

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

April/May 2021

Dear Friends, Jesus Christ our Lord is Risen. Alleluia!

This Eastertime we begin to emerge from the gloom of COVID with shoots of hope and life all around us. People are getting vaccinated; people are coming back to church, people are beginning to live again. Thank God! Although we must remain vigilant and sensible here at home and pray for people where COVID continues to rage, let's rejoice that we can begin at least to move forward.

Parish Census

One thing we noticed during lockdown is that our parish records are woefully inadequate to keep in touch with you. To fix this we will be holding a Parish Census on Sunday 9th May. We will ask everyone at Mass to fill in a census form giving contact details and various permissions to hold your data. This is vitally important as we plan for the future and I am sure everyone will be able to help us in this way.

Celebrating the Sacraments

We are delighted that we can now celebrate 1st Holy Communion for our children who prepared last year, but due to lockdown weren't able to make their 1st Communion. They will now celebrate at a special Mass on Saturday 22nd May. On the following day Pentecost Sunday at the 11am Mass 2 of our teenagers will be confirmed. Please pray for our young people as they receive the gift of Jesus and his Spirit in such a profound way.

Parish Finances

As you can imagine, our parish income dropped considerably during the pandemic and we now have to increase our support for the parish. To help us do this we ask everyone to consider increasing their weekly offerings and to move to standing order where possible. Forms will be available in the porch or via the parish office. If you are able to make a catch-up payment, please send in a cheque and if you are able to make a one off donation we will be very grateful.

May The Holy Spirit of the Risen Lord anoint our emergence from COVID and inspire us to love God and our neighbour in new ways.

God bless you and those you love, Fr. Paul

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH!

Our parish has suffered a huge loss of income, especially from your weekly offerings this past year (£13,000) and we need to make up for the loss. We are unable to claim any government COVID support, except furlough for our parish Secretary. So we need you to seriously review how much you give and the way that you give your offerings which cover the day to day running of our parish.

- ❖ If everyone was to make a weekly offering of 1 hour's pay or at least **£5 per week** we can be more confident that we can afford our costs.
- ❖ The best way to help is to set up a standing order with your bank with these details:

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- ❖ If you use offertory envelopes, new boxes of envelopes are now available from the church after Mass. **BUT** we would rather you switched to a standing order.
- ❖ Perhaps you are able to make a one off donation to help us recoup our lost offerings. You can **donate online**, at www.rcdow.org.uk/tollingtonpark or give it to Fr Paul directly
- ❖ Always sign a Gift Aid form if you pay UK income tax

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

We continue to meet at 7.30pm on the second Monday of every month via Zoom. Our most recent parish contribution was to offer the Stations of the Cross during Lent. On our agenda we've been talking about small steps to 'Live Simply' and help save the planet, the Pope's letter 'Fratelli Tutti', black saints, supporting the Comboni Sisters, and the London elections on 6 May. Why not come along to the next meeting on Monday 10 May and see what it's like? If you would like to join us by computer or phone, please get in contact with Jo Bownas, jo.bownas@btinternet.com (or 7932177542)

Comboni Sisters

The sisters have said a big thank you for your donation of £1130.00 which was collected over the

last few years and has been securely sent for their work with refugees and the Bedouin.

Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati receive Lambeth award

We are proud to announce that, this year, two of our own parishioners, Valerie Flessati and Bruce Kent, have jointly received the The Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism: 'For exceptional, tireless and lifelong dedication to the Christian ecumenical search for peace, both individually and together'.

Announcing the awards, Archbishop Justin Welby said: "During the pandemic, we have seen just how vital the contribution of churches is to the fabric of our society This year's Lambeth Awards recipients, not all of whom are Christians, embody this spirit of service - not just during the pandemic but, for many of them, through decades of faithful work. I commend them and their efforts, and look forward to the time when we meet to celebrate their contributions to society."

At St Mellitus we look forward to celebrating too! Meanwhile, many congratulations to Bruce and Valerie and much appreciation for all their work, internationally, nationally and locally, here in our own parish.

London Elections on May 6th

A message from the Justice & Peace Group: Voting for London On Thursday 6 May we will all have the chance to vote for the Mayor of London and for Members of the London Assembly. This is the body which makes decisions critical for all of us about housing, transport, refugees, the environment, and policing. An issue that concerns our J&P group is that while we try to prevent violence on our streets an International Arms Sales Exhibition will once again be held in Docklands later this year. We ought to be involved in this election, and the BBC website explains the basics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56286643> Some Islington wards are also electing local councillors. Please vote in a way that will build a better London.

The St Mellitus Church Stewards

It was on Monday 23rd March 2020 that Boris Johnson told the country that people 'must' stay at home and certain businesses must close. All unnecessary social contact had to cease. This included places of worship and St Mellitus Church closed it's doors officially to all parishioners. Many

parishioners discovered online services and became virtual parishioners of churches around the country.

It was with gratitude, but anxiousness, that places of worship were given the green light to reopen in July 2020, following strict government social distancing guidelines. Fr Paul sent out an open request for volunteer stewards and the dedicated team of stewards you see every Sunday at Mass was formed. Many of the stewards are keyworkers or main carers who have continued to work and juggle home and work life throughout the pandemic. It was with a shared vision of community spirit that we all volunteered to make sure our beloved St Mellitus Church could reopen safely.

