



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

12TH APRIL 2020

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Mike Guthrie
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminararian
Administrator (on furlough)



FOODBANK COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND – Thank you to those parishioners who were able to contribute to the monthly collection of non-perishable items of food by dropping it off at the presbytery in the course of last week. A very large amount of food (about half the normal collection which is still a lot) together with £400 in cash was received. Fr Michael gave a parish grant of a further £600 from the Poor Box, thus £1,000 was sent to help. The foodbank replied saying the food and cash were “VERY welcome” at this very difficult time for foodbanks. Our foodbank is still operating and online donations would be possible through their website: www.hammersmithfulham.foodbank.org.uk

FEELING VULNERABLE AND NEEDING HELP? – Some parishioners are offering to shop and deliver groceries etc for any others who may not feel strong enough to shop for themselves. If you would like this help, please phone the Parish Office and leave a message. You are not alone! Help is at hand! 020 8994 2877

CAN YOU OFFER HELP? – If you'd be happy to volunteer to assist particularly elderly and isolated parishioners with just one or two errands each week as you are about your own, please also email or phone the Parish Office. You must be known to the priests and other parishioners from attendance at Mass. We'd be aiming to match postcodes of volunteers and recipients.

THE MEN'S GROUP - Men of all ages are warmly invited to our next meeting on St George's Day, Thursday 23rd April, from 8.30pm on the Zoom app. We will listen to an audio talk from Fr Larry Richard's book "Be A Man!" followed by a short discussion. We are affiliated to www.catholicman.uk Please email Stephen Donnelly at donnellysm@hotmail.com for details.

CENTERING PRAYER – In the current lockdown the Centering Prayer group has found a new way to convene via the internet platform Zoom. The group is meeting EVERY Monday at 7.30pm so if you would like to join please phone or email John O'Brien who will be happy to assist: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

PRIESTS' HOUSE GUEST – Frs Michael and Mike were hardly expecting a house guest in the current crisis but with our diocesan seminary, Allen Hall, temporarily closing down in line with seminaries in other countries afflicted with the pandemic, we have a fifth year Westminster seminarian staying with us until the seminary can open again. With St Michael the Archangel extending his influence in the household, the seminarian's name is Mike Guthrie. God willing he will be ordained Deacon at the end of next academic year and Priest the year after that. Here he will be assisting in many ways and certainly on the door, telephone, office emails and admin. Please make him social-distantly welcome!

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, GROVE PARK - With Cardinal Vincent being concerned for the health and good of Fr John Seabrook, the Parish Priest of Grove Park, together with his concern for the pastoral and sacramental welfare of Grove Park parishioners, he has appointed Fr Michael to be the Parochial Administrator of St Joseph's. Fr John remains very much Parish Priest but the duties of that role are largely transferred to Fr Michael. Grove Park remains an independent parish but it is 'paired' with Chiswick for the time being, hence the new title added to the newsletter's header. However, there will be no Mass celebrated in St Joseph's Church at Easter but only in Our Lady of Grace and St Edward's.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Sat 11/4 9.00pm	HOLY SATURDAY	People of the Parish both living and dead	
Sun 12/4 11.00am 12.15pm ?	EASTER SUNDAY <i>Gunnersbury</i>	People of the Parish both living and dead	
Mon 13/4	MONDAY of the Octave of Easter (oOE)	Mary Quinn	RIP
Tues 14/4	TUESDAY oOE <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Jonny Amitrano	RIP
Wed 15/4	WEDS oOE	Bill Foster Tony Dovey Noreen Leonard	RIP RIP RIP
Thurs 16/4	THURSDAY oOE <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Mabel Colley Sheila Melvin	Ann RIP
Fri 17/4	FRIDAY oOE	Loris Drummond Sr. Adeodata Marin Sean Gleeson	RD RD RD
Sat 18/4	SATURDAY oOE	Sr. M Raffaella Figini Gianna Luisa Castiglioni	RD RD
		Sr. M Gabriella Caryonlini Kathleen Dempsey	RD RD

