

The Gospel
Matthew 5:13-16

Today we take light for granted. Hard as it to believe, there was time when there was no electricity and immediate light at the touch of a button was unheard of. The poor could not afford candles or oil lamps or even wood for the fire. They went to bed with sundown and darkness. Even for those who could afford candles or an oil lamp, the light they gave off was poor and limited. This was the world in which Jesus lived.

In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus uses light, a very common thing to describe the quality needed to be his follower and disciple. The words he uses are as challenging as they encouraging. In the Gospel there is a constant battle between light and darkness. Nicodemus, the Pharisee, visits Jesus at night, Jesus heals a man born into a world of darkness because he is blind, and when Judas leaves the table during the last supper, we are told that it was night. Yet it is into this darkness that Jesus comes with the good news. Also Jesus proclaims these words of hope and encouragement, 'I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

Yet strangely, in our Gospel this Sunday, Jesus also says, 'You are the light of the world.' What can he mean by these words? Through our baptism we all share in the mission and ministry of Jesus. Today we are his disciples. Today in our families, our schools and our communities, we are the ones who are called to stand up, speak out and shine as followers of Jesus. We are called and invited not to hide our light, or to hide in the shadows or be embarrassed that we are followers of Jesus. When we see the news on our televisions or read about it in our newspapers, we may feel powerless or even hopeless. But we are called to be people of light. We live in a time when there seems to be an atmosphere of fear and doubt spreading around our world. However, we are asked by Jesus to let the light of our faith and hope shine even more brightly than ever.

It is said that for evil to triumph all that is needed is that good people do and say nothing. My one light may not make a huge difference, but when it shines brightly with others, the light is immense and powerful. When we let our light shine, darkness is defeated.

*This week don't hide your light;
let it shine brightly for all to see!*

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.
Registered Charity No. 252929

358 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9AN

greenford@rcdow.org.uk

COMMUNITY

Fr. Eugene Lynch SCA, Fr. Liam O'Donovan SCA,
Fr. Joe McLoughlin SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Sunday 10.00 – 1.30 pm

MASSES

Mon - Sat 12.00 noon

Sunday Saturday 7.00 pm – Vigil Mass
8.00 am, 9.00 am, 10.30 am
12.00 noon and 7.00 pm

Confessions 11.00 am – 12.00 noon
(Saturday) 6.15 pm – 6.45 pm

FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

9th FEBRUARY 2020

**The readings for this weekend's Masses start on
page 133 in the Mass book.**

The Creed – page 11/12 The Lord's Prayer - page 56

**The response to the Psalm is -
*The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.***

**The Acclamation is:
*When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.***

Next week's second collection will be for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The FEAST of OUR LADY of LOURDES
is on
TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY AT 12.00 noon Mass
and will include the Sacrament of the Sick

PRAYER MEETING

Fr. Joe hosts a prayer meeting every Thursday, from 7.30 to 8.30 pm in the parish centre. Everyone welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY – 26th FEBRUARY

If you have any palm crosses, please bring them to church, and we can burn them and use them at Mass on Ash Wednesday. There will be a box for them in the Church Porch from next weekend.

ANNUAL MASS for the SACRAMENT of MATRIMONY
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 30th MAY AT 3.00 pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

OLIVE WOOD ITEMS FROM THE HOLY LAND

The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land works alongside the St. Vincent de Paul Society for orphans and the elderly there. The work of olive wood carving is one of the most important sources of income for them. They will be bringing some of their products here during the weekend of 22/23rd February and would be very happy if you could support them. Also, please keep the workers and their families in your prayers.



We will be hosting "Tea and Cake" on behalf of the British Heart Foundation on Sunday 23rd February, after the 9.00, 10.30 and 12.00 noon Masses.
Donations of cakes would be very much appreciated.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Gerard Lyons

Mass 1.00 pm, Monday 10th February, Visitation Church, to be followed by cremation at Breakespear Crematorium.

Della Killeen

Reception 7.00 pm, Wednesday 12th February, Visitation Church.
Mass 10.00 am, Thursday 13th February, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

Vivien Lesley Read

Mass 1.00 pm, Friday 14th February, Visitation Church, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

Advance Notice

Owen Cattigan

Reception 8.00 pm, Sunday 23rd February, Visitation Church.
Mass 1.00 pm, Monday 24th February, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

Maureen Farrell

Reception 7.00 pm, Thursday 27th February, Visitation Church.
Mass 1.00 pm, Friday 28th February, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.