

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: 1 Pt 2: 2

Like new-born infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Collect

God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people
you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace
you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading: Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 117

R/. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' *R/.*

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die. *R/.*

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. *R/.*

Second reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father

that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children

if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is -

keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been
begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world -
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus
is the Son of God:

Jesus Christ who came
by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness -
since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Jesus said: 'You believe because
you can see me.'*

*Happy are those who have not seen
and yet believe.'*

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people
and of those you have brought to new birth,
that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism,
they may attain unending happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 7th April 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday

Low Sunday

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to all at Mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year B

Weekday Mass Readings
Easter 2

Divine Office
Easter 2

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
[http://www.sdc.me.uk/
sundayliturgy/](http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/)

THIS WEEK

Sun 7 April
6.15pm Vigil
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

EASTER II (Low Sunday)
Anne Healy RIP
Mary & Michael Hughes RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mary Kiernan RIP
Pompeyo DeVeza RIP

Mon 8 April
9.30am

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE
LORD
Sapna Christi & family Ints.

Tues 9 April
9.30am

Easter feria
Milot Pinto RIP

Weds 10 April
9.30am

Easter feria
Leo & Olga Barco RIP

Thurs 11 April
9.30am

Easter feria
Satirio M. Alfonso RIP &
departed family members

Fri 12 April
9.30am

Easter feria
Leo & Olga Barco RIP

Sat 13 April
9.30am

Easter feria
Johann Afonso 6th Birthay
Ints.

Sun 14 April
6.15pm Vigil
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

EASTER III
George Hillier RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Watts & Ledo Families RIP
Maria Fernanes Andrade RIP
Nimal Perera RIP

TODAY'S MASS



PUT YOUR HAND INTO
MY SIDE

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

The first Christian community shared their possessions, and no one was needy.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Those who love God keep his commandments.

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will
find comfort in all their anxieties and fears."*

St. John Paul II

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk

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Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.

Charity No: 233699

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.15pm -6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

DIVINE MERCY: Tuesday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: *Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, Aaran Thayaparan, John, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Jean Lurshay, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Chris Sweeney, Marjorie Hoareau, Catherine Corcoran, Barbara Gill, Ciara I, Hugh Singarayer*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Jesse Francis Masterson*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Fr. Michael Daley, Dan O'Connor, Earl Mc Shine Jones*

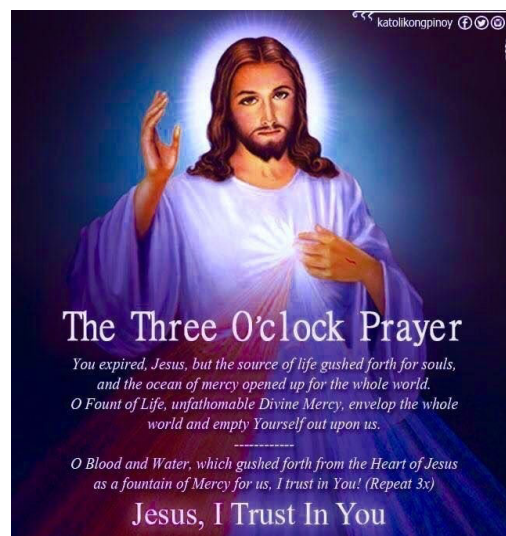
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Leo & Olga Barco, Gerry Pattiman, Mary Kiernan*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Intentions of Bosco Fernandes

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
Intentions of Bosco Fernandes

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for April 2024

"That the dignity and richness of women be recognized in all cultures, and for an end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world."



The Resurrection of Jesus transformed the world in ways that we will never fully comprehend. It was an act of pure and unconditional love of God for us, in which God embraced us and became one of us, suffered and died for our sake, and rose so that we too can share eternal life. Before the Resurrection the most devout lived in hope that the Messiah would come and free them from earthly oppression and bondage, but after the resurrection came the realization by the apostles, disciples and those who came to believe in Jesus that Jesus is the Messiah who gave us so much more; more than was ever imagined. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, gives us complete forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life. The Apostles themselves did not understand who Jesus truly was until after the resurrection. In the Gospel account of the Transfiguration Jesus instructed Peter, James and John not to tell anyone until he had "risen from the dead" and we are told that they did not know what he meant. After the resurrection they began to understand the meaning of the experience on the mountain with Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Faith in Jesus brings us into the reality that for the faithful "life does not end, it merely changes."

