



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick with St Dunstan's Gunnersbury

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Latest parish news

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18TH MARCH 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr. Michael writes:

Every year on the Fifth Sunday of Lent I am asked very charmingly by children after Mass, usually keenly supported by their parents also hoping for a straightforward answer, why it is the church's statues and the processional crucifix are veiled in sombre purple. The origins of this tradition are, if not lost in the mists of time, certainly obscure. One professor of the history of liturgy cites a 9th century German custom of extending a large cloth across the church's sanctuary effectively veiling the altar from the congregation. This cloth was intriguingly called the 'hungertuch', the 'hunger cloth', as its effect was to induce a hunger in the faithful as they yearned to satisfy their hunger for seeing Mass again at Easter. By the Middle Ages the crucifixes and statues were certainly individually covered, one spiritual interpretation being that as the Lord's divinity was veiled in His Passion, so His saints, too, normally triumphant in their witnessing to Him, would wish their victory in Him also to be veiled. Whatever the specific origins of the practice, what is manifest is that it has helped us, millions of us as His disciples, to enter more deeply into His suffering over many centuries. We come into church and we know things are not normal. We miss our saints; we are disturbed by Our Lord's being veiled. That sense of separation can be useful to us, reminding us of how we can separate ourselves from Him. If we cannot see Him on the Cross we remember we are to enter into His Passion which results in the Cross. If we hunger and thirst for the normality of His Presence the more, it is much less than His hunger and thirst for our faith and love which He brings even to the Cross, "I thirst" (Jn 19:28). And thus we are helped to focus. It is not so much that we are to put aside our companionship with the saints or with Our Lord but rather that *with* them, with, for instance, St Simon of Cyrene or St Veronica, we walk *with Jesus* in His suffering and death. By our repentance and penance, by our conforming ourselves to Jesus as He invites us to, and by entering into His company spiritually, prayerfully, imaginatively, we can bring Him *now* as much consolation as He received *then*, from Simon and Veronica, and from His other disciples who were close to Him through those terrible events. Indeed, reflecting on this weekend's scriptures we are shown *life* but only by *dying to ourselves* which we might willingly do but which is never going to be a comfortable experience. Lifted up from the earth, He says, He will draw all people to Himself. But given that He was lifted up from the earth on a Cross, then we too should not expect to avoid the experience the Cross as we are drawn to Him. Rather, that realisation should also lead us to be a Simon or a Veronica to Him in the least of His brothers and sisters today in whom He continues to walk the way of Calvary.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm: 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 response v 2
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47
All viewable at: <http://www.universalis.com/mass>

At all Masses: SUNDAY MASS: RESPONSES: READINGS: Page 7 Page 169

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Marie O'Keeffe, Gerry Duffy, Patsy Lynch, Claudio Boggi, Andy Cronin, Celine Duignan, Margaret Tuck, Mike Brennon, Alejandro Armada, Stephen Serhal, Joyce Elliott, Georgia Miles, Louis Morman, Mike Farrell, Caroline Fleming, Derry Cleary, Eulalie Raymond, Alison Forsyth, Ellen Dovey.

For those recently deceased: Carmel McSharry, Anna Sawdon. May she rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Martin Healy, Isabel Molinero, Mary Boucher, Joseph O'Grady, Edward Nicholas Holmes, Gerry Collins, Natasha Richardson. May they rest in peace.

THIS WEEK – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year II)

Sat 17/3 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Martin Healy	ANN
Sun 18/3 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	5 TH SUNDAY OF LENT Gunnersbury	Mary Boucher Special Intentions John Collings Eddie Boney Major Kay Kiggins People of the Parish	ANN INT RIP RIP SICK INT
Mon 19/3 10.00am 12.30pm	ST JOSEPH	Deceased Homeless Joseph O'Grady	RIP ANN
Tues 20/3 7.15am 10.00am 12.30pm	LENT FERIA Comboni Convent	Sr. Ausilia Ogbasghi Wilf Barnes NO MASS	RD RIP
Wed 21/3 10.00am 6.00pm	LENT FERIA PIME Convent	Holy Souls Mary Cullen	RIP RIP
Thurs 22/3 7.15am 10.00am 12.30pm	LENT FERIA Comboni Convent	Sr. Maria Santina Dalla Riva Elizabeth Morris Jean Goodyear	RD INT RD
Fri 23/3 10.00am 5.30pm	LENT FERIA	Edward Nicholas Holmes Stations of the Cross	ANN
Sat 24/3 10.00am 10.30am to 12.30pm 4.00pm to 6.00pm 6.30pm	LENT FERIA	Gerry Collin Confession (visiting Carmelite priest) Confession (visiting Carmelite priest) People of the Parish	ANN INT

