

# Understanding the Mass

## Mass Intention

*Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.*

*Today our topic is the **Mass intention**.*

At the beginning of Mass, after the greeting, the priest may mention the **Mass intention**. Offering Mass intentions dates back to the early Church. Inscriptions on tombs in the Roman catacombs show requests for prayer, and Saint Monica asked her son, Saint Augustine: "One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord."

There is no greater prayer than the Mass, because it is the perfect offering of Jesus, the Son of God, to His heavenly Father. At Mass, we are free to join our prayers with the intention of the priest, and to pray for any number of our own personal intentions.

A longstanding practice exists in the Catholic Church of offering a specified amount of money (called a *Mass offering* or *Mass stipend*) for a particular intention to be remembered by the priest in the celebration of Mass. The stipend supports the financial needs of the priest - it is a contribution to his upkeep and day-to-day living expenses.

In offering Mass for a specific intention, the priest prays to God that the fruits of Christ's sacrifice be applied to the requested intention, for the spiritual or earthly good of the person(s) concerned.

Mass intentions are listed in our parish newsletter each week so that we can join our prayers with the priest for the intentions of our fellow parishioners.

| MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   | Our Lady Help of Christians  | St John the Evangelist   | St John Fisher                             |
| SATURDAY<br>12 <sup>th</sup> APRIL  | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes   | 6pm For the People of the Parishes   |  |
| SUNDAY<br>13 <sup>th</sup> APRIL<br><i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>         | 8.30am Jim & Tess Logan RIP (Anniv.)<br>11am Daniel O'Donoghue RIP (beginning with blessing of Palms at Calvary Cross Garden)<br>6pm Special Intention | 10.30am Barrie Pride RIP (Anniv.) (beginning with blessing of Palms from top of Field Way) | 9am For the People of the Parishes         |
| MONDAY<br>14 <sup>th</sup> APRIL  | 9.30am Fr Bernard Scholes RIP  |  |  |
| TUESDAY<br>15 <sup>th</sup> APRIL   | NO MASS TODAY  |  | NO MASS TODAY                              |
| WEDNESDAY<br>16 <sup>th</sup> APRIL   | 9.30am Private Intention (V.A.)  | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes   |  |
| THURSDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> APRIL<br><i>THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (MAUNDY THURSDAY)</i> | NO MORNING MASS<br>8pm For the People of the Parishes  |  | 8pm For the People of the Parishes         |
| FRIDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> APRIL<br><i>FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)</i>   | 3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord   | 11.00am Good Friday Family Service   | 3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord |
| SATURDAY 19 <sup>th</sup> APRIL<br><i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>                                   | NO MORNING MASS<br>8.30pm For the People of the Parishes   | NO MASS TODAY  |  |

You can request a Mass intention by taking an envelope, inserting the Mass stipend, and writing your Mass intention on the front. You can place your request in the Sunday Mass collection, in one of the offering boxes, or with the parish office.

What is the intention in the parish newsletter for the Mass you are attending today?

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