The St Mellitus Church Stewards are proud that the church has never had to close because no stewards were available for a service. We see it as an important part of our faith and as a united church family to ensure the church remains a beacon of hope to parishioners. Christmas and Easter services have all taken place safely in the church. As stewards, we have witnessed the relief of parishioners and visitors coming to an open church door and feeling welcomed as part of the community again. That feeling of belonging to a family 'in this together'.

The fluorescent yellow vest is not the most glamorous uniform of a steward and neither is the cleaning of the church seats after Mass. However, as we have seen over the pandemic, the keyworker services that have kept the country moving are not the most glamorous but have proven to be the most valuable.

"To show great love for God and out neighbour we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in the doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God." Mother Teresa.

The green markers you see on the church seats were put there by one of the teams of stewards after church on a Sunday last year. These markers help the stewards to seat you safely in church and ensure social distancing is adhered to, following government guidelines. One of those stewards who helped fix these green labels was Keiron Sparrowhawk. Keiron was a 'living stone' of St Mellitus. He was always the first to volunteer for any St Mellitus event and loved being an active part of St Mellitus Parish. Keiron passed away in March of this year. He will be deeply missed by his many friends at St Mellitus Parish. The stewards know he would want the vital community

spirit to keep going and St Mellitus Church to always be a place of warmth and hope to worshipers.

Our condolences to his wife Imogen and family. May Keiron Rest In Peace.

St Mellitus Church Stewards are thankful to parishioners for their patience in waiting to be seated every Sunday and showing respect for following social distancing rules. We want to ensure everybody can worship safely in our beloved St Mellitus Church. We pray that the light shine ever brighter with hope this year.

If you would like to join our friendly team of stewards please contact Fr Paul.



Saints in April

Our faith in Jesus being totally self-giving and him being our saving Sacrifice may challenge us to acknowledge when we may separate ourselves from God and therefore need to acknowledge our sinfulness. We may be comforted and uplifted by the stories and experiences of saints who lived during the early centuries, and faced contrasting challenges including shame, guilt, imprisonment and verbal and physical persecution. St. Mary of Egypt (2nd April), St. Benedict (4th April), St. Marcellinus of Carthage (6th April), St. Zeno of Verona (12th April), Sts. Marcellinus, Vincent, and Domminus (20th April), St. Theodore the Sanctified (27th April), Sts. Marianus, James and Companions (30th April) are saints whose feast days may not feature on your calendar for the month of April, yet they serve as uplifting reminders of the fruits of Calvary. Interestingly on the 21st of April, the feast of St Anselm is recorded in Roman Catholic diaries and calendars, providing a somewhat tenuous name link to Father Anselm Stark who knew Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi personally. Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi was a Trappist monk who before moving to England in 1950, from Aguleri, Nigeria, evangelized the youth, prepared couples for marriage, visited the sick, and provided for the needs of the poor. He travelled extensively throughout the parish environs to meet and serve people. May we too be inspired or continue to be inspired to show love, compassion and forgiveness.

LIVING SIMPLY

When Nature comes close to us, most of us feel rather privileged: think of the sight of a glorious sunset, of a holiday view of a mountain lake, the picture of a mare and her foal. Or, imagine a pocket handkerchief of a north London garden (MINE) where a pair of robins build their nest in an upturned watering can. How did I come to deserve this? They build, they lay, they feed; for weeks and weeks they feel at home near me ... truly, I am overjoyed.

In the February Newsletter (if you still have it) I wrote about the Pope's letter on Care of Creation and how we must care because it is God's way of loving us. In addition you will be hearing in the News these days that Glasgow is preparing to hold the Climate Conference in November.

It would be a great moment for St Mellitus to think about becoming a Live Simply Parish, to add to its being already a FairTrade one.

The CAFOD website will give you lots of ideas about how we might prepare ourselves for this.

Chief amongst these, by my reckoning, is

- getting out and enjoying Nature
- doing a bit more walking if you're able, using the car less
- Looking and listening to the natural sounds
- Looking after a plant or a tree and watching for the changes
- See if you can catch one of the very good documentaries on television about Climate Change - I'd recommend Ade Adepitan on BBC 2.

These are some ways you may get to love CREATION more, and once we love it more we shall be prepared to make further changes. When we've made some personal changes, we may be able to translate them into St Mellitus' Parish changes!

(Oh! A little one we could start straight way: if you see litter in the Parish garden on your way in to Church, pick it up, deposit it in the bin and sanitize as you enter).

Do you think CARE OF CREATION is an important issue? Please let me know - elizabethodonohoe@gmail.com

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: Paddy Barrett
- ✘ Those whose anniversaries are at this time: Ginette Nadal.

Public Mass Intentions

Fr Paul will celebrate Mass in private for all other intentions

Sunday 25 th April	11am Paddy Barrett, Paul O'Neil RIP
Wednesday 28 th April	10am Lloyd Fernandes RIP
Sunday 2 nd May	11am Ginette Nadal Anniv; Patrick Joyce RIP
Wednesday 5 th May	10am Paddy Barrett RIP; Holy Soul's RIP, Special Int.
Sunday 9 th May	11am Dan Murray Anniv; Benito Zanna RIP
Wednesday 12 th May	10am Dan & Julia Murray RIP; Kathleen Gallagher RIP; Virginia Hussein Int
Sunday 16 th May	11am Merryn Coote RIP
Wednesday 19 th May	10am Kosta Neonakis RIP; Chris & Paddy Reilly RIP
Pentecost Sunday 23rd May	11am Parishioners; Mervyn & Myra Stephenson RIP
Wednesday 26 th May	10am Lloyd Fernandes RIP
Sunday 30 th May	11am Parishioners



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