



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 JULY 2020

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Fr Brendan Carmody SJ
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
In Residence
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

*Go, go, go, said the bird:
humankind cannot bear very much reality.*

Stranger things happen than a bird speaking in T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*, and unlike the many humans who tweet trivia this bird has something important to say. Indeed, if there have been any graces in the ordeal of the pandemic surely one of them is that it has helped us face reality and to appreciate many things more deeply, which is to say, more real-ly. Descending in depth beneath "this twittering world" is Eliot's hope for us as it is the sower's going out to sow in today's Gospel parable. "Such crowds gathered round Jesus that he got into a boat [while] the people all stood on the beach", the Gospel records. But did they all listen real-ly, or see or understand? Far from it and there is great poignancy in Jesus' reflection. Some are distracted, others have "no depth of earth", "no root" and fall away; others again are choked with too much else growing in their earth. Yet, if only we descend, and seek the truth of our reality rather than seeking to avoid it, we will discover that the seed has fallen into rich soil and that we can in the Holy Spirit not only produce a harvest of thirty, sixty or a hundredfold, but also recognise that reality is an encounter with joy. "I have much more to tell you but you cannot bear it now. But when He comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you into all truth" (Jn 16:12-13).

MONDAY to FRIDAY

Church opens 11.00am
Mass 11.30am & 12.30pm
Church closes 1.00pm

SATURDAY

Church opens 11.00am
Mass 11.30am
followed by,
Private Prayer 12.15
(**Last entry 12.45pm**)
Church closes 1.00pm

Private Prayer 3.00pm to
5.00pm
(**Last entry 4.45pm**)

Church opens 6.00pm
Mass 6.30pm
Church closes 7.15pm

SUNDAY

Church opens 8.00am
**Mass 8.30am,
9.45am,
11.00am,
12.15pm**
Church closes 1.00pm

Church opens 6.00pm
Mass 6.30pm
Church closes 7.15pm

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 11/7 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Mary Colgan	INT
Sun 12/7 8.30am 9.45am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	15 TH SUNDAY IN O.T.	Margaret O'Brien Elizabeth Davey People of the Parish Karen Noonan John D'Souza	ANN RD INT ANN ANN
Mon 13/7 11.30am 12.30pm	Feria	Paul Scobie Kay Hegarty	RD INT
Tues 14/7 11.30am 12.30pm	Feria	Nina Hayden Paul Plumley	RD RD
Wed 15/7 11.30am 12.30pm	St. Bonaventure	Martin McSweeney Barbara Phillips	RIP RIP
Thurs 16/7 11.30am 12.30pm	Feria	Joseph Flaherty Sheila Buckley	ANN INT
Fri 17/7 11.30am 12.30pm 2.00pm	Feria	Laura Williams – Birthday Della & Roy Pantin Funeral of Francis Duncan	RIP INT RIP
Sat 18/7 11.30am 3pm-5pm 6.30pm	Feria	Nicola Raffaele & Francesco Carratu <i>Private Prayer</i> Eamonn King	RIP ANN

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthoy, Eulalie Raymond, Maxence Martin, together with all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Ewa Blonska, Gabby Goubran, Francis Duncan, Mary & John Hoggood and Margaret Smith. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Tee Ngo, Margaret O'Brien, Karen Noonan, John D'Souza, Joseph Flaherty, Eamonn King and Fr Brian Lawlor OSA

WELCOME FR BRENDAN – We welcome a new priest moving into the Chiswick presbytery, Fr Brendan Carmody SJ. Fr Brendan is a Jesuit priest of the Irish Province and formerly a Professor of Education now engaged in academic pursuits at St Mary's University in Twickenham. This will remain his week-day work while the university is in session but at weekends he will assist with Masses and particularly with St Joseph's Grove Park, where it is planned that he would be most weekends, though he will also offer Mass in Chiswick and Gunnersbury. It's a difficult time for anyone to move house and hope to settle in somewhere new when it's so difficult to meet parishioners but please make him very welcome whenever the opportunity arises over the coming months if we can look forward to expanding numbers at Masses.

THANK YOU TO THE STEWARDS – Because of the generosity of the volunteer stewards we are able to have the church open and to have two daily Masses. Without them we would have to remain closed. To volunteer please see www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

LENT PROJECT TOTAL NEARLY £20,000! – The Lent Project appeal which runs to Pentecost has now been closed and the totals sent away. We had three charities to benefit from Lenten alms: the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supporting projects in the Westminster Diocese received £3,152.88; the Cardinal Hume Centre, supporting homeless youth in London, received £3,371.63; and our overseas' charity, Friends of the Holy Land, received £6,251.28, with a further £100 after we had closed the appeal and £70 Gift Aid. This would have been a fine total in the lockdown circumstances of £12,945.79 but for some other generosity. Some wealthy patrons of Friends of the Holy Land had agreed to double any donation to the charity up until Pentecost Sunday. We therefore ensured that our £6,251.28 was received in good time and the charity confirmed it qualified for being doubled by their own patrons to £12,502.56! The total received by the charities' beneficiaries is **£19,197.07**.

PARISH ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC UNION – Our parish has become the first in the country to have a formal association with The Catholic Union www.catholicunion.org.uk and many more will follow where there is shared interest. Fr Michael much recommends going to the website to sign up for their news briefings directly emailed completely free of charge. The news from parliament is always interesting if often rather worrying with initiatives to challenge the common good.

