

ST MELLITUS PARISH

Mass Times

Sunday at 11am

Wednesday at 10am

Confession by appointment only

The Presbytery, Tollington Park, N4 3AG

Parish Priest: Fr Paul McDermott

020 7272 3415; tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/tollingtonpark

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust registered charity number
233699

COVID SECURITY AT CHURCH

DO

- ❖ Arrive for Mass at least 10 minutes before Mass begins
- ❖ You must wear a face covering during Mass
- ❖ You must maintain social distancing by sitting in designated seats
- ❖ Use hand sanitiser when you enter and when you leave
- ❖ Follow the directions of our volunteer Stewards
- ❖ Enter and leave through different doors
- ❖ Receive Holy Communion on your hand only
- ❖ Light candles from pre-lit candles
- ❖ Place your offerings in the basket provided

DON'T

- ❖ Don't mix with others before or after Mass
- ❖ Don't come late to Mass.
- ❖ Don't come to church if you are feeling unwell, or most vulnerable to serious illness
- ❖ Move around the church unless guided by stewards
- ❖ Touch statues, door handles, pew ends

February 2021

Dear Friends, who would have thought that we would be planning another Lent and Easter under COVID restrictions? But it looks like we will have to continue this strange pattern of faith, worship and daily life for a while longer. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones as we journey together, although apart, through these times trusting in the Lord's closeness and consolation.

Coming to Mass: thank you for your compliance with our rules for public worship. We are averaging 45 people at Mass each Sunday and about 10 on Wednesdays. Please remember that without our amazing stewards to guide us and sanitise after us, we cannot open for Mass.

Ash Wednesday: In his pastoral letter to us, Cardinal Vincent recommends that we celebrate Ash Wednesday at home this year. Perhaps you can set aside a time to pray with your family or support bubble and commit yourselves to the Lenten journey together. The usual 10am Mass will take place, but Ashes will not be given in the usual manner.

Stations of the Cross: we are unable to celebrate this beautiful prayer together in church this year, but we invite you to join in an online service instead. The Stations will be a zoom event on: **Saturday 6 March at 5pm** – and again on **Friday 26 March at 6pm**. Please check the website and /or email Jo Bownas if you'd like to be sent the zoom link nearer the time, and pass on this invitation to others who might like to join: jo.bownas@btinternet.com

Parish Finances: as you can imagine the parish has suffered a huge loss of income from your weekly offerings this past year (£13000) and we will need to make up for the loss. Please consider carefully the notice about weekly offerings in this newsletter. We especially ask you to set up a standing order at your bank to ensure your offering reaches us on a regular basis.

Vaccination: I am delighted that so many of our parishioners have been vaccinated against COVID and are now waiting for the 2nd dose. Personally I can think of no reason not to get this vaccine, which offers us more protection than we have without it. So please be brave and get the jab!

May St Joseph protect you and bless you. Happy Lent!

Fr Paul

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS

It is so important to continue to support the parish with your offerings. The lockdowns have dried up our income stream which means our reserves are being depleted.

- ❖ It is time for all of us to review our financial commitment to the parish and increase it if we can. **If everyone was to make a weekly offering of 1 hours pay or at least £5** we will be able to be confident.
- ❖ The best way to help is to set up a standing order with your bank with these details:

WRCDT Tollington Park
40-05-20
21264869

- ❖ If you use offertory envelopes, you can bring them to Church when it is open or pop them through the presbytery letter box, located in Evershot Rd.
- ❖ You can also **donate online**, via the parish Website. www.redow.org.uk/tollingtonpark

ZOOM Witness for Ash Wednesday 7pm

Pax Christi and Christian CND will be hosting a Zoom Witness for Ash Wednesday, replacing the usual event which takes place outside the Ministry of Defence in London each year. This takes the form of a service for repentance and peace. All welcome. Register here:
https://paxchristi.org.uk/event/ash-wednesday-service/?instance_id=935

