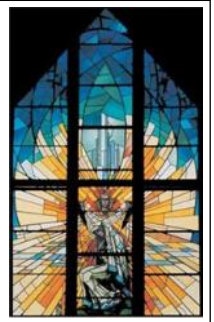




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Tomasz Margol
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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 3pm Wednesday: Closed
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
 Monday - Saturday: Before or After 10am Mass or By Appointment

24th March 2024 Palm Sunday (page 183 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B

It is fascinating, how in the space of a week, a person goes from a hero, to becoming a villain. At least, this could be a way to see Palm Sunday and Good Friday's events.

We must recognise that not everyone greeted Jesus on his entrance to Jerusalem and not everyone just a few days later, was shouting: *Crucify!* Yet, there is this particular consistency in three groups: Pharisees and other leaders were hostile towards Jesus, and Good Friday was only a culmination of it; the Beloved Disciple, amazed by the powerful event of Palm Sunday followed Jesus to the end; and of course Jesus, who simply did what His Father tells Him (Jn 14.31) faithfully, till he breathed his last (Lk 23.46). If we look at their motivation we can see that they all saw in all these events, a gain for the nation (whatever way the idea of a nation was understood). All of them experienced strong emotions!

Yet, it is clear that what Jesus did was to be looked at from a different angle. It was a fulfilment of the Messianic prophesies.

Glorious entrance into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, was a messianic sign!

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass.

(Zach 9.9)

The same was the cruel passion of the Servant of the Lord:

Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief;

when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring,

he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;

Is 53.10

If so, what happened? The blindness caused by sin stopped people from seeing. Yet God brought about the fulfilment of both prophesies, so that at the end we all could be amazed like John, and believe (Jn 20.8)

Let us Holy Spirit to enter with us into this Holy Week, with a new way of seeing so that we could experience deeper, the fruits of salvation.

fr Tomasz

MEETINGS

SVP: Tuesday 26th at 8pm (PRC)



Hearing Loop
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 524.90
Loose cash	£ 824.90
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1290.00
Total	£ 2639.80

Mass Intentions This Week

23 March: Saturday

10:00 Maura McSharry RIP

18:00 Michael McHugh & Family

24 March: PALM SUNDAY

08:30 Pat Gatland RIP *

10:00 Mrs Anne Adaken RIP *

(With procession into Church - pg 177)

11:30 All Parishioners

25 March: Monday in Holy Week

10:00 Thanksgiving for

Our Lady of the Annunciation

26 March: Tuesday in Holy Week

10:00 Abraham & Martha Pereira RIP

19:30 *Lenten Reconciliation Service*

27 March: Wednesday in Holy Week

10:00 June Cully RIP

28 March: MAUNDY THURSDAY

19:30 Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

Watch Until Midnight

23:45 Night Prayer

29 March: GOOD FRIDAY

09:30 Stations of the Cross

15:00 Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

16:30 - 19:00 Church open for quiet prayer and reflection by the tomb

30 March: HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 Morning Prayer & First Anointing

11:15 Polish Blessing of Food for Easter

The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

21:00 Intentions of Remi-Lou, Leena, Richard, Ryan & William

31 March: EASTER SUNDAY

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 John Boswood & David Warner RIP

11:30 Birthday Wishes for Lucy Toure

*** DEFIBRILLATOR ***

A defibrillator is located on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the church.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's second collection for *Poor Parishes* amounted to £675.04. Many thanks. There will be a collection for *Holy Places of Palestine* on Good Friday. *Next week (Easter Sunday) is your personal offering to Fr Keith and Fr Tomasz.* Please pick up an envelope from the porch. Can I ask all parishioners in the Gift Aid scheme, including those who pay by standing order, to use their Gift Aid envelopes. Many thanks.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Phyllis Donnelly, Fr David Peck, Ethan Patel, Jonathan Leiper, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffin, Ursula & Anthony Kennedy, Arthur Hughes & all others

