



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

7th February 2021

Parish Mass Book p134

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY

4th February 2021

On 21 December 2020, in response to growing religious hatred, discrimination and stigma, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 4th February as the International Day of Human Fraternity.

Pope Francis celebrated the Day at a virtual event hosted in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, together with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar (Cairo), Ahmad Al-Tayyeb; Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres and other guests.

The introduction of this special day into the calendar is the continuation of a journey, the response to a call that Pope Francis has been making to all humanity for some time now - "to build a present of peace in the encounter with the other", a message which he made clear in his Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" (brothers and sisters all), which was published last year. In the Encyclical he highlights that

Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity (FT 107).

Justice is an essential condition for achieving the ideal of universal fraternity (FT 173).

Only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity (FT 110).

One fundamental human right must not be forgotten in the journey towards fraternity and peace. It is **religious freedom for believers of all religions** (FT 279).

The decision to mark this day on 4th February is no coincidence. It links back to the 4 February 2019 when, during an Apostolic Journey the Pope made to the United Arab Emirates, together with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, they signed the [Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#). The Pope and the Grand Imam spent almost half a year drafting this Document before announcing it together during that historic visit.

A few months later, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was established to translate the aspirations of the Human Fraternity Document into sustained engagements and concrete actions which foster fraternity, solidarity, respect and mutual understanding. One of the aspirations the Higher Committee is planning is to create an Abrahamic Family House, with a synagogue, a church and a mosque, on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

The Higher Committee also established an independent jury whose role is to choose winners of the Zayed Award for Human Fraternity. The award recognises above all, those who build bridges connecting divided peoples, strengthening the real human relationships that make possible the work of ensuring freedom and safety for all. Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, were the first recipients of the Zayed Award in 2019. It was later revealed that Pope Francis donated the full amount of the award to the Rohingya people from Myanmar. This year's winners, announced on 4 February were Latifah Ibn Ziaten, Founder of the Imad Association for Youth and Peace who, after losing her son to an act of terrorism, transformed her sorrow into reaching out to young people, and António Guterres, ninth Secretary General of the United Nations.

Reflecting on that historic day in 2019 when the Document was signed, Pope Francis said "In my fraternal meeting, which I gladly recall, with the Grand Imam Ahmad AlTayyeb, "we resolutely [declared] that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings. They result from a political manipulation of religions and from interpretations made by religious groups who, in the course of history, have taken advantage of the power of religious sentiment in the hearts of men and women... God, the Almighty, has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want his name to be used to terrorize people". For this reason I would like to reiterate here the appeal for peace, justice and fraternity that we made together: the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together (FT 285).

Let us pray for one another, for the clergy, for the religious, for the faithful, and for all with whom we share this common home as we celebrate that "fraternity and social friendship" to which the Encyclical and the International Day of Human Fraternity call us.

MARCO SALVAGNINI

Ordination to the Diaconate



Some of you will remember Marco, the seminarian who spent some time with us here in the parish during the first lockdown. After being postponed twice, Marco was finally ordained as Deacon by Bishop John Sherrington on Saturday 30th January.

Reflecting on his journey so far, Marco spoke about how his life has led to this transformative moment.

**‘Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.’**

My diaconal ordination has been a passage of the Lord in my life. In fact, although it took place in a very unusual form due to the pandemic restrictions, it has nonetheless been very intimate and personal. In the given homily, Bishop John Sherrington highlighted what it means to be a deacon, which is to be a servant and herald of the Gospel.

Today, I can say with confidence and sincerity that if God has chosen me to be His servant and His herald through the ministry of diaconate, it is only because He is the one who has served me firstly and announced to me that Good News of His unconditional love through many people of whom I am infinitely grateful.

In fact, God planted the seed of this vocation in the early stages of my life, especially through my family; I am originally from Padua in Italy. My parents wanted to have few children. However, God has intervened in their lives to the point that they trusted in Him by being open to life. They had 9 children and I am the third eldest. One of them, my brother Stefano, was born with a severe disability which has him totally reliant on the support of others.

