

6th Sunday of Easter,
Year B
5th May, 2024

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

59 Gresham Road, Staines, TW18 2BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Philip Dyer-Perry

Parish Secretary: Luciana Vicentini-Munday

Tel: 01784 452 381 Email: staines@rcdow.org.uk Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/staines/>

From the Diary

Weekend Masses always live-streamed on YouTube (other times streamed occasionally)

6th SUNDAY	18.30	Mass (<i>George Moore ANNIV</i>)
OF EASTER	09.00	Mass (<i>People of the Parish</i>)
5 th May	11.00	Mass (<i>Roger Sparling RIP</i>)
Monday 6 th May	20.00	Rosary group – enter through hall door
Tuesday 7 th May	09.15	Mass
	19.30	Confirmation group session - Hall
Wednesday	09.15	Mass
8 th May	09.45 – 11.30	Baby and Toddler group – Hall
	14.00 – 16.00	'Gresham Junction' Café – Hall
ASCENSION	07.00	Mass
OF THE LORD	09.30	Mass
Thursday 9 th May	10.30	Church Cleaning Club
	19.00	Mass
Friday 10 th May	19.30	Scottish Night - Hall
Saturday 11 th May	12.00	Baptism of Ruben Ambo
	13.00	Baptism of Ivy Mihalcea Lawal
	17.30 – 18.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
7th SUNDAY	18.30	Mass (<i>Fiona Lanning ANNIV</i>)
OF EASTER	09.00	Mass (<i>Karen Sanger RIP</i>)
12 th May	11.00	Mass (<i>Chris Burwell RIP</i>)

Onwards and upwards

This Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. As this is a Holyday of Obligation, Mass will be celebrated at 07.00, 09.30 and 19.00 followed by refreshments as appropriate to the time of day.

The Feast of the Ascension marks the day when forty days after his Resurrection, Jesus was taken up to heaven. During the those forty days, Jesus visited his disciples and helped them to realise that he was alive, that he had forgiven them, and that, despite the events of Holy week, it was very much 'game on' for them. Before he ascended, he told his disciples to 'go and make disciples of all nations', but first to hang on for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Like the disciples, we too are called to make disciples of all nations and we have also been promised the Holy Spirit. The Ascension is where we let go of Jesus being with us in one way, so that we can experience his power in an even more exciting way. As the Easter season draws to a close for us, it does so with a bang rather than a whimper.

Scottish Evening – this Friday!

Due to popular request, we are having our second parish 'Scottish evening' at 19.30 on this Friday 10th May. The evening will include Scottish music, dancing and other Scottish delights. This is a popular event, so please sign up on the church/hall partition door if you would like to come.

Everyone is welcome, and most especially your non-parishioner friends, so why not invite them?

We ask you to bring three things on the night – plate of finger food for the buffet, a bottle or cans for the bar, and a contribution of is £4 per adult or £1 per child to cover the cost of the entertainment.

Also in this week's newsletter

Parish trip to Box Hill - First Holy Communion 2025 – Get married for £99 – Seaside Trip date revealed

Please pray for

All our who are sick:

Nina Bailey, John Bailey, Carol Bartlett,
Laurie Hatcher, Mark Cotter, Jessica Farnsworth,
Prisca Fernandes

Please advise of any changes to this list

Those who have died:

& all anniversaries.

Welcome!

If you are visiting or this is your first time, please introduce yourself to Fr. Philip, and perhaps stay for tea & coffee after Mass.

Whether you've recently moved into the area, or are just visiting, you are most welcome here – and so is your feedback on your first impressions of this parish, good or bad!

Tea and Coffee

After **all** Masses, please stay on for a nice *Fairtrade* cup of tea, freshly brewed coffee, biscuits and toys.

Little children

When you bring your children to Mass, you not only share with them a very special part of your life, but you bring new life and energy to the entire parish community. If their new life and energy is getting too much, it's ok to take them into the porch or outdoors for a bit until they (or you) have calmed down!

If you have a baby you are welcome to feed/breastfeed your child at any time – and in any place you feel most comfortable. You can go into the hall or simply remain in your place in church.

If you've got a toddler, you are welcome to bring toys to distract them. It's a good idea to bring things that can't be used to make a noise. Best of all, come and sit at the front where they can see!

We appreciate that every child is different and that bringing children to Mass is not always easy. If you are finding it particularly hard today, be assured that you are not alone.

Baptism

If you have an unbaptised baby (or are half expecting one), please introduce yourself & your child, either after Mass or over the phone, and we can talk about next steps.

Safety

Please don't let children close to the candle stands or the statues – they are heavy and topple very easily!

Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesdays in term time 09.45 – 11.30 in the hall. £2 per family. Nice cakes. Outdoor area. All babies, toddlers, & accompanying adults very welcome!

Gresham Junction

Everyone is welcome to our community café open Wednesday afternoons 14.00-16.00. Come and join us for a hot drink & slice of cake.

A Prayer for Peace in the World

Almighty Father, you are the Lord of history. We place in your hands the distress of our times. The wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land fill us with anxiety and fear. We call out to you. Welcome those who have died. Comfort those left behind. Be with refugees and those driven from their homes. Heal the wounds of those injured in body and soul. Be close to every person taking up the cause of those who suffer. Give to our earth the peace which only you can give. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of Peace, pray for us and for the whole world. their sponsors, family members and catechists for their encouragement.

Parish Half Term Trip to Box Hill

On half term Friday 31st May we're making a parish trip to the charming North Downs. We will take the train to Box Hill station, and enjoy a long walk to the top of the hill, where there will be an opportunity to enjoy a picnic or visit the café. At the bottom of the hill is another café and also the famous Denbies Wine Estate – so there is also something for the children to enjoy. If you'd like to come, please complete and return a booking form by Sunday 26th May. Fares are Adults £13.25, children £8, children of Family railcard holders £3.

