish RIP **Choir Practice** 7.00 pm 9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 9.30 am Patrick O'Toole Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Charlie Gillespie RIP Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Kathleen Greed RIP 10.00 am Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm Breda Dalton RIP 12th 10.00-11.00 am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Saturday John Roe RIP 6.00 pm 13<sup>th</sup> 8.15 am Sunday Antonio Maccarrone RIP 10.30 am Liz Harvey RIP **SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm

<u>TODAY'S READINGS:</u> Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Paul Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13. <u>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:</u> Genesis 15:5-12,17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

COLLECTIONS: Church: £267 St Oscar Romero Sponsored climb: £250 Thank you for your generosity.

Next Friday is CAFOD Lent Fast Day, a day of prayer for the hungry and needy of the world. Please take a special envelope and return it, enclosing your donation, at the second collection next Sunday, remembering to fill in the attached Gift Aid form if you are a tax-payer. When you give up something on Fast Day and share what you have, you prove that poverty is not inevitable. Please see Note 5

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Kathleen Brennan, Chris Judge, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, 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** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Michael O'Rourke, Brian Jackson, David Davies, Marion Ray, Margaret Sullivan, Kathleen Shortt, John Gomez, Rosina Curtis, Julian Mokrski, Maurice Brunet, Mary Ellis, Rene McGrath, Anne Soper, Charlie Gillespie, Delia Evans.

  May they rest in peace and rise in glory
- 3. ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT 'HOOLEY' in aid of our Parish Project. ALL TICKETS SOLD
- **4. MINISTRY OF THE WORD FORMATION COURSE:** Everybody who proclaims the word of God in the liturgy needs, whether new to it or a long time minister, to reflect on the importance of what they are doing and to practice their proclamation. To assist with that there will be a Deanery 'Ministers of the Word Course' on Saturday 19 March from 11am-12.30pm at St Michael's, Hayling Rise, Worthing BN13 3AL in the parish hall and church. Numbers are limited. Please book by contacting Deacon Mark Woods on email <a href="mark.woods@abdiocese.org.uk">mark.woods@abdiocese.org.uk</a> or tel: 01903 877801. A further session will be available in May.
- **5. CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY LENT APPEAL.** Every child should grow big and strong. Family Fast Day is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, like Amie in Sierra Leone, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent.

<u>It is recommended that we continue</u> to wear masks, use hand-sanitiser, hymn books returned to either porch AND, most importantly, going to Holy Communion row by row – out one end of the bench and back by the other end.

- <u>6.THE LENTEN ALMS BOX</u> is in the front porch next to the main door. The proceeds are sent to the Contemplative Orders of women in the Diocese
- 7. HAND MADE MOTHERS DAY AND EASTER CARDS are now available in the Repository. All proceeds go to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga
- **8. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:** This training is aimed at Group Leaders, and Coordinators of activities in parishes, who also need to know the elements of our Creating a Safe Environment Policy. The next dates for our Training is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10:30-12:00 on Zoom. To register to attend one of these training sessions, please email Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk with your name and role and a Zoom link will be circulated to you nearer the time. The world of Safeguarding has changed in the last few years with many more forms to complete. This training is very good and alerts us to what we need to be doing to ensure our young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe.
- <u>9. DO YOU COME TO THE 10.30 am MASS ON SUNDAYS?</u> Could you be a welcomer/steward? The more volunteers we have the easier it would become because a rota could be created. The task is not onerous, a smile, a greeting, helping people with hymn books and news-sheets and ensuring during Communion that people go up to Communion in an orderly way. Please contact Father Liam or Anne in the office to volunteer.
- **10. EDGE YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting this Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, in the Barn, from 6.00 until 730 pm. All young people 11+ welcome. Contact Niall for more information nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk.
- 11. MARY'S MEALS; We are completing the next 100 Back Packs but need pencil cases, tennis balls new or otherwise exercise/reports books and serviceable children's shoes+ flip-flops for boys and girls to the age of 12 years. Just these items for now but your help will be much appreciated. Thank you.
- **12. TURNING TIDES (WCHP):** Items needed: Carton Milk, Honey, Fruit Juices, Tinned Vegetarian Meals, Tinned Meals, Pot Noodles, Pasta in Sauce, Instant Noodles, Small Carton Juices, Coffee, Cooking Oil, Cling Film,. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations. (Sadly we are no longer able to deliver clothes and other such goods.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** In the first document to emerge from the Second Vatican Council (on the Sacred Liturgy), we are told that 'Christ is present in his Word since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church'. These are among the most frequently quoted words of the Council, and among the most important. They stress the importance of the Scriptures in the lives of Christians and why the Scriptures are so important – it is Christ himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church.

When it speaks of the Scriptures being read in the Church, the Council is not speaking of the church building. It is important to remember that in the first centuries of Christianity there were no church buildings. The Roman Empire, in which the Church grew up, outlawed Christianity but the Church not only survived but it flourished. The Church means the Christian community, not a building, not even the leadership of the Christian Community. It is the assembly of the baptised who gather together to praise and worship the Father in, with and through Christ. We are all the Church and it is Christ himself who speaks when the Scriptures are read in Church. For far too long the Scriptures were read in Church in a language that the vast majority of the people did not understand. They were read in Latin by the priest who was not even facing the people as he read them. Sometimes he might afterwards turn around and read the Gospel in the vernacular, especially at Sunday Mass.

In the Jewish tradition the Scriptures were read in their synagogue worship not by a single reader but ordinarily by three, sometimes even seven, people. It was demonstrating that the Word does not belong to any one person. It cannot be monopolised. It is the property of the whole community. It is the whole assembly which listen to it. In some way it is also the whole community which proclaims it.

We need more readers at Mass. We need readers who originate from different parts of the world because our congregation has people from different parts of the world. And we need readers from across the age range. As you know there is a session to help new and established readers to better fulfil their ministry, taking place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at St. Michael's. (See Note 4) It is for people from the whole Deanery. It is expected that all readers and prospective readers take part – even if you have been reading for some years. If you cannot come om 19<sup>th</sup> March there will be another session in May. We need more readers because some feel that they can no longer do it. Others have moved away. Please come to the session if you feel this ministry is for you. You can make a final decision after you have taken part. Don't wait for me to invite you. Please contact Deacon Mark.

We can all read but more is involved than the ability to read aloud. It is a very important ministry and requires preparation. The dignity of the Scriptures demands this. Many people tend to read the text too rapidly. People listening need time for the meaning to sink in. When we are nervous we tend to read too quickly. It is as if we are in a hurry to finish. It is important to read slowly. Unfortunately nobody is going to tell you to slow down. Nobody wants to hurt your feelings. That is why we need to prepare. Having the good will to serve does not automatically make one a good reader.

Readers have the task of proclaiming the Word of God. They should read with a great deal of energy. They should familiarise themselves with the passage. In the porch there are always copies of the following Sunday's readings. If you have not a Sunday Missal please pick up the readings in advance, especially if you are the reader, and practice reading it enthusiastically. Encourage one another to read and to read up!