

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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1st SUNDAY IN LENT

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days.



Luke the evangelist gives us here the first stage in Jesus' ministry, the time in the desert, where the tempter launches his first assault on the Messiah and pursues him even to the parapet of the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus will encounter his adversary again 'at the appointed time', during the passion. In that final assault, as here, he will overcome him in the strength of the Father's Word and of the Spirit received at his baptism

Weekend Mass Intentions

- Sat:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer
9.30am—For Lost Souls
6.00pm—Intentions of Bernadette & Daniel
- Sun:** 8.00am—For the Recovery of Ann Sullivan
9.30am—Marianna Amato—Anniversary
11.00am—Merlyn Wijesuriya—Anniversary
5.15pm—Novena to St Joseph with Benediction (1)
6.00pm—John Harrington—RIP

Weekday Mass Intentions

- Mon:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer
9.30am—For the Repose of the Holy Souls
Followed by Novena to St Joseph (2)
- Tue:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.40am—Rosary & Morning prayer
9.30am—Serge Poisson—Anniversary
Followed by Novena to St Joseph (3)
- Wed:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.15am—Rosary & Morning Prayer
9.30am—For Pope Francis (Anniversary of Election)
Followed by Novena to St Joseph (4)
- Thu:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer
9.30am—For a Private Intention (js)
Followed by Novena to St Joseph (5)
- Fri:** 5.30pm—Confessions & Exposition
6.40pm—Evening Prayer & Rosary
7.30pm—Josie McCormack—RIP
Followed Stations of the Cross & then Novena (6)
- Sat:** 7.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer
8.40am—Rosary & Morning Prayer
9.30am—Alan Pearce—RIP
Followed by Novena to St Joseph (7)
Followed by Confessions until 10.45am
6.00pm—John Brennan

CONFESSIONS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday Evening from 5.30pm to 7.15pm
Saturday Morning from after Mass until 10.45am

Confessions are heard in the Sacristy at the front of the church either anonymously or face to face. Do try to get into the habit of going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. It is a wonderful aid to progressing in the spiritual life and allowing Jesus to enter fully into our lives. We should learn to 'fall in love' with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a cure for our spiritual ills!

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

March: Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

Admissions—September 2019

If you wish your child to be considered for a place in our Nursery you are invited to attend a meeting with the Governors in the School Hall on **Thursday 21st March 2019 between 6.45pm and 7.15pm.**

Applicants for September 2019 are those born between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

Please bring with you the following documents:

- Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Child's Birth Certificate
- TWO current proofs of address

If you do not attend Mass regularly at Mary, Mother of God, Ponders End, it would be helpful to the Governors if you could provide them with a reference from your Parish priest. If you are unable to get this please do not let this be a barrier to your application.

FAITH SHARING FOR SMALL GROUPS LENT 2019

REJOICE AND BE GLAD

"The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created." (Gaudete et Exsultate)

"Rejoice and be glad" invites those who share in it to discover what it means to be a joyful missionary disciple of Jesus Christ.

Small Prayer Groups will meet together each week in the parish hall—see notice board for times

If you have never attended one of our small prayer groups, then please come along on this occasion.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE

For couples celebrating 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, and 60+ wedding anniversaries.

Saturday 8th June 2019 at Westminster Cathedral

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will soon be inviting married couples in the Diocese who are celebrating particular anniversaries during 2019 to join him at the Cathedral for a special Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. This year it will take place on Saturday 8th June at 3.00pm.

During the liturgy the couples will be invited in a simple way to renew their marital commitment and prayers will be offered for them and their families.

If you would like to attend this very special occasion then please hand your details to Fr John: names, addresses, anniversary date, email address and telephone number.

Please give your details by Saturday 23rd March.

MAKE FRIDAY SPECIAL

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED ON A FRIDAY

Do something positive to say thank you.

Make a sacrifice.

FAST on a Friday—give up a meal.

LEGION OF MARY

Our next Praesidium meeting will be today Sunday 17th March at 4.00pm in the parish hall. You will be most welcome to join us.

ROSARY for your Intentions

Rosary and Devotions to Our Lady on Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm. Will meet in the church.

CAFOD—Family Fast Day

Friday 15th March 2019

This is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world. Drought, floods and storms are having a devastating impact on our global family

On Friday 15th March can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help suffering people.

Please bring your Fast Day envelope back to the church next weekend. Many thanks.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Please do give thought as to how you can use Lent this year positively for your own spiritual growth and appreciation of all that Jesus Christ has achieved for us in His suffering and death.

