



Our Lady of the Annunciation

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe O'Connor

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Diocesan website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 9.30am and 5.00pm.

9th April 2017 Palm Sunday (page 176 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

Today we begin Holy Week - an opportunity for us to accompany Jesus on his final journey. Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble, gentle bearer of Good News riding on a donkey but is received as a celebrity; the spreading of garments and branches on the road was a form of homage for an important person (a bit like our red carpet). However very quickly, on that same journey he suffered betrayal, torture, crucifixion and death.



We see the hatred of Caiphas and the religious leaders who plotted his death. We see the evil of Judas who betrayed him. We see the weakness of Peter who disowned him, the cruelty of Herod who mocked him, the cowardice of Pilate, who, though knowing he was innocent, signed the death warrant etc.

However, we also see the compassion of Veronica who wiped his face, the courage of Simon who helped him to carry the cross, the sympathy of the women of Jerusalem and the steadfast loyalty of a little group of friends who stayed with him to the end, including his mother and the disciple John.

The road of suffering is difficult. But for Christians it is not the same since Jesus travelled it. A light brightens it. And even though it leads to Calvary, it doesn't end there. It ends at Easter. Those who suffer with him on earth will share his glory in heaven.

Do all you can to attend ALL the Holy Week ceremonies that we may be more compassionate, loyal and supportive of all who suffer and give thanks for the love and support we receive in carrying our own crosses.

Fr. Joe



Mass Intentions This Week

8 April: Saturday

10:00 Michael & Mary Scanlon RIP

18:00 Elizabeth McCorry RIP

9 April: PALM SUNDAY

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 Danny & Anne Farrell RIP

12:00 Tony Solle RIP

15:00 Stations of the Cross

10 April: Monday in Holy Week

10:00 Rob Argenziano RIP

11 April: Tuesday in Holy Week

10:00 Jerome Simons RIP

12 April: Wednesday in Holy Week

9:00 Edward Timothy Crowley RIP

15:45 Stations of the Cross

13 April: Maundy Thursday

20:00 Intentions of Sarah & Owen

23:45 Night Prayer

14 April: GOOD FRIDAY

09:00 Stations of the Cross

(Followed by Walk of Witness in Croydon)

15:00 Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

16:30 - 21:00 Church open for quiet prayer and reflection by the tomb.

15 April: HOLY SATURDAY

10.00 Office of Readings & Morning prayer

The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

21.00 For all those who receive the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter.

16 April: EASTER SUNDAY

08:30 Peter Pike RIP

10:00 Corrado Boscarelli RIP

12:00 All Parishioners

WEEKLY DRAW

£50 - Jim Convey

£50 - Caroline Archbold

£5 - Lisa Hyatt c/o P O'Sullivan

CHURCH CLEANING

TEAM B - Mrs Hazel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Loose cash £707.72

Gift Aid Envelopes £713.69

S/Os £975.00

Total £2396.41

COLLECTIONS

Last week's ACA collection for **Maryhill** amounted to £540. Many thanks. On **Good Friday there will be a collection for The Holy Places**. This collection is used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. It also helps the work of the Church in the Holy Land and neighbouring countries by the relief of poverty and suffering. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres rely very much on assistance from this collection. Please use a spare gift aid envelope from your box and write on the front **Holy Places**. Many Thanks.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Elizabeth Damsel, Fr David Peck, Sheila Minus, Lauren Horwood, Christy Jordan, Sharon Gillett, D Nott, Laila Tambini.

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Sarah Scanlan, Violet Fahey, Dorothy Morrison, Jerome Simons, Peter White, Dorothy Martynski, Grace McSweeney, Joan Duffin, Daniel T. White, Jack Stoyel, Iso Halata, Glyn Jones-Davis, Archie White, Tony Sollé, Catherine A. Charles, Sr Bernadette, Milton Chatelier, John Humphries, Eric Turtle, Chris Hatton.

SOCIAL CLUB

Sunday Evening Entertainment

Sunday, 9th April: Mary & the New County
Sunday, 16th April: **Easter Sunday special** with Eugene Doonan
Sunday, 23rd April: Kevin Keys
Sunday, 30th April: **Bank Holiday special** with Telstar
Sunday, 7th May: Finbar & Bernie

The next fundraising event will be a **Ceili & Social Dancing** on Friday, 21st April. All proceeds from this event will be given to the **Anerley ACROSS**, a charity which will be taking a party of disabled children to Lourdes in June. Tickets are now available in the Church Hall. We also need items for the Raffle & Auction. If you can assist in any way, please call Ben Cahill on 07958 903410.

Coming soon.....