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Stephen Connolly, John Bradley, Emily Judge, Patrick O'Callaghan, Margaret Warne, Colleen Barretto, Fr. Denis Paul, Patrick McHale, Richard Gillen, Delia Carder, Brendan Hickey, Norma Waddell, Eileen Parsons, Jack Hoey, Bob Tatnell, June Cully, Petronilla Molyneux, Stanislaw Stepien, Charles Lancaster, Felecita Johnson, Ryszard Siepka, John Groombridge, Brenda Bond, Maria Robinson, Patrick Joseph Carroll, Harold Kelly, Maureen Purcell, Bridget Daly

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

24th March: Shane & Mervyn Owens

31st March: **Easter Sunday Special** - Kieran White

7th April: Theresa Rodgers

14th April: Ally Harron & Marian Curry

21st April: TR Dallas

28th April: Cross Keys

5th May: **Bank Holiday Special** - Kenny Paul

12th May: The Duets

- Thank you to the Parish Community & Members of the Social Club for their support of the recent **Sabrina Fallon & Shane Moore evening**. £2,000.00 was raised; these resources will be used to support the **Place to be Cafe, Purley**; a Social Club for older people living with **Dementia** and **their Carers**.

- The **Bacon & Cabbage Supper and Dance** takes place on Friday, 26th April commencing at 6:30pm. Entertainment will be provided by **Barry Doyle & Sean Wilson**. All proceeds from this event will be given to the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton. **To reserve Tickets at £15.00 each, call Ben Cahill on 07958 903410.**

NOVENA & CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

From Good Friday - Starts after the 3pm service

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 7th APRIL 3 - 4pm

Exposition & Prayers

RECENT DEATHS

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Tom Corduff** (husband of Ethel) on Saturday 16th March.

Also, **José Fernandez** (husband of Pat) who sadly died on Thursday 21st March, and **Helene Bambi** (wife of Gustave).

All funeral details will be published in due course.

Our sympathies go to the families, and we ask that you keep all the recently departed in your prayers at this difficult time.

May their gentle souls Rest In Peace.

PARISH FILM SHOW

This year's show will take place at **7.30pm on Saturday 20th April**, in the **Small Hall**.

Look out for more information in the coming weeks!

OUR PARISH ASCENT GROUP: Is part of Life Ascending International in England, which is designed to meet the needs of Catholics, especially older members of the Church.

We have been meeting in our Parish, every second Tuesday, after morning Mass, for 21 years. After tea/coffee, between 10 and 20 of our members attend.

We produce a programme for each meeting and pray to our Heavenly Father for an increase in Faith Hope and Charity. Our programme usually includes prayer to the Holy Spirit, prayers of intercession and ends with a hymn appropriate to the focus of our meeting.

We invite a variety of speakers each year, including the Sisters of Mary and Joseph, who all teach and encourage us in an adult understanding of our faith, and in our personal prayer life.

All are welcome!

9th April: Sr. Sheila Moloney- "An hour with our Blessed Lady"

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: With Father Roy Tablizo from 10th - 19th September. Visiting Pisa, Florence, Assisi and Rome at a cost of £1,795pp. A fair amount of walking will be the order of the day! Flying from Gatwick Airport. For more information email:

g.tomei@btopenworld.com

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS: There will be a 2 week break in the Catechesis for Adults for Easter. Therefore talks will resume on **Wednesday 10th April**.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish office will be **closed on Maundy Thursday** due to staff annual leave.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Tuesday 26th

7.30pm Reconciliation Service (with visiting priests)

Wednesday 27th

10.00am Parish Mass at Our Lady's

11.30am CHRISM MASS at St George's Cathedral

Maundy Thursday 28th

7.30pm Mass with Washing of Feet (sign-up sheet in porch)

Watch until Mid-Night

Good Friday 29th

9.30am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm The Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord.

Holy Saturday 30th

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.15am Polish Blessing of Food for Easter

9.00pm The Easter Vigil

Have a truly blessed Holy Week and Easter

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON CONTRACEPTION

Please see pages 3 & 4 of our newsletter online, for excerpts of documents on the church's teaching on contraception, as spoken about by Fr Tomasz in his Wednesday Catechesis for Adults.

COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR 2025 CALENDAR

Once again, thank you for your continuing support of the Commemorative 2025 Calendar. Please remember the final date for payment of pledges already made is due 25th March. There are still some dates available especially in the months of July, September & November if you are still interested at £20 per name of your deceased loved ones. Please contact the office by phone or email with your preferred dates by the end of office hours on Monday to reserve a date. Payment by either cash or cheque needs to be dropped into the office to confirm your requested entry.

YOUR PHOTOS & YOUR MEMORIES

We are now asking for any photographs you have that represents the variety and history of our church, sacramental life & parish life including the many groups that have existed and exist from the past 100 years to the present. This could be the buildings, the people and events etc. We know some of our parishioners have photographs of the previous Parish Priests. We would love to see what you have and aim to include a range and variety of them in the calendar. We are hoping to arrange a display of all the photographs submitted for all to see.

We would prefer digital photos which can be emailed to the parish office describing and dating the image. If you have printed copies, please put them in an envelope with your contact details, whether you want them returned and notes describing and dating the image. We are sure we will enjoy looking at the photographs you hand in.

If you have particular memories but do not have any photographs, please write them down, again giving your name and as many details as you can remember.

Thank you! The Calendar Girls

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Weekly envelope users - if you have mislaid your set, or no longer wish to use them, please let me know. If lost, I will issue you a new box to keep you going until the 2024-25 boxes are issued in May/June. Anyone whose envelope has not been used since Christmas will not be issued with a new box for 2024/25.

An early reminder to all Gift Aid scheme members: your Easter offering to our priests is included in the scheme providing it can be identified by envelope number, or full name/number if given by anyone donating their monthly offertory by Standing Order.

Total claims for 2023-24 to date have added £23,800 to the parish bank balance. Many, many thanks.

For Collection: K Duignan

Baptism certificates: COLLECT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Rotas: EMs (April/Easter)

Readers (Mar/April/Easter)

A Sample from the Magisterium of the Catholic Church on Contraception

Pastoral letter of Bp Glennon Flavin, diocese of Lincoln USA 1991

Today we live in what could be accurately called "a contraceptive culture." The use of contraception is widely practiced. Even some Catholic couples use this method to prevent conception and some Catholic physicians do not hesitate to recommend the use of this means of birth control and even to prescribe contraceptives. To have certitude of faith in regard to use of marriage, and indeed in regard to all teachings of the Catholic Church, we must understand the nature of the Church. Christ, Who cannot be deceived and cannot deceive us because He is God, is still in the world today as He promised, teaching us through His Church what we must believe and how we must live; and the voice of His Church is the successor of Peter, now Pope John Paul II. This is our Catholic faith: We believe that when Pope John Paul II teaches in matters of faith and morals, the Church teaches; and when the Church teaches, Christ the God-man teaches. Therefore, we who have been blessed by God with the gift of the Catholic faith can have no doubt about the immorality of contraception. The Catholic Church clearly teaches that the use of contraception in all its forms, including direct sterilisation, is gravely immoral, is intrinsically evil, is contrary to the law of nature and nature's God. This is and always has been the uninterrupted teaching of the Catholic Church from the beginning.

The ban on contraception is not a disciplinary law of the Church, like abstinence of Friday, which the Church can enact and which the Church can dispense for good reasons. Rather, it is a divine law which the Church cannot change any more than it can change the law of God forbidding murder. Contraception is wrong, not because the Church says it is wrong (it was wrong before Christ established the Church); it is wrong because God Himself, through the revelation of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has declared it to be wrong. Because contraception is intrinsically evil, it may never be practiced for any reason, no matter how good and urgent. A good end never justifies the use of an evil means.

Catholic physicians and others who prescribe contraceptives or recommend their use are cooperators with those who use them. Such cooperation is gravely sinful. The same is true for physicians who advise contraceptive sterilisation, or perform this procedure or refer a person to another physician for this purpose. In doing so they, too, commit grave sin.