BAPTISMS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION – Even with Masses for restricted numbers now being offered, the return to large and festal occasions such as First Holy Communion or Confirmation Masses is more distant. The instructions for Baptisms have, however, now been published by the Bishops' Conference and so dates are being booked into the diary and the parish is contacting those families who had booked baptisms from the lockdown period. There is to be only one baptism and family group at a time with a maximum of 30 present and socially distant (2M) in church. Rescheduling the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses is going to have to wait for as near a return to normality as possible perhaps in the Autumn. The parish will swiftly contact parents and guardians of existing candidates for these sacraments as soon as authority is given.

CENTERING PRAYER – In the current lockdown the Centering Prayer group has found a new way to convene via the internet platform Zoom. The group will now be meeting fortnightly on Mondays at 7.30pm. The next meeting will be 13th July 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

COMBONI SISTERS' MOTHER GENERAL MAKES APPEAL – The Comboni Sisters on Chiswick Lane would like to draw parishioners' kind attention to their Mother General's "Emergency COVID-19 Appeal Caring for the Elderly Comboni Sisters", <https://www.combonisc.co.uk/community/> The Comboni Sisters Nursing Homes in the Veneto region of northern Italy care for about 400 elderly and sick Missionary Sisters from all countries who have returned from giving their active lives in the service of others on the missions. Covid-19 has had a devastating effect in the area and aside from the tragic multiple premature deaths of retired Sisters, the exceptional expenses incurred in caring for the others through the pandemic has affected the Order's global budget for mission. Mother General Sr Luigina Coccia is appealing for prayer and for donations to help in this situation. Details on how to donate can be found by opening the above link where Sr Luigina's video can be viewed. The Chiswick Comboni Sisters, who have been praying for parishioners throughout the pandemic, say "As missionaries, we greatly appreciate every gesture that makes us all feel part of the same family. Thank you and God bless you."

MARRIAGE CARE, COUNSELLING SERVICES – Marriage Care, established in 1946 in response to the pressure on family relationships following the end of the Second World War, now offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of 'Lockdown'. Further information: <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:- at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :- £18.00 or 12 Months:- £72.00

GUNNERSBURY NOTES and GROVE PARK NOTES

Fr Michael is well aware of the keenly felt hope in the communities of St Dunstan's Gunnersbury and St Joseph's Grove Park to restore the public offering of Mass now that restrictions allow for it. However, if through sufficient numbers of those eligible to volunteer to be stewards and cleaners we can re-establish Mass, then we should also do our best to ensure that these Masses will be sustainable throughout the holiday period just coming up. This necessitates the planning for only two priests to be available between eight weekend Masses in three different churches. The solution, which would not suit everyone but would work for most, would be a 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass in Grove Park and the 10.00am Sunday Mass at Gunnersbury, together with the six routine Masses at Chiswick. It's also important to remember that with an appropriately applied social distancing of two meters, the capacity of both churches is drastically reduced – there are just sixteen places in St Joseph's Grove Park, for instance, so that even opening for Mass again may not mean that everyone who would like to attend Mass can do so. An essential first step is for eligible volunteers (ie between 18 and 70 years of age and with no underlying health conditions) to contact the Chiswick Parish Office leaving contact details. The volunteering for both communities will be for about 90 minutes weekly: 30 minutes before Mass, 30 minutes at Mass, and 30 minutes washing and disinfecting, working on four or five volunteers. In addition to this, both churches, after nearly four months of lockdown, are in need of a thorough church cleaning before Mass could take place, for which volunteers are also sought. *Thank you!*

THE CATHOLIC HERALD is now monthly. If you wish to subscribe you can do this directly at www.catholicherald.co.uk/subscribe at an annual cost of £59.99. An annual subscription gives the monthly print edition plus free access to all of the content on their website including regular news updates, podcasts, etc. so is excellent value for money and ensures you never miss an issue or news updates/podcasts on the website. The monthly issue will be a minimum of 80 pages each month and includes the original features of the previous weekly edition and many new ones.



The Feast of St Bonaventure, the great Franciscan Doctor of the Church (1218-1274) is on Wednesday. Here is an extract from a homily of his teaching us how to pray:

Christ is the way; Christ the door. By Christ we mount, by Christ we are borne, for he is 'the mercy-seat', 'the mystery hidden from all ages'. A man should turn his face to this mercy seat, should look at Christ hanging on the cross, should look with faith, hope, love, wonder, joy, appreciation, praise and jubilation: for thus will he make his pass-over with him. By the rod of the cross he passes over the Red Sea, he enters from the desert of Egypt to taste the hidden manna, he rests with Christ in the tomb as if dead to all that is without. Yet he hears, so far as is possible to one who is still on his journey, the words Christ spoke from the cross: 'Today you shall be with me in paradise.' If you want to understand how this happens, ask it of grace, not of learning; ask it of desire, not of understanding; ask it of earnest prayer, not of attentive reading; ask it of the betrothed, not of the teacher; ask it of God, not of man; ask it of darkness, not of radiance. Ask it not of light, but of a fire that completely inflames you and transports you to God. This fire is God Himself.