A **Tribute to the Blues Brothers** on Friday, 19th May - Tickets go on sale Sunday 23rd April

Declan Nerney on Friday, 17th November

LENT SERVICES

Stations of the Cross: Palm Sunday 3pm & Wednesday at 3.45pm

Washing of the Feet: Maundy Thursday, 13th April at 8pm
Please sign up on the table at the back of the church.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Next Sunday your offertory will be for Father Joe and Fr Keith. Can I please ask all parishioners in the Gift Aid scheme, including those who pay by standing order, to use their Gift Aid Envelopes. Many thanks. *Jenny*.

RECENT DEATHS: We are sad to announce the recent deaths of Cassie Jordan (mother of Garry & Louise) whose funeral took place in Ireland earlier this week, and Maria Robinson. Maria's funeral will take place here at Our Lady's on **Thursday 20th April at 10am**. Our prayers and sympathy are with their families at this sad time.

HOW DIVERSE ARE WE? It was decided at the Cultural Diversity meeting to invite all parishioners to write 'Happy Easter' in your mother tongue, (and state which language it is) on the paper provided on the table at the back of church. These will then be displayed in the church on Easter Sunday.

READERS' DAY - Saturday 27th May 10am

Please let the Presbytery office know if you can attend by **Monday 8th May**.

ALUMNI OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic High School in Croydon is, as a result of recent successes, establishing an association of former students.

If you would like to know more please ring 020 8688 3837 or email alumni@st-maryshigh.croydon.sch.uk.

PARISH COUNCIL AGM

The Parish AGM will take place in the Large Hall on **Wednesday 24th May at 8pm**. The purpose of the meeting is to share the many successes over the last year as well as our plans for the next year. We invite reports from all the Parish groups. Nomination forms for the parish Council and the other AGM papers, will be available nearer the time.

LOST PROPERTY: Please be advised that all lost property that has collected at the back of church will be disposed off next week. Please check for any belongings. Thank you.

MEETINGS

SVP: Tuesday 11th at 8pm (PRC)

RCIA: Rehearsal - Tuesday 11th at 7.30pm (in the Church)

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2017

Bishop Paul will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation here on **Saturday 2nd December at 11am**. Young people in year 8 or above who wish to join the programme this year should download an application form from the parish website, complete and return it to the presbytery by no later than **23rd April**. The first parent's meeting will be held on **16th May**. **Unfortunately late applications cannot be accepted**. If you cannot download the form then you may obtain a copy from the priests after Mass. Please note that if you wish to be confirmed, you should be attending Sunday Mass regularly.

ST. MILDRED'S "DROP IN" FOR THE HOMELESS

Over the last few weeks there has been an unprecedented demand for men's jeans, T shirts and sweaters. We therefore appeal to everyone to come to their aid for just these items. They can be delivered to St Mildred's office any week day between 9.30 & 12.30 or at the drop in on Sundays between noon and 1pm. Very many thanks.

ST THOMAS BECKET SCHOOL 50th CELEBRATIONS

St Thomas Becket School celebrates its **50th birthday** this summer. It was officially opened to children on 5th April 1967 with 188 pupils on roll. We invite people who were involved in the school (staff, pupils, parents, governors etc), **to share photos, mementos or memories with us for a celebration book**. Have you an old photo of staff or children, did you attend on the first day, have you still got a school award presented to you as a child? You can email admin@thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk or bring in material for us to photocopy.

Fr. Joe & Fr. Keith celebrated Mass with all the children & staff last Wednesday to mark the occasion and the afternoon was spent partying! Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass for the whole school at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 10.30am**. Parents and past members of our school community are invited to attend and there will be a presentation and refreshments in the hall immediately following the Mass.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

COLOMA SCHOOL MAY BALL IN HONOUR OF MRS MAUREEN MARTIN Saturday 6th May

After 22 years as head teacher of Coloma Convent School, Mrs Maureen Martin OBE is retiring at the end of the academic year.

The Coloma Parents' Association is holding a May Ball on 6th May in honour of Mrs Martin in recognition of her hard work, commitment to the school and the difference her leadership has made to our daughters' lives. It would be lovely if as many past and present parents and friends of Coloma attended this event.

To ensure that as many people have the opportunity to attend the May Ball it will be held at Hilton Hotel, 101 Waddon Way, Purley Way, Croydon, CR9 4HH.

Tickets are priced at £50 which includes a welcome drink, a 3 course meal, half a bottle of wine per person, live entertainment from Aloma Music. The Ball commences at 7pm and ends at 1am.

If you would like to attend the May Ball please send an email to coloma.pa@hotmail.co.uk confirming the number of tickets you require.

Items for collection: Sr Celia, M Hennessy, J Smith (Mrs Senn), P Gray, J Convey, C Archbold, L Hyatt c/o Pat O'Sullivan, E Scanlon
Bapt Certs: Muchenje, Cadar, Escrader, Orphanou, Khandeparkar, Cahill, Edada, Arhin
Rotas: Readers (March-April), Eucharistic Ministers (April), Servers (April)