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday: 3.00pm to 4.00pm; Saturday 5.00pm to 6.00pm
CONFESSIONS: Saturday 24th: 10.30am to 12.30pm and 4.00pm to 6.00pm
BENEDICTION: Monday to Friday 4.00pm; Saturday 6.00pm
STATIONS OF THE CROSS (IN LENT): Friday 5.30pm

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – While a private praying of the Stations is also recommended in Lent, the opportunity to walk with Jesus on his journey to Calvary in the traditional liturgical praying of the Stations will be each **Friday at 5.30pm**.

LENT PROJECT MARVELS – Over £16,300 has already specifically been given to *Bhola's Children* of the three causes the Lent Project is supporting, but nonetheless there is still a generous £2,600 in the kitty to be divided at Pentecost and, with continued giving, let us hope much more than that. *Bhola's Children* has benefitted from two enormously generous anonymous gifts of £10,000 and £3,000 in addition to the other £3,300 given specifically. The marvel of this is that the order to build the new roofs – not just the repair of the old – has already been given and this will have a double benefit for the orphaned and disabled children of Bhola's Garden. Firstly, the new roofs will be complete before the monsoon season begins. Secondly, because of this, it will cost the charity less because of not working through the monsoons. Please, though, do not think 'job done' and close up on the giving what can be given. Rather we should be inspired to see that this is how quickly lives can be changed for the better while we give. Please spare a thought for St Martin de Porres' Parish, Lukome, Uganda, with a church without pews and with no prospect of having them without our assistance; also for the initiatives for the marginalised of *The Cardinal's Appeal*. And the more we can give to *Bhola's Children* the better for them (see www.bholaschildren.org.) as all of the donated funds will benefit the children.

YOUR EASTER CONFESSION? – A visiting Carmelite priest from Kensington Priory has very kindly agreed to hear confessions in our church this coming **Saturday 24th March from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 4.00pm to 6.00pm**. If very busy he'll be assisted by Fr Michael or Fr Mike but in the evening they'll be occupied with Confirmandi confessions.

FOODBANK COLLECTION – Thank you to all those who supported last weekend, 103.7 kgs was donated.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - If your child would like to sing in the Children's Choir during the 11.00am Good Friday Children's Stations of the Cross and Veneration and during Easter Sunday 9.45am Family Mass, you are warmly welcome to join our two rehearsals in church: Saturday 24th March 3.00pm to 4.00pm and Thursday 29th March 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

CENTERING PRAYER – The group will be meeting on the following dates:- 5th & 19th April, 3rd, 17th & 31st May: 7.30pm in St Edward's Rm. Contact John O'Brien for info: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - 22nd April, 10.30am to 17.30pm. Meet, talk and share the faith with other men - lay, religious, single, married, young and old. See www.catholicman.uk

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – The new Offertory envelopes are available for collection today. They are arranged by surname on the tables at the front and back of the Church. Please take a few minutes to collect yours. If you signed up for Offertory envelopes last week, they are available for collection today. If you usually donate cash using the red collection bags, we would encourage you to consider joining the Planned Giving scheme using Offertory envelopes, or a Standing Order. By joining the 450 parishioners already in the scheme, you will enable the Parish Finance Committee to budget responsibly for major repairs, and maintenance of our Church and Presbytery. You can join by speaking with a member of the Finance Team, or leaving your details on the forms on the tables. Thank you also to those of you who donate through the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), The Charities Trust (CT), Online Giving and by Texting Parish CHISW to 70800.

