



**ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
41/42 LANGDALE GARDENS, PERIVALE, UB6 8DQ

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**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - B**

Acts 10:34, 37-43    Colossians 3:1-4    John 20:1-9

**4th April 2021**

Parish Mass Book p.255

*That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!*

This verse is taken from the Easter Sequence, the joyful hymn that precedes the Gospel on Easter Sunday. This hymn celebrates the mystery through which Christ has brought about the very death of death. Its hold on humanity, which death has enjoyed since the beginning of time, has been broken through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Christ has broken every chain which kept us captive. The chains of our fears, our sins, our past mistakes. The shackles of broken relationships, of disappointments, resentments and shame have been destroyed by the death of Christ. Christ indeed won life back from death!

In the light of the Paschal candle, through the waters of the font, and in the renewal of our baptism, we commemorate the Resurrection and the new life that is given to us through it. What we celebrate at Easter is so powerful and so profound that the Church gives us a full season, a full 50 days through which we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, and our sharing of that victory through the sacraments. The fathers of the Church call the Easter season the "weeks of weeks" as it's seven weeks long. During the Easter season we revel in the joy of the new life Christ has won for us, basking in the glow of his glory.

I'm delighted to have celebrated Holy week and Easter again with you this year. I would have liked that more of our parishioners could have participated in our celebrations here in Church, that was not possible because of the current restrictions. However, this Easter was not a repeat of last year, the doors of the Church were open again to celebrate the mysteries of our salvation and for this we should all be grateful.

**ALLELUIA! THE LORD IS RISEN**  
**I WISH YOU EVERY JOY AND BLESSING AS WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S TRIUMPH OVER**  
**DEATH AND OUR SHARING IN HIS RISEN LIFE.**

*Fr Agustin*

**THANK YOU**

To everyone who helped with the organisation and celebration of Holy Week and Easter: our Stewards, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Cleaners, Caroline, for the music and singing, Maria, for the beautiful flower arrangements and Julian, for live-streaming, enabling as many people as possible to accompany the Masses this year.



## **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL**

### **Universal Intention - Fundamental Rights**

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

April, this year, is Resurrection Month. Everywhere, all the brothers and sisters of the human family, whether explicitly or not, are longing for new life, desperate for the deadly pandemic to end, for the fullness of life to free us from the terror of illness and death that has hung over us for over a year. We've seen so much selfless fraternity but we've also seen discord, violence and the spread of a harsh politics of hostility, even hate. It's timely, then, that Pope Francis asks us, this month, to pray with him 'for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorship, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis'.

### **Human Person, Human Dignity**

Praying with the Pope this month is associating ourselves with his frequent assertion that human rights cannot be ignored, because of the basic dignity of each human person. This month is not the first time he has raised this. When, in 2018, the world marked the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Francis recognised that, with this landmark document, 'the family of Nations wanted to recognise the equal dignity of every human person'. Human rights, which he described as 'universal, indivisible, interdependent and interconnected', derive from the nature of the human person, an 'inseparable unity of body and soul'. We need to be particularly vigilant about the poor and dispossessed because, when they are denied these rights, they 'see their dignity ignored, despised or trampled on and their most basic rights ignored or violated'. That dignity is, of course, God-given.

### **Pope Francis in Iraq**

Recently, Pope Francis has given us another example of combating the virus of authoritarianism that has become a pandemic, even in democracies. His risky visit to Iraq included a historic meeting with the most revered Islamic Shi'ite cleric, the 94-year-old Ali al-Sistani. Their significant encounter came just when xenophobic nationalism, ugly populism and dangerous fissures in even democratic political systems are eroding fundamental rights worldwide. The Pope had spent time and prayed in ruined Christian places of worship, in solidarity with all those who had suffered and been killed by the forces of intolerance and hate. Both religious leaders thus promoted the rights of all oppressed religious and ethnic groups. But hard-liners within their own religions, and populist, authoritarian politicians, have opposed their peace-building efforts.