Living in a large family, amongst mostly smaller families, showed me from an early age that my parents had made very specific choices with God’s help, although at times I felt our family was different. But looking back now, it was this difference that made all of us rely totally on God. My parents would lead us in Morning Prayer on Sundays, and we would sing the psalms after having been earlier to Mass. By my father leading this, he helped place us all in the light of the Word of God.

This relationship with the Word of God has been something fundamental which marked the whole of my life. Like many young people I had the normal struggles, doubts and rebellions growing up. But it was by staying close to God through the Church that I was given answers to many of my doubts. As a teenager I joined the Neocatechumenal Way, while still living in Padua. It is an itinerary of Christian initiation into our faith. The Way was one of the many fruits of the Holy Spirit after the Second Vatican Council and it is also present here in Westminster Diocese. It was through my experience of The Way that I realised God was calling me to his Priesthood, and this eventually led me to London.

I have been in Priestly formation for ten years and over that time have had many incredible formation experiences, both here in our diocese and overseas. Apart from the normal philosophy and theology studies, I was fortunate to have been sent on mission for several years to Ireland and Israel.

I will exercise my ministry at Holy Cross, Parsons Green, for some time as I prepare to be ordained as a priest. Looking ahead to this time of diaconate, I pray that God will help me to grow in a spirit of service following the example of his son Jesus Christ who has come to serve and not to be served. I am aware that this would be only possible in the measure I will keep myself united to him and to his mystical body which is the Church.

Please pray for me.

Deacon Marco Salvagnini

*We pray that God’s love and blessing be upon Marco as he enters
this new ministry, and that He continues to give him grace,
peace and wisdom.*

GOSPEL POWER 2021

Using the Gospel from the daily liturgy is an excellent way to pray!

We have a limited number of copies of the Gospel Power 2021 prayer book available in the lobby. If you would like to take one to help you pray at home.

The book is for the whole year and includes

- Detail of the readings of the day
- The Gospel for each day in full
- A short reflection on the Gospel for the day
- A prayer to Jesus for the day

The books are £4.99 each however, they were kindly given to us for free by one of our suppliers.

If you would like to take a book, please consider giving a donation of between £1 - £5 and place your donation in the Poor Box on the wall just inside the church on the left-hand side. Thank you!

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For women who are victims of violence

“that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all.”



This month's prayer intention from Pope Francis is a powerful message against the violence that millions of women suffer each day: “psychological violence, verbal violence, physical violence, sexual violence.”

For Pope Francis, these abuses are “acts of cowardice and a degradation of all humanity.” He therefore asks us to pray for the victims, “that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all.”

Violence against women, in numbers

“It's shocking how many women are beaten, insulted, and raped,” Indeed, the statistics compiled by UN Women, updated in November 2020, are stunning: each day, 137 women are killed by members of their own family; adult women make up nearly half of the victims of human trafficking identified worldwide; and globally, one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point (and 15 million adolescent girls worldwide aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sexual relations). What's more, last year there was the aggravating factor of the pandemic: the restriction of movement, social isolation and economic insecurity which made women globally even more vulnerable to violence in private environments.

In his February message, the Pope asks for society to protect these victims. Although at least 155 countries have approved domestic violence laws and 140 have legislation regarding workplace sexual harassment, to give two examples, this does not mean that these laws always conform with international norms and recommendations, nor that they are applied and enforced.

Do not look the other way

Fr. Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, made the following observation about this month's intention: “The Holy Father's call is very clear: ‘We must not look the other way.’ That is to say, we cannot stand by with our arms crossed in the face of so many cases of violence against women, which takes many forms, from the most visible and reprehensible to the most insidious and unconscious; in all cases, it is the product of deep-rooted mental frameworks and cultural and social paradigms that undervalue women. This is what we see in the Gospel, in the passage of the adulteress, for example: she was accused by all, but Jesus gave her a new life (John 8:2-11). Violence against women in all its forms cries out to heaven. Francis has said this several times: ‘Every form of violence inflicted upon a woman is a blasphemy against God, who was born of a woman. Humanity's salvation came forth from the body of a woman: we can understand our degree of humanity by how we treat a woman's body.’”