It should be obvious that Catholics who practice birth control and those who cooperate with them in their immoral actions may not receive Holy Communion without committing sacrilege. Only the worthy reception of the Sacrament of Penance, which requires genuine sorrow for sin and the sincere intention to discontinue the sinful practice, will bring God's forgiveness, restore grace to the soul and make one worthy to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. While contraception is always immoral, there is a morally acceptable way by which married couples may space the births of their children. For good and sufficient reasons, spouses may regulate births by abstaining from the marital act during the wife's easily identified fertile periods. This practice is known as Natural Family Planning. Recent scientific research has so refined the methods of Natural Family Planning that today, couples may space their children in ways that are altogether reliable, medically safe, and morally acceptable. Dear Catholic spouses, there can be no true happiness in your lives unless God is very much a part of your marriage covenant. To expect to find happiness in sin is to look for good in evil. Sin is a bane to married life, as it is to all life. Like a cancer, it destroys everything that is good and joyful in your marriage relationship. On the other hand, to keep God in Your married life, to trust in His and love and to obey His laws in the use of the marriage privilege will merit His special graces for you during the difficult times in married life, will deepen your love for each other and will bring to you that inner peace of mind and heart which is the reward of a good conscience. You will find the desire and the strength to follow God's law through the frequent and worthy reception of Holy Communion, the regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance and daily prayer.

Plus XI *Casti Connubii* (1930) 54,56

No reason, however grave, can make what is intrinsically contrary to nature to be in conformity with nature and morally right. And since the conjugal act by its very nature is destined for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose are acting against nature, and are doing something that is base and intrinsically vicious... Our mouth proclaims anew, any use of marriage exercised in such a way that through human effort the act is deprived of its natural power to procreate human life violates the law of God and of nature, and those who commit such an action are stained with the guilt of grave sin.

Vatican II *Gaudium et Spes* (1965) 51

Sons of the Church may not undertake methods of birth control which are found blameworthy by the teaching authority of the Church in its unfolding of the divine law.

Paul VI *Humane vitae* (1968) 14

Therefore We base Our words on the first principles of a human and Christian doctrine of marriage when We are obliged once more to declare that the direct interruption of the generative process already begun and, above all, all direct abortion, even for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children. Equally to be condemned, as the magisterium of the Church has affirmed on many occasions, is direct sterilisation, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary. Similarly excluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means.

John Paul II *Familiaris Consortio* (1981) 32

When couples, by means of recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings that God the Creator has inscribed in the being of man and woman and in the dynamism of their sexual communion, they act as "arbiters" of the divine plan and they "manipulate" and degrade human sexuality—and with it themselves and their married partner—by altering its value of "total" self-giving. Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality.

Pope Francis *Message to Participants in the Womb International Congress* (2023)

There is a need always to keep in mind the inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative meanings of the conjugal act. The former expresses the desire of the spouses to be one, a single life; the latter expresses the shared desire to generate life, which endures even at times of infertility and in old age. When these two meanings are consciously affirmed, the generosity of love is born and strengthened in the hearts of the spouses, disposing them to welcome new life. Lacking this, the experience of sexuality is impoverished, reduced to sensations that soon become self-referential, and its dimensions of humanity and responsibility are lost.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2399

The regulation of births represents one of the aspects of responsible fatherhood and motherhood. Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means (for example, direct sterilisation or contraception).

John Paul II *Address to the Bishops of USA* (1987)

It is sometimes reported that a large number of Catholics today do not adhere to the teaching of the Church on a number of questions, notably sexual and conjugal morality, divorce and remarriage. Some are reported as not accepting the Church's clear position on abortion. It has also been noted that there is a tendency on the part of some Catholics to be selective in their adherence to the Church's moral teachings. It is sometimes claimed that dissent from the Magisterium is totally compatible with being a "good Catholic" and poses no obstacle to the reception of the sacraments. This is a grave error that challenges the teaching office of the bishops of the United States and elsewhere. I wish to encourage you in the love of Christ to address this situation courageously in your pastoral ministry, *relying on the power of God's truth* to attract assent *and on the grace of the Holy Spirit* which is given both to those who proclaim the message and to those to whom it is addressed.