



## Saint Francis of Assisi Church and Parish

Coronation Road Ascot SL5 9HG.

**Friary & Parish Office 01344 620591 (Tues –Thurs 9am -12.30pm)**

**Email: [stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

**Webpage: [www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk) Facebook: @stfrancisascot.**

**Confession after 10am Saturday Mass or by appointment.**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Bidgood**

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Wendy Cullen Safeguarding: Jaycie Warren 07961800804

Charity Number: PRC DTR 264876

St. Francis School - Head Teacher : Mrs. Rhona Miccoli

DAY	DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL CELEBRATION	MASS INTENTION
SATURDAY	26th March	5.30pm	Vigil Mass : Fourth Sunday of Lent	Trisha & John Intentions
SUNDAY	27th March	9.45am 11.00am	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	✠ Basil Joseph Hasberry R.I.P ✠ Eileen Berkeley R.I.P
MONDAY	28th March	-	<b>NO MASS AT ST.FRANCIS</b>	-
TUESDAY	29th March	10.00am	<b>Of the 4th Week of Lent</b>	✠ Dr Alan Tomlinson R.I.P Anniversary
WEDNESDAY	30th March	7.30pm	<b>Of the 4th Week of Lent</b>	Holy Souls
THURSDAY	31st March	10.00am	<b>Of the 4th Week of Lent</b>	✠ Mary Reidy R.I.P
FRIDAY	1st April	7.30pm	<b>Of the 4th Week of Lent</b>	✠ Mary Reidy R.I.P
SATURDAY	2nd April	10.00am	<b>Of the 4rd Week of Lent</b>	✠ Eileen Berkeley R.I.P

### Fr Kevin writes ...

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday is known as *'Laetare Sunday'* or *'Rejoicing Sunday'* - a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. It takes its name from the first words of the Latin entrance antiphon for the Mass - *'Laetare, Jerusalem'*. As we prepare to enter into the most solemn weeks of Lent, we rejoice for the loving forgiveness of God, indicated especially by the parable of the *'Forgiving Father'* (traditionally called the *'Parable of the Prodigal Son'*). Today we also celebrate another tradition of the Church - *'Mothering Sunday'* - a day of thanksgiving for Holy Mother Church; for Our Blessed Mother Mary and for our own mothers. We can be thankful for this weekend as a time of reflecting on the goodness of God towards us sinners – and this year to pray especially for the safety and protection of the mothers and children of the Ukraine.

- Our Opening Prayer asks God our Father to help us prepare spiritually for: "... the solemn celebrations to come".

- The first reading is from the Old Testament book of Joshua. The Israelites, led by Joshua, enter the promised land. They give thanks, that through God's goodness, for the first time they eat: "...on what the land of Canaan yielded ...".
- Our second reading is from St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The apostle celebrates that for believers: "... in Christ there is a new creation ... it was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the work of handing on this reconciliation ..."
- The Gospel reading this week encompasses one of the most profound and wonderful aspects of our faith – the loving forgiveness of our God. The *'prodigal son'* returns to his father, who readily forgives him and says: "... we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found ...".

**LÆTARE, JERUSALEM, ET  
CONVENTUM FACITE ...**

**REJOICE, JERUALEM, AND ALL WHO  
LOVE HER ...**

# PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

**WE PRAY** for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them: Sue Powell, Darryl Sinclair, David McCann, Maria Williams, Barbara Siwicka, Gianluca Greenwood, Brian Lynch, Pat Sassi, Frances Wilde, Simon Saint, Peter Hermon, Ernesto and Napoleon Mannois, Jane Thomas, Daniel Offer, Marie Hall, Geraldine McAllister, Georgia Mackinlay, Nina Mullins, Eileen Hoare. If you would like to add a name to this list, **with consent**, or if you would like a name removed, please email or phone the Parish Office.



**HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY!** Please take a blessed flower for the one you love!



**THANK YOU** Our Parishioner Kathleen Becker would like to thank everybody for their prayers and Mass intentions at this time following the sad death of her sister Mary Reidy R.I.P.

**WALK AGAINST HUNGER** The members of the UCM have signed up for the CAFOD Lenten walk. As our ages range from 45 to 87 (average age 73!), we are undertaking to do the 200k as a group. We would be grateful for any support that you can give, full details and sponsorship forms are at the back of the church.



**TABLE TOP SALES** The Union of Catholic Mothers have a sale this weekend for ANAWIM (originally founded by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity) helping women in abusive situations.

**BEE CORRIDOR PLANTING DAY** We are now ready to plant and the Big Buzzy Day is **Saturday 2nd April from 9.30am**. If you are interested in helping or have some plants or seeds to donate please let Michelle know on [mjpc.macdonald@gmail.com](mailto:mjpc.macdonald@gmail.com) or 07855-929317. If we have anything left over at the end it would be lovely to organise a plant/ seed swap so you can take the idea home with you too.