The resurrection of Jesus and how it changed the world was not easy to accept at first. The Gospel describes the disciples on that first Easter locked in the upper room in fear, as if in a tomb. Jesus enters the room despite the locked doors and stands in their midst. He greets them with words of peace and it seems that they are overwhelmed by his presence. When the absent Thomas arrives afterwards, they can't wait to tell him that Jesus is truly risen and that he had visited them in this upper room. We are all too familiar with response that resulted with Thomas being forever known as "doubting Thomas." A week later they are still in the upper room and the doors are still locked. This room has truly become their tomb. They are still in fear and afraid to go out even after the experience of seeing the Risen Lord. Jesus appears again and takes Thomas on the words he spoke to the rest of the disciples a week earlier, and invites him to put his hands in the wounds. Thomas has seen enough and he then makes a profession of faith. The disciples experienced the reality of the love and mercy of our Risen Lord, and were able to leave fear behind and venture out of the upper room.

During the Easter Season we are called to leave fear behind and to allow the love of our Risen Lord more deeply in our lives. The Risen Lord loves us and there is no reason for us to lock ourselves in our own tombs of fear. This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday so as to reinforce the reality of the depth of God's love for us. A love that is far greater than any fault, failing or sin that we have. His mercy is His gift to us and he is just waiting for us to accept this gift, to unwrap it and allow it to fill us with his mercy, love and peace. During Easter let us welcome the Lord and allow him to away our fears and fill us with his peace. May we continue to joyously proclaim, "Alleluia!" as a response to the gift of God's mercy and love.



NEWS UPDATE

A CONTINUED HAPPY EASTER to everyone!

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? It always helps us to get to know you and also your family if you register with us. We can then send you information about the parish and opportunities. Registration forms can be found at the back of Church (underneath the picture of Pope Francis).

ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU to all those who made our Holy Week celebrations so special. What a wonderful parish!!

FUNERAL MASS of Dan O'Connor on Monday 15th April at 11.00am followed by burial at Alperton Cemetery. Reception into Church the night before, Sunday 14th April at 7.00pm. May he rest in peace.

READERS ROTA- THANK YOU to all at this time who have been in touch with one another to make sure everything happens as many are away for the Easter period!

THE REPOSITORY has lots of Easter gifts and cards—its never too late!!

GOOD NEWS Through a gracious donation we are able to get the floor of the church sanded. It looks dark brown but that is only because it has had endless layers of polish. Its actually light wood - Pine -(the colour of the pews) so we hope this will be done in a couple of months or so but it will cause a disturbance if you come to daily Mass as they move around and so will have to we!

ALSO GOOD NEWS we have all but had (eventually) the go-ahead for our new confessional. It will ease up the children's room but give more privacy and anonymity. It will have features to sit or kneel and for the hard of hearing.

AS YOU WILL KNOW (if you read the newsletter!) we had a break-in to Church recently and they damaged one of the older stained glass windows. We've already had had three quotes for repair so lets hope we get it fixed soon, though it will take a few months.

CANDLE BOXES These were the aim of our break-in but had been emptied earlier. Please put money into the safer candle boxes. We should have new ones delivered in a week or so.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At **Session 9** of **Part 2** of the FHC Programme, on **Tuesday 16th April**, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about how '**Jesus is the Bread of Life**'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at your child's unique Catechist Small Group entry/exit point at **7pm**.

CONFIRMATION 2024 - We are delighted that at **Session 6**, on **Monday 22nd April**, **Bishop John Sherrington** will be joining the Confirmation Candidates to help us reflect on the '**Role of the Bishop at Confirmation**'. Candidates are welcome to start drafting their **Letter to the Bishop** over the Easter holidays & should be ready to speak to the Bishop about their **Confirma-**

tion Name. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session in the **Parish Centre** at **7.30pm**.

CONFIRMATION SPONSORED WALK - Thank you to everyone who helped the Confirmation Candidates this year so far raise **over £1500 for Aid to the Church in Need**. If you haven't yet had the chance & still wish to give, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sponsoredwalkforalldtothechurchinneed/>.

CHILDREN READING AT 9.45 FAMILY MASS - If your child has made their First Holy Communion, they are **welcome to read at the 9.45 Family Mass**. If your child might be interested in reading, or your family might like to take responsibility for the readings once a month, please contact our 9.45am Family Mass Readers Coordinator, **Roann Etnan**, at roann.etnan@gmail.com.