Watch your language

One of the ways in which society can inflict violence on women is verbal – by our choice of the language we choose to use. And it is a choice; to fail to take care is a choice, not just a slip of the tongue. Racial profiling is similar; those who imagine themselves to be superior deepen division by choosing to use hateful or derisive language. One way of praying with the Pope this month is to commit to watching our language, particularly towards women.

Let us pray for all women who are victims of violence, including children and adolescents, and let us fight for a more just society, so that it will protect them, listen to them, and alleviate their suffering.

(Extract from the Press Release of The Pope's Prayer Network)

[2021-2-TPV-Press Release-For women who are victims of violence - Popes Worldwide Prayer Network \(popesprayer.va\)](#)

ASH WEDNESDAY

17th February

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday at 10.00am and 7.30pm.

If you would like to attend one of these Masses, please ensure you book a place. Booking is now open online via our parish website. If you cannot access the site please call the parish office.

Distribution of ashes

It is customary for ashes to be distributed on the forehead however this year, due to the pandemic and in order to avoid physical contact, ashes will instead be sprinkled on each person's head as they leave the church at the end of Mass. Ministers will be available at each exit to distribute the ashes. When receiving the ashes, please bow your head as you stand before the minister and do not remove your face covering until you have left the church.

CHANGES TO THE MASS SCHEDULE

While Fr Agustin takes a short break, the Mass schedule for the coming week has been altered.

Monday 8th - Sunday 14th February

Monday - 8th	Tuesday - 9th	Wednesday - 10th	Thursday - 11th	Friday - 12th	Saturday - 13th	Sunday - 14th (LS)
No Mass and no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	No Mass	Church closed as normal	Private Prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00 - 11.00am	Private Prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00 - 11.00am	Public Mass (please book) 6.30pm	Public Mass (please book) 9.30am

LIVESTREAMING

The only service to be livestreamed in the coming week will be Sunday 14th February - 9.30am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

As there will be no Mass on weekdays, the Mass Intentions which were booked for those days have been transferred to the weekend. Please see the Liturgy Times below for details.

MASS INTENTIONS / TABERNACLE CANDLELIGHT / FLOWERS

If you would like to book a Mass, **please use the small brown envelopes** that you will find in the lobby, or contact the Parish Office. You can put the envelope with your donation in the collection basket or put it through the office door. You can also donate online (please contact the office for how to do this).

Please always give a contact number, as you may not be able to have the date that you would like. Also, please bear in mind that Masses get booked up very quickly, as we can normally only book one intention per Mass.

Please use the same method for booking the candlelight or if you would like to donate towards the flowers in the church.

LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6	Mass	6.30pm	Rita D'Souza RIP A Special Intention An intention In Thanksgiving
Sunday	7	Mass	9.30am	Philomena Marlene Bowel RIP Pat Mullen (Recovering from Covid) John Latham RIP Alcinda Ramos RIP
Monday	8	No Mass		
Tuesday	9	No Mass		
Wednesday	10	No Mass		
Thursday	11	Private Prayer		
Friday	12	Private Prayer		
Saturday	13	Mass	6.30pm	Joanna Coutinho RIP Bridget Hennessey RIP Alcinda Ramos RIP

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

Sunday	14	Mass	9.30am	Nelson Teles Pereira RIP Carol Mulcahy (Recovering from surgery) A Private Intention
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Confession: By appointment only during the current lockdown.

FLOWERS

This flowers this week are in memory of
MARGARET O'BRIEN RIP
(Anniv)
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Please pray for: William Swords, Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkwa, Terril Park, George Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stephen Connellan, Stanley Cummins, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Michael Delaney, Maria Wales, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan,

for those who died recently: Eugene Garcia, Teresa Warner, Michael Murray (brother of Charlie Murray), Michael Garrett, Breda Connellan, William Talbutt and Philomena Feighery.

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: George Burns, Sydney Tai, Margaret Power, John Boyle, Michael McDonagh, Daniel Byrne, Thomas Martin, Catherine Woods, John McGovern, Giovanni Sozzi, James Dempsey, William de Noronha, Michelle Moraes, Kathleen Stocker, Nora O'Neill, Maria Felisa Wood, Kevin Connellan, Jesus Alvint Castillo, John Boyle, Tommy Cummings, James Hughes and Julia Caulfield.