**CO-CONNECT - Thames Hospice Bereavement Counselling Support** for adults whose bereavement has been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Free counselling sessions available. Please see the notice board for further details.

## **HOLY WEEK 2022**

Details of Holy Week Masses and Liturgies are now available in the Church porch.

## **MASS TIME CHANGES**

After Easter Sunday ( from the weekend of 23rd /24th April ) Mass times will be as follows:

- Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm (no change)
- Sunday 8.30am & 10am ( the new 8.30am Mass is intended for those who wish to remain socially distanced at Mass)
- Weekday Masses will remain at their present times.
- Also from the weekend of 23rd/24th April it will be no longer necessary to register on-line for Mass attendance or sign in on arrival.
- If you do feel unwell, or have Covid symptoms please **DO NOT** attend Mass.

## **This Week of Lent:**

- Weekend 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> March: Reflections on 'The Road to the Cross' at all Masses.
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March: 'St Paul and 2023' – thoughts from St Paul's letters for next year's Synod in Rome. 7.30pm in church (and live streamed)
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Stations of the Cross after 7.30pm Mass
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Stations of the Cross 10.30am.

**THIS WEEKEND IS THE COLLECTION FOR  
THE CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND**

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK 2022



This year with the lifting of Covid Restrictions some of the traditional Holy Week rites can be celebrated. However, there can still be some restrictions and I set out below the pattern for our celebration this year, which is intended to allow for safe social distancing.

Fr. Kevin

### **PALM SUNDAY 10th APRIL 9.30am & 11am**

- There will be **NO** Palm Sunday Procession at the 9.30am Mass ( Palms will be blessed in Church at all Masses ). However, the Reading of the Passion will take place in the traditional manner.  
**Please note the time of the first Sunday Mass is 9.30am to allow for the extra devotions.**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY 14th APRIL 7.30pm**

- The washing of the feet ( The Mandatum ) will **NOT** take place.
- The Procession of The Blessed Sacrament will be replace by a Maundy Thursday reflection and prayers.

### **GOOD FRIDAY 15th APRIL 3pm & 7.30pm**

- The Liturgy will include the reading of the Passion and solemn Good Friday Prayers.
- The Veneration of the Cross will **NOT** take the traditional form. Instead, the Priest will bring the Crucifix to the people, so that all may genuflect or make a profound bow to the Cross.
- Please note the 7.30pm Service is a shortened version of the Good Friday liturgy so as to keep attendance numbers at a comfortable level.

### **EASTER VIGIL 16th APRIL 8.30pm**

- The lighting of the 'New Fire' and the 'Blessing of The Pascal Candle' will take place in Church without a Procession.

### **EASTER SUNDAY 17th APRIL 8.00am (Said) ; 9.45am (Sung & Live Streamed) ; 11am(Said)**

- The Three Masses are again intended to keep attendance numbers at a comfortable level.

### **CONFESSION TIMES BEFORE EASTER :**

- **Wednesday 6th April** at 6.30pm; **Friday 8th April** at 6.30pm; **Saturday 9th April** after 10am Mass and after 5.30pm Vigil Mass; **Monday 11th April** at 10.30am and 6.30pm; **Wednesday 13th April** at 10.30am.
- Penitential Reflection for Holy Week - **Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm (This service will be Live Streamed only)**

**THE KNIGHTS OF ST.COLUMBA  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PROJECT**

**IN AID OF THAMES HOSPICE**

**SPONSORED WALK**

**AROUND**

**VIRGINIA WATER (GU25 4QF)**

**SUNDAY 15th May 2022 2:00pm**

**Meeting at the Saville Garden Car Park  
then Totem Pole, Valley Gardens and  
return to Car Park  
approximately 3-miles round walk.**

**The event has been organised to coincide  
with the period when Virginia Water is in bloom  
with the best displays of flowers ever,  
ideal for a family afternoon.**

**We are looking for  
WALKERS and SPONSORS  
Please join in and raise money  
For the Hospice that cares for  
End-of-life patients for free.**

**For more information and Sponsor sheets contact :**

**John Lynn**

**PROVINCIAL ACTION & YOUTH Tel : 01628 636668**

**EMAIL : johnlynn1@live.co.uk**

**Tony Berkeley**

**Provincial Grand Knight Tel : 01344 883363**

**Email thamesvalley25@talktalk.net**







**FATIMA DEVOTIONS**  
**KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP**  
**Monday - Friday at 1.30pm**  
**30 Minutes of praying the Rosary**  
**As requested by Our Lady**  
**ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW**  
**MON 28th March - FRI 1st April**  
**ZOOM ID : 792 8880 9978**



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - THAMES VALLEY  
Ascot - Bracknell - Windsor - Maidenhead - Staines - Wokingham  
Email : [council984@hotmail.com](mailto:council984@hotmail.com) Website [www.council984.co.uk](http://www.council984.co.uk)

ZOOM DETAILS ALSO AVAILABLE ON - [www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk) - NEWSLETTER