ZOOM Stations of the Cross

Join others from St Mellitus in praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent. The Stations will be a zoom event on: Saturday 6 March at 5pm – and again on Friday 26 March at 6pm. Please email Jo Bownas if you'd like to be sent the zoom link nearer the time, and pass on this invitation to others who might like to join: jo.bownas@btinternet.com or 07932 177542

Parish Forum

A number of parishioners attended a Parish Meeting on Zoom on Saturday 30th January. There was a lively discussion about the newsletter, the organ restoration, the need for a parish database, a

stewards' update, the online streaming of parish events/worship, and the future and financial robustness of the parish post-pandemic. Participants were able to voice their hopes and fears for the future and all agreed that another meeting should be held soon. If you would like to be involved please phone Percy on 07791079641 or Percy.Aggett@Lineone.net

St Mellitus Tea and Chat

It has been so long since we have been able to chat with each other after Mass on a Sunday. And we are missing each other and wondering how everyone is doing. So we are inviting all parishioners to a zoom tea and chat at 5pm on Saturday 27 February. You will need to bring your own tea, but the company will be provided! No business agenda, just a time to catch up, share how we all are, what has been happening for us during lockdown and what we have been doing to get through it. If you would like to join us please contact Jo on jo.bownas@btinternet.com or 07932177542 and we will send you the zoom link. If you don't have a computer you may be able to join by phone and we would love to hear from you anyway. Please pass this invitation on to any parishioners you know who you think might like to join us.

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February – 7 March

St Mellitus has been a Fairtrade Parish for many years and we are delighted to know that we have contributed to Westminster Diocese being granted the Fairtrade Diocese Award this year. There will be an online celebration of this achievement, with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, on Friday 5 March at 11 am. You can register to attend the event at www.westminsterjusticeandpeace.org.uk

To be recognised as a Fairtrade Parish we commit to using Fairtrade products (tea, coffee, sugar etc) at all parish gatherings and to hold a special event during Fairtrade fortnight each year. This year, sadly, we can't host an in person event where we can share Fairtrade goodies and Fairtrade stories together. But don't despair – there is still a lot you can do! There is an online Fairtrade Festival, including discussions with farmers and workers from around the world; music art and entertainment from all corners of the globe; and a youth exhibition for young people to get involved with...

To get more information and to join these events go to: www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtradefortnight

And if you can't get to an online event, don't worry – during Fairtrade fortnight why not treat yourself to a Fairtrade cup of tea or coffee, with some Fairtrade biscuits or chocolate? And while you drink your coffee you could say a prayer for all those farmers around the world who desperately need a fair price for their produce to survive, to support their families and communities and to protect themselves from the effects of climate change.

Climate Change

We all know what we mean these days when we say CLIMATE, we don't have to say any more ... it's all about Saving the Planet, or as Pope Francis calls Earth: Our Common Home. The younger ones reading this will already be aware that the next Global Climate Conference, COP 26, will be held in Glasgow from 1 - 12 November this year. Following the lead of his namesake, St Francis of Assisi, this Pope has stressed the sacredness of Planet Earth and urged us to renew our CARE of it as God's Creation. It was God's first way of speaking to us, the first Bible, and we should read it with joy, and treat it with reverence.

Things to do: You could look up CAFOD'S website, there is a lot there for children and young adults, and some of you might find the LENTEN Calendar of Prayers and Actions helpful.

Take a look at the Global Catholic Climate Movement site; there are videos and some interactive material which might interest you.

Lastly, for a bit of fun - measure your carbon footprint on the World Wildlife Fund site - and if you're like me, be prepared for a bit of a shock.

And, let us know if you have anything you'd like to share, anything you've found that we could all learn from: tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk

Organ Restoration



ST MELLITUS
ORGAN
RESTORATION
PROJECT

www.stmellitusorgan.co.uk

The restoration is now complete, but our community work continues into 2021, with free piano lessons for local children, a historic walking pod tour exploring the musical history of N4 and planned online educational workshops. Visit our regularly update website for news, upcoming events and stories about the soldiers commemorated by the organ: www.stmellitusorgan.co.uk

Saints & Statues continued...

