Sunday 24 April 2022 Divine Office: Easter Wk 2

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT CECILIA**

**Parish Administrator:** Mgr Francis Jamieson

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**Please keep in your prayers: Val Dowding; Josie Seath; Leander; Father Tom and all at the Care Home where he is chaplain; and all families of those suffering at this time.**

**MASS INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**Saturday April 23**

**9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**5.30pm HOLY MASS OF SUNDAY (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

**Sunday April 24 9.00am HOLY MASS**

**Monday April 25 NO MASS St Mark Evangelist (FEAST)**

**Tuesday April 26 6.10pm Evening Prayers 6.30 pm HOLY MASS St George, Patron of England (SOL)**

**Wednesday April 27 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30 am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday April 28 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30 am HOLY MASS St Peter Chanel *and***

**St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort**

**12 midday HOLY MASS (EF)**

**Friday April 29 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30 am HOLY MASS St Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe (FEAST)**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday April 30 9.30 am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**St Pius V; WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday May 9.00am HOLY MASS**

**There will be NO MASS on Monday 25th April**

**At 12 noon next Thursday, April 28th. there will be a Latin Mass celebrated in the Extraordinary Form for the Latin Mass Society.**

**FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEACE OF MIND OF OTHERS, WHO MIGHT BE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, FRAIL OR ELDERLY, PLEASE OF YOUR CHARITY CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS IN CHURCH**

**PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GLASTONBURY** After an absence of two years we can look forward to the annual Clifton diocesan pilgrimage to Glastonbury. It will take place on **Sunday, July 10th**. The procession commemorating the martyrdom of Blessed Richard Whiting, the last Abbot of Glastonbury, and his fellow martyrs Blessed Roger James and Blessed John Thorne will start at 2.15 from the abbey grounds opposite the Catholic church. After going through the town it will return to the abbey grounds at about 3pm for Benediction.

Immediately opposite the church, just inside the abbey gates, will be two Chapels; a chapel of Reconciliation where Confessions will be heard from 12noon, and a Chapel of Healing Prayer, where Private Healing Prayer will be offered by members of the Shrine's Healing Ministry, for those who would like to receive it, both ministries finishing at about 3pm.

A number of us went in a minibus three years ago and, like all pilgrimages, was a good mixture of prayer and pleasure. It would be very good to go this year again now that it is possible.

**Would anyone volunteer to organise this pilgrimage?** It is not at all difficult and we have the experience of our last pilgrimage to help us. If you are willing, please speak to Fr. Francis.

**HOLY PLACES** - The amount collected on Good Friday was £260.16. **STANDING ORDERS** - Amounts for March - Gift Aided £2,122.50, Non Gift Aided £150. **LENT LUNCHES** - The amounts raised were : CAFOD £1,134.55, Aid to the Church In Need £301.90, Mary’s Meals £140. Thank you to all those who hosted a lunch and everyone who supported. Thanks to all who contributed.  *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 11th-14th July**

 We still have some places left: please think about joining us! Please see poster and booking forms at back of church for more info.

A reminder to everyone that the full payment for the pilgrimage is due by 27th April.

**Arrow Prayers "**We are told that in Egypt there are brothers who offer up frequent prayers, but that these are very short, like arrows loosed off in rapid succession, for fear that the vigilant alert attention so necessary for one who prays, should be weakened or blunted if too long an interval is left between them. Thus they show that our attention is not to be forced if it cannot be prolonged, while on the other hand it should not be quickly broken off if it is capable of being prolonged. So a multiplicity of words should be absent from prayer, but as long as ardent attention remains, let there be frequent supplications ... Praying intensely means repeatedly and fervently stirring the heart, knocking at the door of him to whom we are praying." (Augustine: Letter 130 19-20).

...these prayers are at the service of a perpetual remembrance of God. "Pray always" (Lk 18:11), "in all seasons" (Eph 6:18), "without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17); these recommendations are embedded in Scripture and are to be taken seriously. It is physically and psychologically impossible to engage in specific acts of prayer without interruption; but through these short prayers we strive for an approximate state, a disposition of heart which can in a real way be called prayer; the perpetual remembrance of God, a habit of heart, the expression of a love that always tends toward the thought of the beloved even when it must attend to something else.