OVER 60'S GROUP: Meet every Tuesday at 1pm in the Bar/Café in the parish centre. Every Tuesday, apart from tea/coffee and cake and a friendly social gathering, they have a speaker on very useful informative topics. On Tuesday 16th April there will be a talk on Bowel Cancer. On every first Tuesday of the month they will be holding a Keep Fit session in the hall. **ALL** are welcome.

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES will be distributed this weekend. As we have many similar names, please check carefully that you have the correct name and address. If you had a box last year and your box is not there please give your name and contact details to one of the helpers. If you would like a box for the first time please also give your name and details. Bankers' Order forms will also be available. Please return your box if you no longer wish to use it. **PLEASE** consider completing a gift aid declaration. By gift aiding your donation, which must be made by planned giving envelope, bankers' order or cheque, you are increasing your donation by 25%. That means every £1 donated become £1.25. At the end of the financial year we can claim this 25% tax back from the Inland Revenue. This does not cost you anything extra because as a standard tax payer you have already paid this tax. Gift Aid forms will also be available. Again, thanks for whatever you can give each week. We appreciate it very much and keeps "the show on the road"!

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA: next meeting Wednesday April 10th at 8pm in the parish centre.

ADVANCE WARNING: Social Dance is coming to St George's again on Friday 26th April. 8.00pm till late. Tickets on the door. A date for your diary.

MINIBUS TO MASS - The Parish is hoping to set up a **new Minibus service** in the coming year to safely accompany vulnerable adults, living in the Parish, to Mass at St. George's. Might you consider helping as a **Driver or Escort?** Those generously offering to help will be required to complete a **DBS for Vulnerable Adults** with the Parish and a little online training supporting them in this new ministry with vulnerable adults. We are hugely grateful to **Stefan Scielinski** who has generously offered to coordinate this new initiative. If you might consider helping, please contact **Stefan** at stefanscielinski@gmail.com.

SVP ACTIVITIES—looking ahead:
Collection of food for local food banks - Collection 27/28th April. Any cash donated would be used to buy food for our beneficiaries.
Bingo fundraiser. May 11th, after the Saturday vigil.
Bacon butty morning fundraiser. Sunday 23rd June. Dates for your diary.

REFERENCES - If you require a formal reference, for a job or voluntary work, or a passport signed from one of the Parish Team please ensure you contact them personally **before** providing their contact details to those requesting the reference.

SUPPORTING YOU WHILST IN HOSPITAL - If you, or a loved one, are heading to hospital and would like a little pastoral & sacramental support whilst you are there, please let us know so we can ensure this is provided. There is a Catholic Chaplain resident at Northwick Park Hospital.

CALLING NEW CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Might you consider **helping with our Confirmation Preparation Programme in 2025?** This ministry offers an opportunity to serve the young people of the Parish, in Year 10 and above, as they prepare for this important moment in their life of faith. For those wishing to receive it, this also offers invaluable teaching experience. You would be helping to facilitate a Small Group with experienced Catechists. If you might consider helping next year please contact Peter, our Catechetical Coordinator, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

GIFT AID/PLANNED GIVING: If you are a standard tax payer and do not already have a gift aid in place, **PLEASE** consider completing a gift aid declaration. By gift aiding your donation, which must be made by planned giving envelope, bankers' order or cheque, you are increasing your donation by 25%. That means every £1 donated become £1.25. At the end of the financial year we can claim this 25% tax back from the Inland Revenue. This does not cost you anything extra because as a standard tax payer you have already paid this tax. 'Gift Aid/Standing Order forms are available at the back of the church or please apply to the parish office'.

MUSIC at the 9.45am Mass and the 11.15am . Could you help with the singing or even playing a musical instrument at 9.45am We need your help...don't sit or stand on the side-lines in 2024!

ROSARY AT HOME If you'd like to be part of our prayer network, or know more please simply contact Cheryl on 07941002161 .

WE ARE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT for anyone who might be a good counter of money. Each week our collection needs counting and bagging up. It takes time and a good deal of attention to make sure there are no discrepancies. Could you help? Let us know. The best way to do this is to drop us an email with all your details and which days you might be free. **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY OFFERED THEIR TIME ETC.**

FOR RENT: One double bedroom available with access to all amenities, including transport and this church. Please telephone 07717124517.