

# Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church

Egerton Gardens, NW4 4BA



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Registered Charity Number: 233699

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

<b>S</b> 18	6.00pm		Sandra Slattery (anniv)
<b>Su</b> 19	10.00am		the people of the Parish & their needs
	12noon		George Crisp (rec dec)
M 20	10.00am	Easter feria	Mark's intentions
T 21	10.00am	Easter feria	H E the Cardinal
W 22	10.00am	St Rita of Cascia	departed of the McDonnell family
T 23	7.30am	Easter feria	priest's intentions
F 24	10.00am	Easter feria	Thomas McNicholas (rip)
S 25	9.00am	St Bede	Elizabeth Pierce (rip)

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

<b>S</b> 25	6.00pm		the people of the Parish & their needs
<b>Su</b> 26	10.00am		ints of Nikki Mary-Phyllis Chinweze
	12noon		Stefan Czerski (anniv)

Mass times and intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: after Mass on Saturday morning

and on First Friday: after Mass until midday

Holy Rosary: Saturday 5pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30-10am; 5.15-5.45pm and at call

Holy Matrimony: in accordance with the norms of Canon Law, SIX months' notice must be given, whether the marriage is here or abroad, to enable the required spiritual preparation to take place and for the paperwork to be gathered and, if necessary, submitted to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Please make an appointment to see the Parish Priest.

Parish Centre Bookings: call the Parish Office.

The Parish Secretary is Mrs Sheila Barr.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS

12 May £1709.95

which includes £809.95 collection

plus £900 (avg p w) Standing Orders for April

Thank you for your generosity!

Text **PARISH HENDO**

to 70800 to donate £5 automatically.

### THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

High above the Altar in our Church is the powerful emotive image of the Pieta: Mary at the foot of the cross, Our Lady of Dolours, the Mother of Sorrows, cradling her Child in death as she had done in his birth seems to sum up so much of the experience of suffering humanity. Our beautiful Pieta gives expression to emotions which words alone find hard to touch

It is probably easier for most people to identify with the Mary of Good Friday rather than Easter Day. In a world where the technology of Twitter and Facebook etc. and

the 24 hours news cycle, brings the sheer scale of human sadness and suffering and sorrow onto our devices and into our homes with such immediacy and clarity, no-one can live anymore in an isolated bubble: we are all too well aware of the conflicts which disturb and divide, as well as the sheer imbalance which means so many of our brothers and sisters have to try survive without adequate nutrition, healthcare or housing. The tears on the cheeks of the Mother of Sorrows and the sword which pierces her heart are authentic icons with which we can identify all too easily. We live in a world which is pessimistic about its own future and one in which negative forces appear to be determinative. It is no wonder that of all the shrines in our churches it is most often that of Mary under the cross which attracts the most devotion and where the most candles are lit. Although reflective of human experience – and as such not to be played down in any way – Christian faith finds its core belief in an empty tomb and not an empty cross:

"the sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality". Mary though at all times the woman of faith could do nothing other than watch aghast at the treatment of her Son. She understood, as no-one else has ever done the significance of the Incarnation – and she was horrified by his rejection and the barbarity which resulted from it. Out of this trauma was to come the unrestrained happiness of seeing this same broken and bloody flesh transformed and glorified in its resurrection appearances. "Joyful" is perhaps an understated term to describe Mary on Easter Day.

In a meditation on the Way of the Cross, Pope Benedict XVI speaks to Mary: "*at the hour of the world's darkest night, you became the Mother of all believers, the Mother of the Church. We beg you to teach us to believe and grant that our faith may bear fruit*", and he continues by asking her Son: "*do not abandon us when we are tempted to lose heart. Give us the fidelity to withstand moments of confusion and a love ready to embrace you in your utter helplessness, like your Mother who once more holds you to her breast*". As Mary touches the risen Jesus she feels the warmth of life, a heart pulsating and vibrant. This is her Child, returned to her from the grave, revealed with greater transparency than ever before as both Son of Man and Son of God. In these days of Eastertide as we reflect on the Paschal Mystery we can do no better than view events from the unique perspective of Mary's sorrows and her joys.