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Fr John Seabrook PP, Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthoy, Fr. Noel O'Boylan, Celine Duignan, Andy Cronin, Bob Barnett, Eulalie Raymond, Jim O'Grady, Greta Gribben, Jim Ryan, Mike O'Farrel, Bridget Hayden, Alaina Embling, Hannah Thomas, Lauren, Anna and Joseph Mullan, Ewa Blonska, Phoebe Rodriguez, John Moylan, Cyril McKeefrey together with all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Bridget Tone, John Lawlor, Thomas Langfrey and William Oswald. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Stuart Opp, Jimmy Lee, John Larkin, Una Kelly, Patrick McElvoy and Mabel Colley. May they rest in peace.

LENT PROJECT 2020 – Our charities this year are: Friends of the Holy Land www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk ; The Cardinal Hume Centre www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk ; The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal www.rcdow.org.uk . With a number of donations to the appeal just before the church closed together with further donations through the letter box marked for the Lent Appeal from parishioners out on their daily exercise, **the current total for the Lent Project is an astonishing £9,580** between the three charities. *Thank you!*

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ON OUR WEBSITE – Our Director of Music, Anthony McCarthy, and our Cantor, Antonia Ciivic, together with a volunteer sound recorder from the Choir, had previously made some seasonal recordings in our organ loft which are now uploaded on our website. **Furthermore, the Choir has provided a stunning rendition of Chilcott's *God so loved the world* sung by the choir members at home but digitally mixed by a sound engineer to produce a glorious harmony** now on the front page of the website together with these titles below:

Palm Sunday:

Hymn - All Glory Laud And Honour (one verse only plus repeated chorus)

Psalm 22 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Holy Thursday for the Mass of the Lord's Supper:

Psalm 115 - The blessing cup that we bless, is a communion with the blood of Christ.

Good Friday:

Psalm 30 - Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

Holy Saturday:

Psalm 103 - Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth

Exodus 15 - I will sing to the Lord, glorious His triumph

Isaiah 12 - With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation

Psalm 136 - Alleluia ... Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Easter Sunday:

Psalm 117 - This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel Acclamation (same as Psalm 136 from the previous day)

Hymn - Thine Be The Glory (one verse only) followed by an organ voluntary by Guilment based on this theme, with additional material by Anthony McCarthy.

Additional material for the season:

Stabat Mater - Pergolesi

God So Loved The World - Chilcott

A Clare Benediction - Rutter

Agnus Dei from Mozart's Coronation Mass

Erbarme dich from Bach's St Matthew Passion

Te Deum - Charpentier

I Know My Redeemer Liveth - Handel

The text of the Psalms will be in a Sunday Missal.

CARDINAL VINCENT'S SEASONAL MEDIA – Another means of sharing in the life of the Church in the current moment, is to join Cardinal Vincent with some of his media interviews and articles scheduled for the next week.

Already available is a video released on Friday of the Cardinal in conversation with Archbishop Justin Welby and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis on the effect of the pandemic on the closure of places of worship and how this is affecting our prayer life. It ends by praying Psalm 23 together. See <https://youtu.be/xoVD2pegDJA>

Saturday, 4th April, see: The Times *Credo* column

Good Friday: The Telegraph opinion column

Easter Sunday:

Catholic Universe Easter edition: front page interview

BBC Radio 2 at 7.30am

Sunday Service on BBC Local Radio stations at 8.00am

BBC Radio London 9.30am

BBC Radio 4 The World This Weekend at 1.00pm

POPE FRANCIS' EASTER VIGIL HOMILY 20th April 2019 –

The women bring spices to the tomb, but they fear that their journey is in vain, since a large stone bars the entrance to the sepulcher. The journey of those women is also our own journey; it resembles the journey of salvation that we have made this evening. At times, it seems that everything comes up against a stone: the beauty of creation against the tragedy of sin; liberation from slavery against infidelity to the covenant; the promises of the prophets against the listless indifference of the people. So too, in the history of the Church and in our own personal history. It seems that the steps we take never take us to the goal. We can be tempted to think that dashed hope is the bleak law of life.

