



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

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26TH APRIL 2020

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Mike Guthrie
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminarian
Administrator (on furlough)

Fr Michael writes:

For me one of the gems of Cardinal Vincent's homily preached at last Thursday's cathedral Mass for carers, the sick and their families (cited in full below) is his line that "we know that the treasures of the Kingdom of God are to be found hidden in the field of the world". It's an allusion, I imagine, to the Gospel of Matthew 13:44 where Jesus in His parable highlights not only the unexpectedness of discovering treasure in a field but also both the costliness of discipleship, that the man has to sell *everything* he owns to buy the field and its treasure, and also the man's *joy* as he gives himself completely to his future. If we hope to participate in building the Kingdom of God, in sharing Christ's mission in the world, we must share God's love *of the world* (Jn 3:16) giving His only Son, Who Himself gave everything. But all that giving, all that engagement with the world, resulted in response if not from all from very many and we the Church came to be, alive through the Spirit in the power of the Resurrection, nourished in "the breaking of bread" as today's Gospel expresses (Lk 24:35). The poignancy of having this Gospel so exhorting us to the breaking of bread while we cannot have public Mass will be keenly felt by us all. But we must not doubt that Jesus, who stirred the hearts of the disciples on the road to Emmaus even without their recognising Him amongst them, will be amongst us too nourishing us in grace even if we cannot share Mass in a liturgical space. The recognition by those disciples that Jesus was not only risen but amongst them, impelled them to mission and back they went to Jerusalem, and from Jerusalem, with love, to the world. A small but I hope for some parishioners significant facilitation of our own good engaging with the world on Christ's mission, occurred on St George's Day, last Thursday. Our parish became the first Associated Parish of the Catholic Union of Great Britain in the country. This is an initiative of the Catholic Union (as a reading of the Memorandum below demonstrates) and a visit to their website www.catholicunion.org.uk explains something of what they are about and I hope would repay interest. Perhaps look up the Union's history in 'About Us' or the regular updates from Parliament under the heading 'News'. It's about public engagement for the common good, an expression of our searching out the Kingdom of God hidden in the field of the world.

THURSDAY MASS for NHS & CARE HOME staff & the SICK – Cardinal Vincent having celebrated a live-streamed Mass last Thursday at 7.00pm from Westminster Cathedral for all NHS and Care Home staff, and for the Sick and their families, the following live-streamed Masses have now been published by the Bishops' Conference, all of which can be accessed simply by going to each cathedral's website shortly before 7.00pm.

- 30th April: Bishop Richard Moth, Arundel Cathedral
- 7th May: Bishop Marcus Stock, Leeds Cathedral
- 14th May: Bishop Robert Byrne CO, Newcastle Cathedral
- 21st May: Bishop Mark Davies, Shrewsbury Cathedral
- 28th May: Bishop Terence Drainey, Middlesbrough Cathedral

FR. JOHN SEABROOK PP RIP - With deep regret Fr Michael must inform parishioners of the death on Wednesday evening 15th April of Fr John Seabrook, Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Grove Park. He died peacefully at Hammersmith Hospital following admission to the hospital he had been attending regularly over the past few months, fortified by the rites of the Church just days before he died. Funeral arrangements have been made in accordance with the protocols necessary due to the Coronavirus pandemic which mean that Fr John's family, his Executors and the Bishop presiding at the graveside service and representing the Cardinal will be the only mourners attending. When circumstances allow, a Memorial Mass will be arranged and all parishioners, both of Grove Park and of Chiswick, will have the opportunity to honour the memory and to pray for the repose of Fr John's soul after such long service in Grove Park and the Deanery. May he rest in peace.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sat 25/4	ST. MARK	Patricia Moy The Cortez Family	Ann Ints
Sun 26/4	3 rd SUNDAY of EASTER <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Veronica Dsane (Birthday) Mary Howell <i>Tina Byrne</i>	Ints Sick Sick
Mon 27/4	Easter Feria	Paddy McLoughlin Joselina Santana Alberto	Ann Ann
Tues 28/4	Easter Feria <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Monica Sweeney Karen Lynch <i>Laurence Ryan</i>	Ann Sick Ints
Wed 29/4	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA	Sheila Brinkley Eilish Curran	RD Ints
Thurs 30/4	Easter Feria <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Ann Murphy Frontline NHS & Care Home workers; the sick & their families <i>John McEntee</i>	RD Ints Ints
Fri 1/5	ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER	Paul Jennings Jim & Gertrude Maxwell	RD Ints
Sat 2/5	St. Athanasius	Ronald Grant Mary Patricia Smith	RD Ann

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: 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: Bob Bennett, Patricia Taylor, Dawit Mehanen, Fr John Seabrook PP, Patrick O'Leary, Bridget Tone, John Lawlor, Kathleen Dempsey, Thomas Langfrey, Samuel Bignall and Jim Kelly. 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!*

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

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, isolated or isolating 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 PARISH'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC UNION -

Memorandum

between

The Catholic Union of Great Britain

and

**The Parish of Our Lady of Grace and Saint Edward's,
Chiswick**

The Catholic Union of Great Britain ("CUGB"), a lay organisation with consultative status to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, recognises, celebrates and seeks to utilise the expertise of the Catholic laity in promoting and defending the Catholic viewpoint in British public life.