Rosary Group

Our parish rosary group meet at 20.00 every Monday in school term time, Access is via the 'office' door round the side of the building. Wait until the Brownie group finishes at 20.00 then make your way inside. The Rosary is a lovely prayer-form and is especially recommended during May, a month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

First Holy Communion 2025

Next year in 2025, First Holy Communion will be on Saturday 17th May – registration for this will take place in September this year, and is open to children who will be (in September) in school Year 3 or above. Preparation starts in the winter and is done in the parish, and is open to all parish children no matter what school they attend. If your child does not attend a Catholic school, they will also need to go to the 'Footsteps' pre-course, which takes place over five Wednesday after-school sessions in the autumn.. Meanwhile, please let your friends (who maybe don't go to Mass so often) know about the programme and explain that they might want to start showing their faces here now! Registration is NOT open yet, but a dates and details sheet is available in the porch, so you know what you are committing too in advance!

A request from your healthcare chaplains!

Due to data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the Catholic Chaplain and please ask them to visit you!

Get married for £99!

Do you think that a church wedding is expensive? Well, think again. Here at Our Lady of the Rosary we are offering an exclusive, yet highly inclusive £99 Wedding Deal! Did you read that right? Yes you did – and look what you get:

- The church service with a priest
- The music group with singers
- The use of our parish hall until midnight
- Some flowers
- All church-related paperwork

Small print: In order to avail of this deal, you will need to contact me (Fr. P) no less than six months before your wedding, be free to marry, and to complete a pre-marriage course (additional cost). You will also need to do some civil paperwork and there will be a fee for this of course.

The wedding will occur during the regular Sunday 11.00 Mass (after the homily), and you will need to serve tea/coffee/treats to parishioners for the usual hour after Mass, after which you can have the dream wedding reception you always hoped for. We'll throw in a choice of one of the hymns, but you'll have to bring your own food/drink and a spouse.

Got ideas?

Plenty of things happen in our parish, but plenty of things don't! Maybe you want to initiate a parish group or event, regular or one-off. If so, think what you'd like to do and speak to me (Fr. P) and we'll see what can be done.

Last Sunday's collection

£726 loose, £189 envelopes. It's also around £1078 in standing orders. Thank you for your generosity!

On **YouTube** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Staines'

On **Facebook** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines'

Parish Seaside Trip

Our annual parish seaside trip to Littlehampton will take place on **Friday 26th July**. Further details will be available and bookings taken nearer the time, but right now simply put the dates in your diary.

Parish Patio

What with the lovely weather, we will be making more use of the parish patio. Note that children should be supervised (the car park gate is not locked), prevented from climbing on the Wendy house, and kept away from the drinks table. Ride-ons should stay at the far end. If you see a child acting in an unsafe way, please intervene, even if they are not yours!

Supporting the parish

Our parish relies only on the support of its members. It helps us if you donate by standing order or direct bank payment. Our parish bank details are as follows: **Sort code: 40-05-20 Account number: 41096168 Bank: HSBC Account name: WRCDT Staines-upon-Thames**

If you're a taxpayer, why not Gift Aid your donation? The government will top up your gift by 25%, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no cost to you. To do this, send an email to giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following info:

1. Your parish name (Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines)
2. Your title, first name and surname
3. Your address and postcode
4. The date of your gift, or start date of Standing Order
5. The amount
6. Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'

The Diocesan Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately, on behalf of your parish, and email you a confirmation.

Feeling unsafe?

Not everyone feels safe at home. The National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 if you are concerned about yourself or others. The church is a safe space to seek assistance should you need it – see parish contact details overleaf. *Istnieje też specjalna linia pomocy w języku polskim 0300 365 1700 oraz strona internetowa <http://opoka.org.uk>*

Manna Food Bank

You are invited to drop items of non-perishable food **in the church when open** to support our local foodbank. The foodbank table is in the porch, between the hall and church doors. Food/drink should be non-perishable, so there should be nothing that requires refrigeration, nor fresh cakes or bread. Items should be unopened and unused. Items should not be donated after their 'best before' date. This might sound fussy, but any of us could end up relying on a food bank, so a certain level of quality control is important.

Safeguarding

If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding rep, Sheila Davies on 07802 653196. You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 77989356 safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk You can also speak to me (Fr. P) if you have a concern or query.

Staines Sponsored Stroll

Churches Together in Staines & Laleham are doing a "Sponsored Stroll" around 8 churches in the area on Saturday 11th May, starting at St Mary's at 09.00. There will be refreshment stops at several churches and walkers from all the different denominations in the town can get to know each other while raising money to improve the lives of those living in the poorest countries in the world. All they need is a few more sponsored strollers, so if you would like to take part just give Linda Marshall a call on 01784 456474 or email lindam@inbox.com and she can give you details of the route and a sponsorship form.

Fire safety

In case of fire, you will be invited to leave the building. Use the nearest exit and go home. Don't move your vehicle from the car park as this will slow things down. If you need to await family or others, wait at the assembly point in front of the garage. Do not re-enter the building until advised to do so.

Mass offerings

Do you want to have Mass offered for a particular person or intention? Write down the name of who the Mass should be offered for, and make it clear whether they are dead or alive. Also indicate what day/time is preferred, noting that weekend times need good advance notice. Give this to me (Fr. P) or drop into my letter box. Enclose your voluntary offering in a marked envelope either then or nearer the time of the booked Mass.