These short formulas enable us to bridge the gap between more explicit times of prayer - whether at church services or alone in our room - and going about our business during the day. "It is possible to offer fervent prayer even while walking in public ... or seated in your shop, while buying or selling, even while cooking" (St John Chrysostom). As St Teresa of Avila said "the Lord walks among the pots and pans ... The true lover everywhere loves his beloved and continually remembers him. It would be a bad business if we were able to practise prayer only when alone in corners." These short prayers help us to stand in the presence of God wherever we are. So we become like Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (1611-1691) who "was more united with God during his ordinary activities than in religious exercises." "It is a great delusion," he remarked, "to imagine that prayer-time should be different from any other, for we are equally bound to be united to God by work at work-time as by prayer at prayer-time." ["Deepening Prayer" by Sr Mary David Totah, OSB]

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

 **COUNTING & BANKING** - Since Lockdown the counting and the banking of the Giving and other collections has been undertaken by a team on a Thursday and then banked immediately. With the lifting of restrictions I consider that now is the time to resume the Counting after Mass on a Sunday morning with the banking of the money on Monday by a different team. If there is only the weekend Giving to be counted it should take no more than 20 minutes. If you are new to the Counting team instruction will be given. I wish to start using the Business Quick Deposit System when the money is taken to the bank to avoid queueing and waiting for the money to be counted. I have put a list at the back of the church for volunteers. Thank you. *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

 **BLUEBELL WALK & TEA & CAKES - CAFOD UKRAINE APPEAL** - **Saturday 30 April 2022.** There are sheets at the back of the church with the meeting times and information. If you require further directions to the car parks please contact me or for any other queries. Tea will be served in the hall from 1.30pm, so if you can’t join us for the walk please join us in the hall. Please sign up at the back of the church for either walk, tea or both. Please pray for good weather on the day! ruthhiscock@cbeeches.co.uk 01258 452283. *Ruth*

 **EVC UGANDA** - So far we have raised £1,864.65 towards Jackline’s school fees. She is currently in Primary 6, which means after this coming December she has one more year in primary school and then six years in secondary school. There are still 7 years and 2 terms of education to pay for which at the moment comes to £1,840, so her fees for this time are already covered. The only problem that might arise is if the secondary schools raise their fees and sponsorship plus a bursary from the secondary school does not cover what is needed.

We are going to continue collecting money until the end of the year which should be more than sufficient to cover the rest of Jackline’s education. So starting in 2023 we shall consider sponsoring another child or children. *Ruth*

**We welcome contributions to this newsletter from parishioners - please send in links to websites, hard copy, email pictures, prose or poetry, whether to inform or to entertain.....**

"God had taken a human body with which to do the work he came on earth to do. Very well. Just as 2,000 years ago, Christ's human body was born and lived and taught and suffered and died and rose again from the dead, so today he went on doing just those same things in a 'mystical body' formed out of the living human members of the Catholic Church."

- Mgr Robert Hugh Benson (contributed by Avis)

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"Our civilization, like all others, rests on its history, and the greater part of our history is involved with religion. All our literature, to look no further, requires us to understand, which means having a real chance to share, that religion. A society in which it was no longer possible to be a Christian would be as nasty as one in which nobody could be a poet. (Work is being done on that, too.)" - Kingsley Amis (contributed by Avis)

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"Mary, ever Virgin, is a true Mother of Mercy, who disposes Jesus to clemency. As a consoler of the human race she never ceases to pour out before Him her prayer for the salvation of the faithful crushed by the weight of their sins." - St Pius V (contributed by Hilary)

**VOCATIONS**

I think everyone in the parish must be aware that the lack of vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life is a source of great worry. For as long as one can remember we have gone on complacently assuming that there always have been and always will be enough candidates to fulfil the Church’s needs; that priests, brothers, and nuns would always be there. A number of factors has meant a great change in this, especially in Europe and our own country: smaller families, greater prosperity, the receding of the sea of faith and a rising of the tide of atheism, and, recently, the fact that while there are many vocations in some countries, our government is very grudging in the matter of visas.

May 8th. is World Day of Prayer for Vocations.  **Beginning on Saturday of next week, Saturday, April 30th., and ending on Sunday, May 8th**., I propose a novena (9 days) of prayer here in our parish for vocations. Each day except Sunday (when a priest is obliged to offer Mass for the parish in his care) Mass will be offered for vocations with a prayer recited by us all each day after Holy Communion. The prayer will be placed on all benches in church. If you are unable to be present at Mass, please take it home to join in alone.

Our Bishop has asked each parish to hold a **Holy Hour for vocations. Ours will be at 4.30 on Saturday, May 7th., before the 5.30 Mass**. It will not be entirely in silence because the Bishop has provided us with prayers, readings from the Scriptures and other sources, for use during the Holy Hour, which will end with Benediction, the blessing of Jesus Christ himself.

If you care about the Church - or even about this parish where in the natural way of things the parish priest cannot remain for ever - please give this some importance. We should be influenced by the words of Pope John Paul II: Considering that the Eucharist is the greatest gift Our Lord gives to his Church, we must ask for priests . . . We must ask insistently for this gift. We must ask for it on our knees. *Father Francis*