### **St Oscar and Fr Rutilio**

Many of those who risk their lives under authoritarian dictatorships, for the sake of fundamental rights, are killed. They know the risks yet do not keep quiet. In our epoch, Oscar Romero is a notable example. We celebrated his feast day as a Saint of the Church on 24th March, the date of his assassination in March 1980, while he was celebrating Mass. We recalled how this rather shy and bookish archbishop of San Salvador had been seen by the ruling elite as no threat to their oppressive dominance. These few rich families had the government and army in their pocket and were sure they had the prelate there too. There was no risk that he would ally with those priests who stood up for the trampled rights of the poor. Many brave clergy and religious did speak out; contemporary eyewitnesses reported graffiti slogans appearing on city buildings, declaiming, 'Be a patriot. Kill a priest.'

### **Assassinated for Justice and Human Rights**

Things changed suddenly. Fr Rutilio Grande, Oscar Romero's close Jesuit friend, was murdered by the state's death squads because of his advocacy for oppressed communities. Romero, seeing the bullet-ridden body of his best friend by the roadside later that same day (beside the murdered corpses of two parishioners) knew what he had to do. He began to denounce injustice and state violence. Poor and exploited people in villages across El Salvador tuned into his weekly radio homilies; many called him the voice of the voiceless. He encouraged others to become advocates too. This was too much for the powerful elites. Archbishop Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass in the cancer hospital where he lived simply. He spoke out rather than remain silent, following the example of his great friend Rutilio three years earlier, and of his leader, Christ the King. St Oscar and Rutilio ask us now if we really can remain spectators, not speaking out.

The Pope entrusts to the Worldwide Prayer Network each month, to make known to all people of good will, the concerns of his own heart as he surveys the challenges that face humanity and the Church's mission. We, the church, whether gathered or dispersed, join him in praying for these intentions, asking to place our own hearts next to Jesus' Sacred Heart. Our morning offering prayer is how we express that deep desire.

### **Prayer Moment**

Trinity of communion and mutual love, show me the world of today as you see it; momentous acts of kindness and service but also intolerance, rage and basic rights denied. Grant me and my community the wisdom and courage that inspired Rutilio, Oscar, Pope Francis and all fearless leaders who struggle for basic human rights.

As we have accompanied, in this strangest of years, your Son to his redemptive Cross, we now ask for inner knowledge of your resurrection, your continuing glorious presence to your people. May the peace that you offered to your grieving friends inspire us as it consoled them. I offer today, all my words and actions, for your mission and may we pray, with the Pope, for all those who risk everything for the rights of all.

*By Fr David Stewart SJ, Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 8th April                      First Reconciliation and Holy Communion - Lesson #3                      6.30pm                      via Zoom

From Monday 12th April                      **Monday and Tuesday public masses to resume**

Currently Monday and Tuesday Masses are said in private, without a congregation. From Monday 12th April, each of the 10.00am weekday Masses will be a 'public mass'.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the Monday 10.00am Mass.

There is no need to book if you wish to attend Mass on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

## HELP NEEDED FOUNDATION GOVERNOR - ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Our local primary school - **St John Fisher Catholic Primary School** (Sarsfield Road), has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor to join the Board of Governors.

### What is a foundation Governor?

The primary purpose is to ensure that the school is governed in accordance with the directives of the Bishop. They are someone who is appointed by the diocese to represent, preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school.

### What does a Foundation Governor do?

They ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is upheld and manage the school's admission criteria. They oversee the financial performance of the school and set the budget. They are involved in the recruitment of senior leaders in the school and hold the Headteacher to account.

### What are the time commitments?

The average Foundation Governor role will take approx. 10-12 hours per month however, this will vary. It includes attending one governing body meeting per term and serving on at least one committee.

### Who can be a Foundation Governor?

You must be over 18. and be a practising and committed Catholic and not be disqualified by law from being a governor. Each governor brings their own experience to the role and a wide range of skills is useful. An inquisitive mind and a passion for excellence are a plus.

If you would like to find out more, further information can be found on the following websites:

[Diocese of Westminster Education](#)    [The Catholic Education Service](#)

If you are interested please speak to Ana Hains in the parish office or Fr Agustin, who are both Foundation Governors.

## HELP NEEDED VOLUNTEERS DURING MASS

We are looking for more volunteers to help as stewards during Mass, in particular the Sunday 11.30am Mass.