The CUGB would like to become better known in parishes so as to inform and encourage the laity about its activities and to draw from the expertise and experience of the laity to enhance its mission.

The CUGB has therefore invited the Parish of Our Lady of Grace and St Edward ("the Parish") to become an Associated Parish of the Catholic Union of Great Britain in order to offer mutual support and co-operation and the Parish Priest has accepted this invitation on behalf of the Parish.

There will be no charge for either the CUGB or the Parish for this association.

The Parish Priest and the Director of the CUGB will be the points of contact in relation to all aspects of the association until such time as the Parish Priest delegates this function to a member of the Parish who will also thereafter liaise with the Parish Priest.

The Parish will when appropriate inform parishioners of the activities of the CUGB and help to publicise its talks and events. The CUGB will also publicise Parish activities which are of interest to its members. The CUGB and the Parish may co-operate in other activities to be mutually decided.

The Parish is hereby declared to be an Associated Parish of the Catholic Union of Great Britain as of St George's Day, 23 April 2020. This association may be terminated by either party by simple email notification.

HOMILY GIVEN BY CARDINAL VINCENT at the Mass for healthcare workers, carers, the sick and their families, on the Solemnity of St George, Patron of England, 7.00pm 23rd April 2020, in Westminster Cathedral:

In this land a lovely custom has developed of going to our front doors, windows, balconies or front gardens at 8 o'clock on Thursday evening and giving a heart-felt round of applause for those who care for the sick and the dying during this terrible pandemic.

To this public applause we wish to add public prayer. So this evening we pray for all those who day by day come face to face with this virus, in our hospitals, in care homes, in house visits; in research laboratories and surgeries. We thank them for their courage and generosity of heart which sustains their efforts. We salute their great commitment to their patients whom they serve so unselfishly. We pray also for those whose families include people with special and demanding needs, that within the confines of their

homes this same courageous and generous spirit will be strengthened and sustained. We pray for those who are suffering with the effects of this dreadful virus, for those who have died and for their grieving families and friends.

Those on the front line of this great effort know so vividly how devastating this virus is to human health and life. They see it every day. And every day they return to the front line. For most of us, our part in this effort is so different. Yes, deprivations are placed on us, including not being able, as yet, to return to our churches and sacraments, a deprivation we feel very deeply indeed. Yet we should be wary of any sense of self-pity as we play our part in these life-saving disciplines.

In all of this we are comforted by the unwavering presence of our Blessed Lord. We must have eyes to see him in every place and in every moment. Our prayer must be steadfast, for there is no doubt that the power of God is both needed and moving in this epic struggle. This evening we renew that prayer for God's strength and inspiration for these quiet heroes of today even as we get ready to applaud them.

Frontline workers among the sick stand in a great and noble tradition. That tradition bears the hallmark of the Christian faith. Its characteristics of self-sacrifice and courage and its commitment to caring for all, especially for the poorest, sprang forth from the determination to follow the teachings of Christ who said that he is to be found, and served, especially in the poorest, the most needy and those least able to help themselves. Care and assistance for the poor, sick and dying was very restricted throughout the Roman world, which is the Europe and Middle East of today, until the disciples of Jesus began to provide it. The poor were often simply left to their fate. But the vision of Christianity altered that. To serve the poor and the sick was to serve the Lord himself. Slowly that conviction would become expressed in institutions. We know of St Basil the Great who led the way in the 4th century, building centres for the care of the poor and the sick, as did Fabiola, a noblewoman in Rome who, at that same time, made similar foundations. We remember, too, the hospital of St Bartholomew which has stood on the Tiber Island in Rome for over 1200 years and led to the followers of St Augustine of Hippo founding London's oldest hospital, St Bartholomew's Hospital, in the 12th century, followed closely by St Thomas's.

I recognise that many today who serve generously do so for many good reasons. They are of many different faiths. When asked why they go back to, or remain, day after day, at their dangerous task, some answer 'It is who I am. I am a nurse, a doctor.' They recognise a calling, a vocation, that lies deep within them. What we do in our prayers is not disrespectful to them. Rather, in our prayer, we are watering the very roots of their inspiration, roots that come to us across the centuries and whose fruit is now embodied in our remarkable workers. May our prayers strengthen their instinct and inspiration, and assure them that they are held deeply in our hearts for the nobility of spirit that they show. We salute them with the eyes and heart of our faith because we know that the treasures of the Kingdom of God are to be found hidden in the field of the world and in so many human hearts. As St Clare of Assisi taught: 'Only the faithful soul is his dwelling place and throne and this is possible only through (the soul's) charity which the wicked do not have' (3rd Letter to Agnes of Prague, 22). We thank God for so many deeply charitable souls, seen so clearly in this time of need and, we trust, deeply strengthened by our prayer today.

In our prayers this evening we look to the company of the saints that their voices may be joined to ours. We say with unabashed faith: St George, Patron of England, pray for us; St Luke, patron saint of doctors, pray for us; Saints Cosmas and Damian, patron saints of pharmacy and medicine, pray for us; St Agatha and St John of God, patron saints of nurses, pray for us; all you holy women of God, who cared for the poor and the sick, pray for us now in our hour of need and with us beg of the Lord a time of healing and new strength.

Today, as we pray on this feast day, we also confess our faith in saying together the Creed. This prayer, in the company of the saints, is the finest complement to our applause, in the company of each other, at 8 o'clock. So let us profess our faith anew. Amen.