Making real time for prayer and staying close to the Lord.

Fasting—not an easy discipline for some but with a little effort you can try and give up a meal here and there during Lent.

Alms giving—supporting charities that help people who struggle to make ends meet.

Do your very best for the Lord this year

THE WATCHFUL HOUR

During the Season of Lent there will be more time given to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to allow parishioners more time to spend quietly with Our Lord in the church.

Every weekday evening from 5.00pm to 8.00pm the church will be open and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar. Do try and spend a few quiet moments with Our Lord.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Friday mornings at 8.15am

and Friday evenings after 7.30pm evening Mass

Please join us as we walk with Our Lord Jesus on His final journey to His crucifixion and death

Why not make following the Stations of the Cross one of your Lenten disciplines this year?

CATECHETICS

Catechetical Coordinator: **Muriel Akahi**

Tel: 020 8443 4069 Mobile: 07514 225 506 Email: murielakahi@rcdow.org.uk

FIRST COMMUNION FIRST RECONCILIATION 2019

MASS & PREPARATION CLASS

Sunday 17th March 2019

The children should be sitting at the front of the church in their groups with their catechists for the 9.30am Mass. Children must be on time for Mass. If they and their families are persistently late for Mass their children will not be allowed to join their group and it will stand as a lost session.

Children should be attending Mass together with their families
From now onwards on a **regular weekly basis**.

- When the children are not sitting with their catechist the parents should bring their children forward to Fr John for a blessing at Communion time at every Mass.
- If a child misses three preparation meetings then their preparation will be delayed until the following year.
- If parents miss two of the parent's meetings then their child's preparation will be delayed until the following year,
- If children or parents arrive more than 15 minutes late for their meetings then it will be counted as a missed session.
- Parents must inform us **beforehand** of any absences. Please call 8804 2149 or 8443 4069 and leave a message.
- All future notices concerning the First Communion Programme will be published in this newsletter.

CONFIRMATION 2019

PREPARATION SESSION

Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 6.45pm in the Parish Hall

It is important that the candidates arrive well in time for their sessions.

Persistent lateness will be counted as a missed session.

CONFIRMATION 2019—CELEBRATION MASS

Saturday 30th March 2019 at 6.00pm in the church

Candidates must arrive in church on time and should sit at the front with their catechist. Persistent lateness will count as a lost session

CONFIRMATION 2019—PARENTS MEETING

Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 8.00pm in the church

Parent's meetings are important and are part of the preparation course. Parents must attend. It is an opportunity for us to give you information about the progress of the preparation and also to inform you of any changes as well as helping them to help their young people by their example and encouragement.

Candidates must be attending Mass on a regular weekly basis.

Confirmation should be seen as a willingness to practice the faith.

- Parents should be supporting their children in their preparation by also attending Mass each week
- Candidates must arrive on time for their lessons and Mass. Lateness will be counted as a lost session.
- If you are unable to attend any meeting please inform us beforehand—call either 8804 2149 or 8442 4069.

Time keeping is of the utmost importance and it will be the parent's responsibility to ensure that the young people are in the right place at the right time. If you are uncertain about any aspect of the programme then please contact us on 8443 4069. Thanks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019

PARENT'S MEETING

Tuesday 11th March 2019 at 8.00pm in the church.

This is an important meeting for parents who want their children to be prepared to receive their First Holy Communion in 2019. Details of the new programme will be given so attendance is important.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

- Marriages involving a Catholic partner should always take place in a Catholic church before a Catholic priest.
- If your marriage took place in a Register Office or in a church other than a Catholic one then the marriage would need to be convalidated (blessed). Easily done.
- If you have been married before and are not sure about getting married again in a Catholic church then talk it through with a priest who will help you.
- If you have been through a Traditional marriage you will still need to be married civilly and in church for your marriage to be recognised as Sacramental.
- If you have any problems or questions concerning marriage please do not hesitate to talk to a priest.

OUR NEXT MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:

**Wednesday 3rd April from 7.00pm to 9.30pm
& Saturday 6th April from 9.30am to 5.30pm**

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Baptisms are always by appointment. Parents will be expected to attend a Preparation Course before their children are Baptised. Each course comprises three evenings which last about an hour. Our Baptisms take place on a Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm. Registration forms can be found on the table in the porch of the church. Complete and return to us.