### LIVE-STREAMING

We are looking for someone to help with the live-streaming of Mass on a Sunday either 9.30am or 11.30am.

The equipment is simple to use and full training will be given.

You should be confident in using IT, be able to work alone and be able to arrive at least 20mins before Mass starts.

If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact the parish office - **0208 997 3164**.

## HELP NEEDED GARDENER

We are looking for someone who between April - October can spare 1-2 hours per week to look after all the outdoor plants - those at the front of the church, in front of the presbytery and in the peace garden.

The job involves pruning, occasional planting and generally giving them some much needed care and attention.

You will be supporting our existing gardener - John McCarthy, who will take care of the trees, bushes and lawn.

If you are interested please contact the parish office

## HELP NEEDED CATECHISTS

We are looking for more volunteers to support our First Holy Communion Programme this year. We are looking for individuals who have the ability to relate with ease to children and enjoy working with them, as well as having a commitment to the essential teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and the ethos of the parish.

Previous experience is not essential.

If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact the parish office.

**'MY DAY BY DAY '  
EASTER BOOKLET  
AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY - £1.00**

**'MY DAY BY DAY '  
JUNIOR  
FOR CHILDREN, ALSO AVAILABLE  
60P**

### NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

For those who use the weekly envelope scheme to donate to the church - your new box has arrived and we need to arrange to get that box to you.

If you are booked to attend Mass this week, we should have your box ready for you. Simply ask the steward in the lobby for your box when you arrive.

If you are unable to come to Mass at all between now and 11th April, we will arrange to deliver your box to you.

### JOINING THE PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

If you are not part of the planned giving scheme and would like to donate to the church regularly either by using the weekly envelope scheme or by setting up a Standing Order straight from your bank account, please contact the parish office for further information.

#### Please help us keep our information up-to-date

If you are an existing planned giver and have either changed address or are no longer paying tax, please contact us and let us know, so that we can update our records.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

#### Last Week

Envelopes £452.37    Loose £136.37    Standing Orders £375.00    Easter Envelopes £30.00    Total £993.74

### FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

**Thank you to the parishioners who kindly donated towards the cost of the flowers for this Easter weekend.**

If you would like to dedicate an arrangement to a loved one or mark a special occasion, please put your donation and intention in an envelope and place it in the collection basket at the end of Mass or hand it in to the parish office. You can also make a general donation towards the flowers, if you wish. If you would like to donate online please contact the parish office for details.

### LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	3	Mass	8.00pm	Michael Murray RIP
Sunday	4	Masses	9.30am	Kate Kelly RIP Deceased members of the Griffin Family
			11.30am	Margaret Molinari RIP (Anniv)
Monday	5	Private Mass	10.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	6	Private Mass	10.00am	-
Wednesday	7	No Mass		
Thursday	8	Mass	10.00am	Rocco Gonnella RIP
Friday	9	Mass	10.00am	Christian De Costa (Birthday) Kevin Corcoran RIP
Saturday	10	Mass	6.30pm	Bridget Rosario RIP Mary Mannon RIP
		<b>2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
Sunday	11	Masses	9.30am	Deceased members of the Gillespie Family
			11.30am	Pushpa Fernando RIP Richard Bruney RIP (Anniv)

#### Confession

If you would like to come to Confession, please contact the parish office to book an appointment.

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

**for those who died recently:** Bridget Rosario, Sedley Gayle, Joseph Cedric Robertson, Margaret Taylor, José Fernandes, Eugene Garcia, Teresa Warner and Michael Murray (brother of Charlie Murray),

**and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Helen Bastian, Peggie Hayes, Martial D'Colyse, Mary Kathleen Daly, Lil Kenny, Agnes Keaveny, James Hughes Catherine O'Driscoll, Margaret Knightson, Thomas Donohue, Maria Bastiampillai, Albert Rozario, Margaret Donohue, Dorcas D/Colyse, Michael Harvey, Mary Culkin, Sophia Pergjergji and Raymond Murphy and Keith Murray.

### PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th April.

It will be open the rest of the week Wednesday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm.