



St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley) Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Leenane, 2 Witham Road, Osterley, TW7 4AJ.

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This parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee
Registered Charity No. 233699



16th August 2020

+ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Yr A Vol. 2 (Pg. 178)



Apocalypse 11:19;12:1-6,10. Mary is often described as the woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon and crowned with twelve stars. That image of Mary is taken from this reading.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26. Christ as the first-fruits and then those who belong to him. The first sheaf of the harvest was solemnly offered as an act of thanksgiving for the good things of creation. Christ was the first sheaf of the harvest of the resurrection. Mary's Assumption reminds us that we will share like her in the harvest of God's eternal life.

Luke 1:39-56. The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly. As she greets Elizabeth, Mary spreads the good news of the coming of her Son. In her song of praise, she celebrates the joy of that coming, which will be a time of celebration especially for the poor and the humble.

PSALM: On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.



Fr. Robin Burgess has prepared a homily for today

You can read it on our website in the section entitled 'Homilies/Pastoral'

FACE COVERINGS

From 8th August it has been a legal requirement that parishioners must wear a face covering when attending church unless they are exempt from doing so.

Face coverings can be unlooped to receive Holy Communion.



You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to.
This includes (but is not limited to):

- young children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommended face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- to eat or drink if reasonably necessary

Osterley church has a mechanical ventilation system. This system draws in fresh air from outside at the back of the church and expels air via the church tower at the front of the church. No air is recirculated and this system frequently changes the air in the church thereby reducing the risk of airborne transmission of the Covid 19 virus. This has been confirmed by a chartered engineer.

There is no drinking water in church so bring your own during this hot weather. Toilet facilities are available. Children are of course very welcome but must remain with their parents at all times. Stewards will direct you when you come to church.

Hygiene precautions taken by the parish.

The parish is following all government and diocesan procedures to be as safe as possible. Sometimes pictures say this better than words so there are pictures at the end of this newsletter of the following:

1. Battery operated (more to come) and pump action hand sanitizers.
2. One-way system in the church.
3. Touch bins replaced with pedal bins.
4. Seats roped off to maintain 2.0 m distance.
5. No kneeling allowed to maintain social distancing.
6. Hand towels instead of driers.

This is not a complete list but provides an idea of the practical steps we are taking.

BOOKING PROCEDURE TO ATTEND MASSES

Parishioners may book 2 Sunday masses per calendar month. In addition, parishioners may book any Sunday mass the day before it takes place if there are places available.

From the 1st August parishioners may book any weekday mass.

Both of the above can be done online OR by phoning 078 9989 5483 only if you do not have access to the internet.

There have been unfilled places at some Sunday masses so do check on Saturdays in case there are places available. This will allow those parishioners who do so to attend more often than twice a month.

The purpose of this system is so that all parishioners who are medically able can attend at least two masses per month without being in competition with other parishioners.

The obligation to attend mass remains suspended but for Catholics attendance at mass is a joy and a privilege rather than an obligation.

Private Prayer in Church

Times of Opening for Individual Prayer for week commencing the **17th August 2020.**

You can attend with other people who are considered to be part of your household.

Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am -12 noon. Saturday 9 am – 10 am.

Confessions

Confessions have resumed being heard in the parish at the new time of 9.00am – 9.45am on Saturday mornings. You can also make an appointment for the priest to hear your confession by ringing 078 9989 5483. Please leave a message if there is no reply and we will ring you back.

Baptism

The parish is now resuming baptisms. These will take place on Saturday mornings at 11.00am or Sundays at 3 pm. If you have asked to have your child baptised the parish will contact you in the next week to arrange a date.

Funerals and Weddings

In addition to reopening for mass permission has been given to have funerals and weddings of no more than 30 people including ministers etc. We, the church wish to play our part in controlling Coronavirus so our leaders will ensure that we observe what social distancing measures are necessary.

Other Services

In recent weeks our focus has been on reopening safely for mass. The parish will now look at how we can resume bringing Holy Communion to the housebound. In due course we will also communicate about celebrating First Holy Communion and Confirmations which have been delayed. We will also look at whether we can resume devotions such as the Rosary and our prayer Group.

Readers, Altar Servers, Ministers of the Eucharist.

We thank these ministers for all they do. Currently we are contacting ministers on an ad hoc basis. Over the next few weeks we will be in touch to put rotas in place for these ministers to resume their roles in the liturgy should they be willing to do so. Thank you for your patience.

Practicalities of resuming Sunday & Weekday mass

1. The parish has employed four young part-time cleaners/stewards to clean the church after every service. This work is quite strenuous and given the importance of this task and the training involved (which includes the use of PPE) this seems the most appropriate arrangement.
2. The parish is also thankful for everyone who has volunteered to Steward. Our volunteer stewards complement the work of our paid staff and enables us to open the church for mass and prayer more frequently.
3. Our regular volunteer cleaners will continue to give the church and other buildings their normal cleaning routine.
4. The parish is currently operating a 2.0 metre social distancing policy.
5. The parish has carefully calculated the capacity of the church when being filled in a socially distanced way by different sizes of groups. There are 77/76 tickets available for each mass.
6. We will only make available a number of tickets consistent with maintaining social distancing.

SUNDAY OFFERING AND SUPPORTING THE PARISH

Since resuming mass many parishioners have returned planned giving envelopes or made cash donations. There are collection baskets located at the front of the church at both Sunday and weekday masses for parishioners to make their weekly offerings. We are grateful for all those who supported the parish by standing order or electronic donations during lockdown and to all those who have contributed as mentioned above.

The parish relies on your support, not least to pay for the sanitizing equipment we have bought and to pay the 4 young part time cleaners who are ensuring the church is safe for us all to use. Details of the collection are published in the collection details further on.

We are conscious that many parishioners may be struggling financially, if however, you are able to continue your weekly donations please see how to do this below:

1. If possible, please set up a Standing Order to replace your Planned Giving Envelopes. To see how to do this electronically please See “Donate to our parish” on our website. Should you wish, you can change this back to planned giving envelopes when they are distributed and movement restrictions lifted.
2. If you give cash, you can set up a standing order in favour of the parish electronically. For our bank details please see “Donate to our parish” on our website.
3. You can use the donation facility on our website to make your donation each week by credit or debit card. See “Donate to our parish” on our website.
4. If you do not already do so, you can Gift Aid all your donations. This increases your donation by 25% at no costs to you. You simply have to pay sufficient tax to cover 25% of your donations to the parish. If you do so the government will refund this money direct to the parish. Please follow the instructions on the parish website under “Donate to our parish”
5. We know that those who are able, will sustain the parish financially during this challenging time and enable us to minister to our parishioners and those in need.
6. If you have any queries you can contact the parish bookkeeper Steve McEvoy on osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk or 079 3278 3647. Thank you.

Fr Mark

PLANNED GIVING BOXES

If parishioners wish to donate to the parish when they visit the church, please do so using the new drop safe in the lobby. This can be used for planned giving envelopes.

We have sent out new boxes of planned giving envelopes (which start from the 12th April 2020) by post.

The parish appreciates that the ability of parishioners to contribute to our collections may have been adversely affected by the current pandemic. Please just give what you can.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions can be requested at church and via e-mail or by ringing the parish office. Please leave a message and phone number if there is no reply from the office. Offerings for such masses can be made using the online donation link on the website or submitting it to the parish. Masses offered prior to the reduction in weekday masses will be allocated to the nearest free mass.



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS TO REUBEN JOSEPH FERNANDES WHO WAS BAPTISED ON 15TH AUGUST 2020. MAY HE GROW STRONG IN THE FAITH. CONGRATULATIONS TO REUBEN AND HIS FAMILY.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY’S BODY AND SOUL INTO HEAVEN, CELEBRATED ON AUGUST 15TH, IS ONE OF THE DOGMAS OF THE CHURCH. A dogma is a belief held by all Catholics.

Yet, there is no mention of Mary’s Assumption in Sacred Scripture.

How then, did we come to believe that this event took place?

