

Presbytery

337 Harrow Road, London, W9 3RB
Tel: 020 7286 2170

Parish Priest

Fr. Michael Jarmulowicz
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Harrow Rd Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Jennifer Ellis
Office Hours: Mon & Friday 9 - 3 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2170
E-mail: harrowroad@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrowroad

Paddington Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Mandy O'Sullivan-Whitting
Office Hours; Thursday 10 - 2 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2672
E-mail: paddington@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/paddington

Mass Times

Monday: 10:00 am (Harrow Rd)
Tuesday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Wednesday Church closed
Thursday 10:00 am (Paddington)
Friday 10:00 am (Harrow Rd)
Saturday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
6:00 pm (Harrow Rd)
(Vigil Mass of Sunday)
Sunday: 9:30 am (Paddington)
11:30 am (Harrow Rd)

Eucharistic Adoration

One hour before weekday and Saturday morning
Masses plus Saturday: 5:00 - 5:50 pm

Confessions

During periods of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; and on request.

Parishes of
OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST VINCENT DE PAUL
(HARROW RD)

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

APRIL - MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

24th APRIL 2022

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

YEAR C

Looking for Truth

Today's gospel may have a disturbing element for those of us who harbour doubts over what Jesus asks us to believe. Jesus tells us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Because so often we might imagine the unspoken implication of that 'blessed' is "... And woe to those who ask for forensic evidence!" Some think that it is sacrilegious to express doubt or search for proof and so we keep our doubts to ourselves. Thomas however had no such inhibition.

When the disciples told Thomas that the crucified Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared amongst them in the upper room, Thomas declared that unless he could see the mark of the nails and put his hand into Jesus' side he could not believe. Thomas was a loving and courageous disciple of Jesus. Thomas wasn't someone who would have thrown his faith away or turned his back on Jesus, but nor was he a man who would say he believed something that he didn't or that he understood something that was beyond him. Importantly, Jesus does not scold Thomas for asking for proof; on the contrary, Jesus is quick to give physical confirmation of his resurrection. Perhaps the message here is that if we want to believe, God will show us a way.

Thomas teaches us not to be afraid to express doubt. For Thomas, doubt was not the same as disbelieving. Thomas's doubts proved stepping-stones to faith. Pretending that we believe things we don't, or claiming to understand things that elude us is a shaky foundation for faith. Doubt is not the same thing as disbelief, and faith only eludes us when we give up looking for the truth.

Divine Mercy Sunday

What does God's mercy actually mean? Perhaps there's a banana skin that follows you through your life! A sin or a weakness that trips you up time and time again. Perhaps it's something in your life that you've given up trying to change. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day we are reminded that there is no sin so great that God cannot forgive. We may have put our own weaknesses to the back of our minds, but today is an invitation to put all our troubles before God.

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 23rd April 2022

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|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|--|
| Saturday | 6:00 pm | Patricia Sylvester (Ints) | Sunday | 09:30 am | Fr Terry Murray (Ints) |
| Sunday | 11:30 am | Eileen Barrett (Memorial) | Monday | 10:00 am | Geraldo Hnenique De Campos (RIP) |
| Tuesday | 10:00 am | Juliet Martin (Ints) | Wednesday | 10:00 am | Church closed |
| Thursday | 10:00 am | Sr Helen Ryan (Ints) | Friday | 10:00 am | Christina & Gilbert Awuku (Thanksgiving) |
| Saturday (30.4) | 10:00 am | Julia & Mark Smith (Ints) | Saturday | 6:00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday (1.5) | 09:30 am | Rosette Laranjo (RIP) | Sunday | 11:30 am | Bridie Lyons (RIP) |

Diocesan News

Mass for Migrants at the Cathedral.

Bishop Michael Campbell OSA will celebrate the Mass for Migrants on Monday 2 May at Westminster Cathedral for the feast of St Joseph the Worker, with ethnic chaplaincies and communities around London. The Mass will begin at 2:30pm, with a banner procession from 2:00pm. All are welcome.

May Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of

Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW10 9AX. Sunday 8 May at 3:00pm. Preacher, Most Rev Kenneth Nowakowski; Eparch of the Holy Family of London (Ukrainian Catholic Church), who will be accompanied by the Icon of the



Mother of Protection (In Ukrainian - Pokrova). Come and join the praying of the Rosary for asking the prayers of the Black Madonna of Willesden for the protection of

London, and for Peace and Restoration in Ukraine.

Bakerloo Line and Tube, Willesden Junction Station (Old Oak Lane exit), Buses 18, 187, 206, 226, 228, 260, 487.

Parish News

Weekly Catechesis Leaflets

As previously announced, Starting this week I will start republishing leaflets that we used in my previous parish during the 'Year of Faith'. It will go through the main topics of the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' to help us all to better understand our faith. Please pick up a leaflet and take it home with you. I am sure we can all learn something new over the coming 60 weeks!

I am not sure of numbers to print, and so if you find none, let me know and I will print more.

Teenage Confirmation Program

Reminder that classes restart this coming Monday (25th April) at 6:30 pm. Also reminder to return your confirmation 'form' having checked all the details and spelling!

Gospel Reflection

The Resurrection of Jesus transformed the world in ways that we will never fully comprehend. It was an act of pure and unconditional love of God for us, in which God embraced us and became one of us, suffered and died for our sake, and rose so that we too can share eternal life.

Before the Resurrection the most devout lived in hope that the Messiah would come and free them from earthly oppression and bondage, but after the resurrection came the realization by the apostles, disciples and those who came to believe in Jesus that Jesus is the Messiah who gave us so much more; more than was ever imagined. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, gives us complete forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life. The Apostles themselves did not understand who Jesus truly was until after the resurrection. In the Gospel account of the Transfiguration Jesus instructed Peter, James and John not to tell anyone until he had "risen from the dead" and we are told that they did not know what he meant. After the resurrection they began to understand the meaning of the experience on the mountain with Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Faith in Jesus brings us into the reality that for the faithful "life does not end, it merely changes."

The resurrection of Jesus and how it changed the world was not easy to accept at first. The Gospel describes the disciples on that first Easter locked in the upper room in fear, as if in a tomb. Jesus enters the room despite the locked doors and stands in their midst. He greets them with words of peace and it seems that they are overwhelmed by his presence. When the absent Thomas arrives afterwards, they can't wait to tell him that Jesus is truly risen and that he had visited them in this upper room. We are all too familiar with response that resulted with Thomas being forever known as "doubting Thomas." A week later they are still in the upper room and the doors are still locked. This room has truly become their tomb. They are still in fear and afraid to go out even after the experience of seeing the Risen Lord. Jesus appears again and takes Thomas on the words he spoke to the rest of the disciples a week earlier, and invites him to put his hands in the wounds. Thomas has seen enough and he then makes a profession of faith. The disciples experienced the reality of the love and mercy of our Risen Lord, and were able to leave fear behind and venture out of the upper room.

During the Easter Season we are called to leave fear behind and to allow the love of our Risen Lord more deeply in our lives. The Risen Lord loves us and there is no reason for us to lock ourselves in our own tombs of fear. This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday so as to reinforce the reality of the depth of God's love for us. A love that is far greater than any fault, failing or sin that we have. His mercy is His gift to us and he is just waiting for us to accept this gift, to unwrap it and allow it to fill us with his mercy, love and peace. During Easter let us welcome the Lord and allow him to away our fears and fill us with his peace. May we continue to joyously proclaim, "Alleluia!" as a response to the gift of God's mercy and love.