

St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST
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(Marcello – via text message)

MASS TIMES

Sunday
8.00 am & 10.00 am

Weekdays
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday No Mass
Friday 7.00 pm
Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Confessions Saturday 11.00-12.00 in church,
or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

23/24 April 2022

Saturday 23 April

Easter Saturday

No Mass

Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday

Roque Dias RIP

Sunday 24 April

Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

8.00 Mass People of the Parish

10.00 Parish Mass

Abby Driscoll RIP

Monday 25 April St Mark

the Evangelist – *Feast*

9.30 Mass Tom Rice (illness)

Tuesday 26 April St George

Patron of England - *Solemnity*

9.30 Mass Marie Deveney RIP

Wednesday 27 April

Wednesday of Easter 2

NB No Mass this week

Thursday 28 April

St Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

No Mass

Friday 29 April St Catherine

of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, patron of Europe - *Feast*

NB No Mass this week

Saturday 30 April

Saturday of Easter 2

No Mass

Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)

17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday

Jennifer & Daniel Bourke
and their intentions

Sunday 1 May

Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)

8.00 Mass For the Parish
and its needs

10.00 Mass Michael Ride RIP
(Anniv)

The readings for today's Masses are to be found in the Parish Mass Book: pp263-4.

Second Sunday of Easter (Year C – Luke) Sunday of Divine Mercy

For the last two years the Church, here and in many other countries, has been 'locked-down' to some degree or other. We've had to make the most of praying our way through Holy Week and celebrating Easter largely in our homes, or at least inhibited in church. (In an English setting that should read 'even more inhibited ...' perhaps?) We've had to involve ourselves in the liturgical unity of the world-wide family of the Church, to the extent that live-streaming permitted, from the reassuring setting (and also amidst the distractions and cares) of our homes. It was a challenging way of being the Church – and not everybody managed it very well. Maintaining our faith, and nourishing a life of prayer, without the support that we receive when we are gathered as God's holy people in God's house is not 'normal' for the Church.

The experience of the earliest Christian communities, described in the first reading at today's Mass, shows us how right we have been all these months to have felt a deep desire, as well as impatience, to get back to this 'normal.' The earliest Christians had to meet 'underground', in secret, increasingly restricted by the authorities. We can hardly call live-streamed worship an 'underground' community! But the early disciples of Jesus, and those who joined them or associated themselves with them in those early days after his death, and the growing faith in his resurrection, all realised that an essential and central aspect of their discipleship of the Risen Jesus was creating community. Not any old 'community' of shared interest, but a community with worship of the glorified Saviour at its centre.

It is instructive for us, recovering as we are from our recent experience, having been deprived of the outward experience of the community of the Church, and unable at times even to visit God's house, to reflect on what defined those early Christian communities. They met together in one another's houses, they read, listened to and 'fed' on the Scriptures, they sang sacred songs, and they broke bread after the Lord's command. This all sounds very familiar: that is what we were doing together every Sunday up until two years ago. And it is what we need now, in prayer and in charity, to restore. Two challenges lie before us, now we have celebrated Holy Week and Easter almost normally again, and now we have a growing appreciation of why the liturgy of the Church is valuable to us – so valuable that it is the thing without which we know we cannot live the rest of our lives. We need first to open ourselves to conversion of our hearts to Christ, and also resolve to follow Jesus in a new way – to let our renewed Christian discipleship now and in the future be the fruit of the exile Covid-19 has forced upon us. Will we open our hearts – like Thomas in today's Gospel – to believe for ourselves in the light of Divine Mercy and life?

First Reading (NT): Acts of the Apostles 2, 42 – 47

Those forty days during which Jesus appeared to his disciples and the ten days of intense prayer in the upper room between Ascension and Pentecost transformed those disciples from timorous and tongue-tied men and women into missionaries. Energised by their conviction that Jesus had risen from the dead and propelled by the Spirit that descended on them on the morning of the first Pentecost, they went out and bore witness to their faith to all and sundry, and many were converted to faith in the risen Lord. This short reading presents the Christian 'essentials' of day-to-day life for those first Christians in and near Jerusalem. We recognise in this vignette of their life the key elements of our own Christian community in 2022, and of the activities which (should) define us: gathering in the Lord's name, listening to His word, singing together and professing our faith with one voice, offering the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover (the Mass), and sharing with one another and with the poor to express charity.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Peter 1, 3 – 9

Peter reminds the Christian community to which he is writing that, despite the trials which they may experience, their faith in the risen Lord – if it is real and heartfelt – will make them strong and steadfast. As if he were thinking back to the event on the second Sunday after Easter described today in the Gospel, and watching closely the conversation between Thomas and Jesus, St Peter reminds his readers (as Jesus said to Thomas) that they need not have seen the risen Lord to believe in Him.

Gospel: John 20, 19 – 31

Thomas known as 'doubting', but probably better thought of as stiff-necked, unwilling to listen to the testimony of others, here makes the greatest proclamation of faith in the whole of the Gospel: 'My Lord and my God'! No doubt there: indeed, even more luminous a confession than Peter's, 'You are the Son of the Living God'. Thomas acknowledges without any reserve, the divinity of Jesus, the risen Lord.

Fr Jonathan Post-Easter break

Fr Jonathan will be taking this coming week – from Sunday evening 24 until Saturday afternoon 30 – as his post-Easter break. All messages to Frances Bright, the parish secretary, or Tony Murphy please, during this period.

Face Masks

Throughout the past two years the Parish has observed both Government regulations and Diocesan guidelines in relation to the Covid measures employed, including the wearing of face masks. It is now up to Parishioners, like all members of the general public, as to where they wear face masks - including in Church. Special mention should be made of masks at the distribution of Holy Communion. As is now the practice in the Cathedral, you are asked to *remove your face mask* before reaching the Celebrant, to receive in front of the priest, and to replace your mask as you return to your place.

Help needed in the repository after 8am Mass on Sunday mornings

Please call Sue Mason on 020 8954 0090 for further information.

Sunday 8 May at 3pm

May Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW10 9AX

Preacher: The Most Rev Kenneth Nowakowski, bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK, who will be accompanied by the Icon of the Mother of Protection-Pokrova. Come and join the praying of the Rosary for asking the prayers of the Black Madonna of Willesden for the protection of London, and for Peace and Restoration in Ukraine. Bakerloo Line & Tube, Willesden Junction Station (Old Oak Lane exit), Buses 18, 187, 206, 226, 228, 260, 487.

Readers Rota

23 April 5.30pm Lily Meghji 24 April 8am Daphne Byron
24 April 10am Readings John McIntyre, Bidding prayers Derrick & family
30 April 5.30pm John McIntyre 1 May 8am Rose Okosi
1 May 10am Readings Aude & Eduardo, Bidding prayers Georgia Nwawulor

Counters Rota 24 April Judith Brightwell, Monica Assoku, Funmi Da Silva

1 May Richard Wong

Church Cleaning Rota

30 April Team A: Caroline Boyle, Niamh Boyle, Lisa Harris, Beatrice McAdam and Zizo Ziwanah
7 May Team B: Tim Goodger, Monica O'Shea, Laura Willoughby, Vere Massy and Indre Balcaite