1. When did the Assumption of Mary become dogma?

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII in *Munificentissimus Deus* (The Most Bountiful God) said: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." Notice that he says "having completed the course of her earthly life." That leaves it open to interpretation whether Mary died before she was assumed into Heaven or not.

2. Ancient belief in the Assumption

From early on, it was clear that there were no relics of Mary. There was an empty tomb in Jerusalem which quickly became a place of pilgrimage. There are also stories from early Apostolic Tradition and quotes from early Christian letters and sermons that point us toward the Assumption of Mary. The feast of the "Memory of Mary" is one of the earliest Marian feasts and was celebrated as early as the 300s.

"If therefore it might come to pass by the power of your grace, it has appeared right to us your servants that, as you, having overcome death, do reign in glory, so you should raise up the body of your Mother and take her with you, rejoicing, into heaven. Then said the Savior [Jesus]: "Be it done according to your will" (*The Passing of the Virgin* 16:2-17 [A.D. 300]). [Timothy of Jerusalem](#)

3. Differences in the Eastern and Western Churches

The Eastern Churches celebrate the feast as the "Dormition of the Mother of God". "Dormition" means "falling asleep" and refers to Mary's death. Art in the Western Church usually depicts the Assumption with Mary going up to Heaven while still alive, although there are a few pieces which also show her funeral. Ultimately, whether or not she was alive at the time is unimportant. We only need to know that she was assumed body and soul into Heaven.

4. How is Mary's Assumption different from Jesus' Ascension?

Jesus, because He is God, ascended into Heaven by His own power. Only God can do that. Mary was assumed into Heaven by God. She was not able to do it on her own.

SERVICE TIMES & INTENTIONS 16-23 August 2020 New Mass Times

SUNDAY 16	9.00 am	Clara Lobo RIP (B'day Anniv)
	11.30 am	Helen Griffin RIP (Anniv)
	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Tues 18	7.00 pm	Zbigniew Hermaszewski RIP (Birthday Anniv).
Thu 20	7.00 pm	Mass
Sat 22	10.00 am	Rosalind Andrew RIP
SUNDAY 23	9.00 am	Mass
	11.30 am	Patricia Timmons RIP (RD)
	6.00 pm	Mass

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday

Loose: £216.40 Envs: £536.00 S/Order: £1407.00

Total: 2159.40

PARISH OFFICE:

Please do not call to the parish office without an appointment. Enquiries can be made by telephone or you can e-mail the parish at osterley@rcdow.org.uk

- **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs. L. Faria
 - **PLANNED GIVING CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
 - **PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
- To contact Mr. McEvoy by email:
osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk

- **300 CLUB:** Enquiries to Parish Office.

ADMIN

- **PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ONLINE NEWSLETTER:**

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/>

- **PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please take a Welcome Pack from the lobby when. Completed Registration and Planned Giving forms should be posted through the door of the Parish house. Thank you.

- **MARRIAGES:** 6 months' notice required. Please ring the office to arrange an initial discussion with Fr. Mark.

- **BAPTISM:** Contact Fr. Mark to arrange a baptism date and attend a course. Please complete a form (available in the lobby or online) and submit to the Parish Office.

Next course: TBA.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: This parish operates a system of Mass Attendance Cards. This is only applicable for parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic primary or secondary school. Attendance at 75% of masses at which stickers are given out will be deemed to comply with the conditions for receiving a Certificate of Catholic practice. Parents can apply to Catholic schools without a Certificate of Catholic practice but will usually be considered after those who possess one. The Certificate of Catholic Practice should be downloaded from our website. (Do not use the form provided by the school). Please print one for every school to which you are applying. Parents/Guardians should begin collating forms two years before the closing date for their child's application to Nursery, Reception, Secondary and 6th Form.

UPDATE: Mass attendance stickers were not distributed on Sun. 15/3/2020. They will not be distributed in the near future until further notice. These weeks will be omitted in our calculation of the 75% attendance for school admission

CONTACTS

- **SAFEGUARDING REP:** Mrs. A. Trigger. Tel. 07764482186

Email: osterleysq@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

- **WEST MIDDX HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN:** Tel. 020 8321 5447.



New Sanitising equipment in the parish.