Today however we see that our journey is not in vain; it does not come up against a tombstone. A single phrase astounds the woman and changes history: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (Lk 24:5). Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give into resignation? Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the "living stone" (cf. 1 Pet 2:4), the risen Jesus. We, as Church, are built on him, and, even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, he comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment. Each of us is called tonight to rediscover in the Risen Christ the one who rolls back from our heart the heaviest of stones. So let us first ask: *What is the stone that I need to remove?* Often what blocks hope is *the stone of discouragement*. Once we start thinking that everything is going badly and that things can't get worse, we lose heart and come to believe that death is stronger than life. We become cynical, negative and despondent. Stone upon stone, we build within ourselves a monument to our own dissatisfaction: *the sepulcher of hope*. Life becomes a succession of complaints and we grow sick in spirit. A kind of *tomb psychology* takes over: everything ends there, with no hope of emerging alive. But at that moment, we hear once more the insistent question of Easter: *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* The Lord is not to be found in resignation. He is risen; he is not there. Don't seek him where you will never find him: he is not the God of the dead but of the living (cf. Mk 22:32). Do not bury hope! There is another stone that often seals the heart shut: *the stone of sin*. Sin seduces; it promises things easy and quick, prosperity and success, but then leaves behind only solitude and death. Sin is looking for life among the dead, for the meaning of life in things that pass away. *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* Why not make up your mind to abandon that sin which, like a stone before the entrance to your heart, keeps God's light from entering in? Why not prefer Jesus, the true light (cf. Jn 1:9), to the glitter of wealth, career, pride and pleasure? Why not tell the empty things of this world that you no longer live for them, but for the Lord?

Let us return to the women who went to Jesus' tomb. They halted in amazement before the stone that was taken away. Seeing the angels, they stood there, the Gospel tells us, "frightened, and bowed their faces to the ground" (Lk 24:5). They did not have the courage to look up. And how often do we do the same thing? We prefer to remain huddled within our shortcomings, cowering in our fears. It is odd, but why do we do this? Not infrequently because, glum and closed up within ourselves, we feel in control, for it is easier to remain alone in the darkness of our heart than to open ourselves to the Lord. Yet only he can raise us up. A poet once wrote: "We never know how high we are. Till we are called to rise" (E. Dickinson). The Lord calls us to get up, to rise at his word, to look up and to realize that we were made for heaven, not for earth, for the heights of life and not for the depths of death: *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* God asks us to view life as he views it, for in each of us he never ceases to see an irrepressible kernel of beauty. In sin, he sees sons and daughters to be restored; in death, brothers and sisters to be reborn; in desolation, hearts to be revived. Do not fear, then: the Lord loves your life, even when you are afraid to look at it and take it in hand. In Easter he shows you how much he loves that life: even to the point of living it completely, experiencing anguish, abandonment, death and hell, in order to emerge triumphant to tell you: "You are not alone; put your trust in me!"

Jesus is a specialist at turning our deaths into life, our mourning into dancing (cf. Ps 30:11). With him, we too can experience a Pasch, that is, a Passover – from self-centredness to communion, from desolation to consolation, from fear to confidence. Let us not keep our faces bowed to the ground in fear, but raise our eyes to the risen Jesus. His gaze fills us with hope, for it tells us that we are loved unflinchingly, and that however much we make a mess of things, his love remains unchanged. This is the one, non-negotiable certitude we have in life: his love does not change. Let us ask ourselves: *In my life, where am I looking?* Am I gazing at graveyards, or looking for the Living One?

A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER!
Fr Michael, Fr Mike and Seminarian Mike