Course begins on Thursday 21st March 2019 at 7.00pm

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

To help our children to know their basic prayers, what Mass is all about and generally help them to understand their Catholic faith. It is open to children aged between 4ys and 9ys. If you would like your children to join our Sunday School which would take place on a Sunday morning then please come and register them. You will be welcome.

Next Sunday School is on Sunday 24th March. Begins at 9.15am in the parish hall. Please don't be late.

ADULT BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

We run an ongoing programme for adults who might be interested in becoming Roman Catholics, or who want to be Baptised and/or Confirmed or who simply want to know more about the Catholic faith. The group usually meets on a Monday evening in the parish hall at 7.30pm. Come along or call 8804 2149 for more information.

Enquiry time—No meetings at the present time

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

'Our Lady Queen of Peace'

20th—27th August 2019

£769 for 8 days / 7nights

Details can be seen on the notice board and a booking form can be picked up from the sacristy. Bookings should be made by March 2019

Includes flights, hotel half board and excursions. Booking forms now available from the Sacristy.

Medjugorje is a place of peace and holiness, strongly influenced by Reconciliation, the Blessed Sacrament & Mass and by prayer. All under the strong influence of Mary, Our Lady of Grace. Please join us.

BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting of the Bible Study Group will be on Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm

MINISTERING TO THE SICK AND THE DYING

Most Catholics have been faithful to the Church all of their lives. Attending Mass regularly and receiving the Sacraments of the Church. It has been important for them to commit themselves to their faith in this way—and it is wonderful. It is so important that this does not come to an end when they are sick at home or when, sadly, they have not long to live. It is at this time that they are in most need of the Church and what it is able to offer them—Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Confession, and the Last Rites. Please do your best to ensure that your loved ones, friends and neighbours receive all the spiritual help and support that they need and at the end a Catholic funeral. If you would like further information or help in this then please contact the parish house. Thank you.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL

If you, or maybe a relative or friend, are going into hospital then please call us on 020 8804 2149 and we will then contact the chaplain or parish which serves the hospital to ensure that your spiritual needs are looked after during your stay.

HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Do you know of someone who is housebound and unable to come to Mass and would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion? If so please contact the parish house and we will arrange a visit.

ARE YOU SICK?

The Sacrament of the Sick is available to anyone who is ill or who is preparing to go into hospital for surgery or treatment. It is important for anyone who is suddenly taken ill, especially if they are in danger of death. If you, or anyone you know, wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick then please contact the parish house on 020 8804 2149 and we will arrange to come and administer the Sacrament.

NEED TO SPEAK TO A PRIEST?

If, in the case of an emergency, you are unable to speak with Fr John then please call one of the following:

Enfield Parish — 020 8363 2569, Edmonton Parish — 8803 6631 Cockfosters Parish—8449 6648, Palmers Green—8886 9568

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

North Middlesex—020 8803 6631 (Edmonton Parish) Chase Farm & Barnet—For the moment please contact 020 8363 2569

Catholic Singles

Single, separated, widowed or divorced. Catholic Singles helps practising Catholics meet other Catholics; supports Catholic Parishes and Charities, donating thousands of pounds; provides a strictly confidential service; sends members a monthly bulletin called *Catholic Networking*; publicises events free of charge. **£10 annual membership plus an initial donation.** Free information with no obligation: CATHOLIC SINGLES, 1 BURLSCOMBE CLOSE, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 4UX. Tel: 01609413498. email: info@catholicingles.org.uk

Bible/Faith Study Group

The Bible/Faith Study time will begin again on **Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm** in the parish hall. The topic that we will be looking at is the Book of the Apocalypse/Revelation which is the last book of the Bible and traditionally attributed to St John the Evangelist. Not always an easy book to understand and to come to terms with—and sometimes very much misunderstood. Come and join us as we look at this interesting part of the Bible in a very simple way.

FRIDAY DROP IN LUNCH

Every Friday from 12.30 until 2.30pm in the parish hall. Anyone is welcome to come and eat. The food is good and there is no charge and the company is good. Please join us.

FOOD BANK

Thank you for all the help that you give in so many ways in the many things we undertake in the parish. We would like to build up our food bank so as to be able to help the people who come seeking support and help. Please can you help by bringing along some simple food items: sugar, tea, coffee, pasta, cereals, tins of soup, beans and fruit etc. There is a box in the porch of the church in which you can place your items and donations. Very many thanks.