HOLY WEEK :

PALM SUNDAY - 25th March

Palm Sunday begins our Holy Week journey. Palms will be blessed and distributed at each Mass. Please note:

The 9.45am Mass will commence at **9.30am** in the Parish Centre.

The 11.00am Mass will commence at **10.50am** in the Parish Centre.

The 12.15pm Mass will begin at **12.30pm** in church.

CHRISM MASS - Tues 27th March

This Mass takes place in Westminster Cathedral at 12.00 noon, and is celebrated by the Cardinal, Bishops and priests of the Diocese. At this Mass the oils of Chrism, Catechumens and the Sick, are blessed and consecrated for use in the parishes in the coming year.

SPY WEDNESDAY - 28th March

8.00pm: Tenebrae, will be sung by the choir *Cantores Missae*. Tomas Luis de Victoria's *Responsories* (psalms) will be sung, with English translations provided and interspersed with reflective readings from the saints. Ideal for a prayerful entry into the Sacred Triduum.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 29th March

8.00pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper, also with the washing of the feet. After Mass there is Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight with Compline at 11.45pm.

GOOD FRIDAY - 30th March

9.00am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer.

11.00am: Children's Liturgy of the Stations and Veneration of the Cross.

3.00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

HOLY SATURDAY - 31st March

9.00am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer.

9.00pm: The Solemn Easter Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY - 1st April

Masses at 8.30am, 9.45am, 11.00am and at **12.30pm**, not the normal 12.15pm, as well as at 6.30pm

CLOCKS GO FORWARD 25th March – Please remember that at 1.00am on Palm Sunday morning, clocks go forward!

GUNNERSBURY NOTES

MASSES THIS WEEK:

9.30am Tuesday & Thursday

HOLY WEEK:

GOOD FRIDAY - 30th March – 3.00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

EASTER SUNDAY - 1st April – 10.00am

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

are at the back of the church. Please collect yours today. Gift Aiding your donation will increase its value by 25p for every £1. Last year our parish received a refund of £2,043.19 from taxes you had paid. If you are not already in the scheme, please consider joining the Planned Giving Scheme using Offertory envelopes or a Standing Order. If you have any questions about Planned Giving, please speak to Tamara or Richard Szymanski today. Thank you for your generosity.

ST. EDWARD'S CLUB - This is a social group for the over-55s which meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Parish Centre. It's an opportunity to have a cup of tea, chat, play bingo, quizzes etc. All are welcome. Please join us for our next meeting, tomorrow, Monday 19th March.

MARIE STOPES, MATTOCK LANE - Ealing Council are considering introducing a PSPO or 'Buffer Zone' around Marie Stopes, Mattock Lane. This would prevent groups praying peacefully and offering help and outreach to a group of very vulnerable women, as well as having implications for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience nationally. Full details on making a submission are available at the website www.behereforme.org where there is a function that will allow people to submit to the consultation in around two minutes.

St JOSEPHINE BAKHITA VIGIL of PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FOR THOSE WHO WORK TO COMBAT IT - Thurs 22nd March, 7.30pm to 8.30pm in church. We pray through the painful journey of Jesus to Calvary and the joy of the Resurrection for present day victims through the intercession of St Josephine Bakhita who experienced the trauma of slavery and the grace of freedom. This hour of prayer is prepared and guided by the members of the Comboni Cenacles of Missionary Prayer who meet fortnightly locally. New members very welcome. Call Sr Natalia, 020 8994 1220, at the Comboni Centre.

COLLECTION HELPERS – Please would those who so kindly take up the collection each weekend read a copy of the note Fr Michael has left for them in the Servers' Sacristy – there's a small change to the red bags' drop off point. Thank you.

TEA & COFFEE MORNINGS – after 10.00am Mass on Tues, St Edward's Rm and Fri in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA - This week the Wednesday Cleaning Group will be cleaning the church. Thank you.

Collections for last weekend:

Chiswick: £4274.14

Gunnorsbury: £348.40

Thank you for your generosity.