After I had written a piece on St Mellitus' Statues in the January Newsletter, I got this speedy reply from Adetoun; with her permission, I print her letter:

I read your notice in the newsletter. I have wondered and do wonder why depictions of Our Lord and Our Lady with brown skin are rarely seen; in St Mellitus it was truly great when, on one Sunday a few years ago, card copies of the John Petts' window in Birmingham, Alabama of Jesus were offered to the congregation from Pax Christi.

I've wondered when the St Mellitus crib would have home statues with brown colouring and not just one brown skin wise man on the feast of the Epiphany.

On holiday some years ago, it was so refreshing to hear a white priest speak of the need to see depictions of the holy family that are not white skinned and blue eyed including depictions of cherubim and seraphim...I do think it's really very important for one to 'see oneself'. It was one of the main reasons my mother and I visited the Mother of Mercy Shrine at the Aurora Gate in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was and is also important to me to see a replica of the statue in the form of a crucifix of Our Lord in Buga, Colombia and to learn of the Black Nazarene in the Philippines.

I think it's important not to use the label 'BAME'; to me it suggests white-skinned is the default and fails to 'see' and accept the differences between those who are lumped together as 'bame'...

It would be truly great to see an array of depictions of saints and holy people. I'm really looking forward to it!

God bless, Adetoun

If you would like to see some African and Asian saints depicted in St Mellitus, you could send an email to: tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk and marked NEWSLETTER. I look forward to hearing from you. If you have internet, you can find some wonderful images on <https://www.trinitystores.com/artist/br-mickey-mcgrath-osfs>

Sister Elizabeth

Have you got tech skills?

We're exploring the practical steps towards being able to occasionally livestream Mass and other events from St Mellitus. Do you have the equipment, skills and experience in setting this up, or in sound recording, that you could offer? If so, please contact Siobhan: state@tateharmer.com

Christ the King School

Our Catholic schools need **Foundation Governors** who are practicing Catholics who will support the staff and their commitment to the Catholic ethos of our schools. We need 2 more governors at Christ the King! So please offer your time to this rewarding service. You can contact the school or chat with Fr Paul.

www.ctks.co.uk

Going into Hospital

If you are going into Hospital do ask to see a Catholic Chaplain. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the hospital.

Getting Married in Church

Please be aware that you must give at least 6 months' notice if you want to get married in a Catholic Church. This is because there is often a lot of paperwork to get done and couples must attend a pre-marriage course. Don't set a date until you have spoken with a priest.

Please Pray for...

- ✘ All of our sick and housebound parishioners and all in care homes, hospitals and hospices.
- ✘ All who work in NHS and Social care
- ✘ Our children, parents and staff at Christ the King School
- ✘ Those who have died recently: Peter Ezalapa, Tess McNanny, Mrs Kabeya, Paul O'Neill.
- ✘ Those whose anniversaries are at this time

Public Mass Intentions	
<i>Fr Paul will celebrate Mass in private for all other intentions</i>	
Sunday 14 th February	11am Parishioners & Fr Kevin McDevitt (sick)
Wednesday 17 th February	10am Rita Necchi Ghiri RIP
Sunday 21 st February	11am Peter McAree RIP
Wednesday 24 th February	10am Lloyd Fernandes RIP
Sunday 28 th February	11am Anthony Bailham Anniv John Commoms RIP
Wednesday 3 rd March	10am Martin Family RIP
Sunday 7 th March	11am Daniel Masterson Anniv; Annie O'Malley & James Joyce RIP
Wednesday 10 th March	10am Bridie Redmond RIP
Sunday 14 th March	11am Sarah & Tim O Mahoney RIP
Wednesday 17 th March	10am Joan Lyne Anniv
Sunday 21 st March	11am Myra & Mervyn Stephenson RIP
Wednesday 24 th March	10am Rita Necchi Ghiri RIP
Sunday 28 th March	11am Myra & Mervyn Stephenson RIP
Wednesday 31 st March	10am Lloyd Fernandes RIP
Easter Sunday 4 th April	11am Parishioners

For parishes which live -stream Mass please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give