CHAPLET OF ST MICHAEL

Will be followed every Tuesday morning in the church after the 9.30am Morning Mass. Together we seek the protection and the intercession of the powerful Archangel Michael.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

The thought is to have a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Medjugorje some time in late August—the exact dates have still to be finalised. If you are interested, and several people have expressed an interest, please try and keep that period of time free in your diaries. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

We will be following a Novena in Honour of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, beginning on Sunday 10th March until Monday 18th March. This will help us to prepare for the Feast of St Joseph on 19th March and also to seek the intercession of this great Saint.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

During Lent this year our Lenten Alms collection will be directed to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. The Appeal funds initiatives in parishes, schools and charities—**Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, and the Church's Service in Society (food poverty)**. More information will be given about this appeal next weekend.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Under the leadership of Cardinal Vincent Nichols. 20th to 26th July 2019

Lourdes theme for 2019—"Blessed are the Poor"

Travel options by air, train and coach with budgets to suit.

Pilgrimage Administrator: Elizabeth Uwalaka, Vaughan House, 46 Frances Street, London SW1P 1QN. Tel: 0207 798 9173. email: Lourdes@rcdow.org.uk

See Fr John for booking forms and information.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Good Counsel Network are organising a Day for Life from Wednesday 6th March to Sunday 14th April outside Marie Stopes UK Central London, 108 Whitfield St, Bloomsbury, London W1T 5BE. Call Sarah 07776256838. 40daysforlife.com/ London

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS

March: Recognition of the TIGHT of Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Please remember that you should fast from eating food or drink, apart from water, for at least one hour before the time you actually receive Holy Communion. If you receive Holy Communion in the hand please always remember to place the Host (the Body of Christ), into your mouth before you move away from the Minister. Please come forward quietly and prepare yourself to receive Holy Communion. **Please bow before receiving the Body or the Blood of Jesus** as a sign of reverence. Remember to say a prayer of Thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion when you are back in your place. **Please always try and be on time for Mass. Arriving late can mean that you have not prepared adequately for the celebration. You should certainly arrive before the reading of the Gospel. Please do not chew gum or eat sweets or biscuits in church. All of this will help us to remember that Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion are very special events for Catholics. Please also remember to dress reasonably modestly when coming to church. We must not be a distraction**

COME AND JOIN THE

PARISH CHOIR

We welcome new members. We are a friendly mixed ability group of adult singers who enjoy singing and praising the Lord, thanking Him for all the blessings He gives. We also need young people to help start a YOUTH singing group. If you play an instrument and have a love of music come along. Contact Danny on 02082456975

THINGS TO REMEMBER AT MASS

When we enter and leave the Church genuflect (bow your knee) toward the Tabernacle. Christ is present for our sake. By allowing our right knee to hit the floor we acknowledge that He is our Lord and God. If someone is physically unable to genuflect, then a good bow is sufficient. During Mass if you pass in front of the altar or tabernacle genuflect reverently. Use the holy water to make the Sign of the Cross.

Please dress modestly—going to church is not a fashion parade and you should never become a distraction or a seduction to others by the way that you look. Please dress modestly

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

We will be following a Novena to St Joseph in preparation for his feast day which is on Tuesday 19th March 2019. It will begin on Sunday 10th March and end on Monday 18th March.

Details of times can be found on the noticeboard in the porch of the church.

Please join us as we honour this great Saint

Please pray for the sick

Agnes Guveya, Agnes Robinson, Marjolaine Babet, Jenna Joson, Josephine Yawe, Pamela Rutabyama, James Scott, Theresa Matovu, Margaret Creed, Agnes Walsh, James Gubagana, Juliet Nabutende, Scola Namyalo, Henry & Justine Rutabyama, Leslie & Violet Fraser, James Scott, Agnes Walsh, Mary Conway, Ailsa Wintle, Dennis O'Sullivan, Ricky Barrett, David Kirunda, Margaret Felgate, Marie Francaisa Babet, John Shepherd, Alfie O'Brien, Therese Josephine, Marcelina Lukeera, John Shepherd.

Pray also for those who have died recently:

Angela McKeown, Ken Addison Snr, Donald Fleur D'Epine, John Brennan, Theresa Felix, Fr Adrian Walker, Marie Lucile Riviere, John Harrington, Fr Seamus Noctor, Edna Black.

Anniversaries:

Kathleen Galavin, Felicity Cleary, Thomas Jules, Martin D'Arcy, Nicola Francis, Helen Greenwood.