**Saint Rita of Cascia (1377 - 1447)** was born near Cascia, in Umbria in Italy. She was married at the age of 12 despite her frequently repeated wish to become a nun. Her husband was rich, quick-tempered and immoral and had many enemies. She endured his insults, abuse and infidelities for 18 years and bore him two sons, who grew to be like him.

Towards the end of his life she helped to convert her husband to a more pious way of life, but he was stabbed to death by his enemies not long afterwards. He repented before he died and was reconciled to the Church. Her sons planned to avenge their father's death. When Rita's pleas were unavailing, she prayed that God should take their lives if that was the only way to preserve them from the sin of murder. They died of natural causes a year later.

Rita asked to join the convent of St Mary Magdalen at Cascia. She was rejected for being a widow, since the convent was for virgins only, and later given the impossible task of reconciling her family with her husband's murderers. She carried out the task and was allowed to enter the convent at the age of 36. She remained there until her death at the age of 70. She is widely honoured as a patron saint of impossible or lost causes.

**St Bede the Venerable (673 - 735)** was born in the north of England, near the monastery of Wearmouth.



He joined that monastery, and spent all his life there or at Jarrow, teaching and writing. He was the outstanding ecclesiastical author of his time. He wrote commentaries on Scripture; an ecclesiastical history of the English people, which is a unique and irreplaceable resource for

much of early English history; and the first martyrology, (collection of saints' lives) to be compiled on historical principles. He was also the first known writer of English prose, though this has not survived. He died at Jarrow on 25 May 735: he taught and worked until the last moments of his life. He is venerated as the "light of the Church" in the Dark Ages, and as a forerunner of the 8th and 9th century renaissance of the Western Church.

### **Annual Martyrs' Walk Sunday 23rd June 1.30pm**

In honour of the Martyrs of England who died to uphold the Catholic Faith, a devotional Walk following the route of the martyrs towards Tyburn, ending with Benediction at the Convent. Meet in the Churchyard of St Sepulchre-without-Newgate EC1A 2DQ. Nearest Tube St Paul's.

**PLEASE pray for** Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life. For those who are sick either at Home, in Hospital or Nursing Home – Petrina Peters, Paula Zanetti, Erlinda Allegio, Elaine Geary, Patience Chinwada, Malachy and Anne Drury, Sheila Barr, Bunny France, Jim O'Brien; for the recently departed – Caroline Bennett & Schola Elosia; those killed as a result of the violence and terrorism, most especially in Sri Lanka. Peace in the world and that those who govern the nations may do so wisely and justly.

### **Dates for your diary**

Helpers BBQ – 6<sup>th</sup> July – **PLEASE RETURN SLIPS SO THAT WE KNOW THE NUMBER TO CATER FOR.** If you help the Parish in any way but for some reason didn't receive an invitation, please phone the Office.

Parish Feast Day (170<sup>th</sup> anniversary) - 15<sup>th</sup> September

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are in need of more people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, also more people to read at Sunday Mass and more people to help with cleaning the Church.

If you can help with any of the above, please give your name either to Fr Tim or drop a note to the Office. Thank you.

### **COACH TRIP**

#### **13<sup>th</sup> July to Bourton on the Water**

Adults £18: one child travels free with paying adults from the same family, extra children £5 each. Booking forms available at the back of Church.

**200 Club** draw – 26<sup>th</sup> May after 10am Mass.

### **Priest Training Fund**

**Today's second collection** will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the/ Catholic priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 27 of whom are for our own Diocese, and last year eight men ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church.

### **SUMMER RAFFLE**

Prizes needed. Please donate any unwanted Christmas gifts! Drop them into the Hall Sunday or Tuesday (after the Coffee morning)