



ST TERESA'S

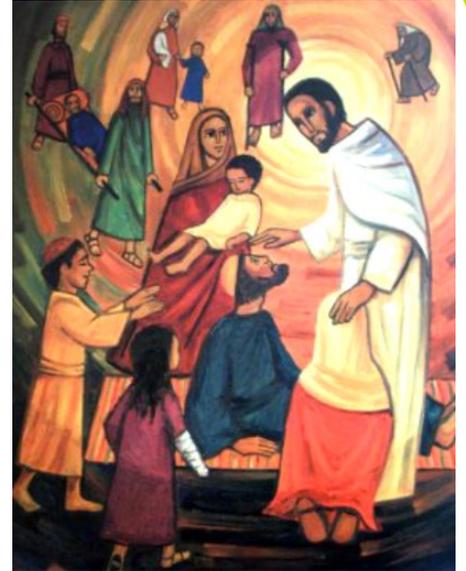
Newsletter

7th February 2021

My dear friends

The Gospel for this Sunday (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time) is from the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, verses 29-39. We learn more about Jesus' ministry of preaching and healing of all who were sick or tormented in any way.

There is a lot of activity in this short Gospel. Jesus is having a busy day! He leaves the synagogue (did he lead a service or preach?), he goes to the house of Simon and Andrew and heals Simon's mother-in-law. In the evening he heals all the sick and the tormented. He gets up early in the morning to pray and even then, he is interrupted by the disciples because people are looking for him, Yes, indeed, a busy day!



Jesus changes lives. He changed the lives of many people whose lives and spirits were broken- they were healed of sickness, both physical, spiritual, and psychological. I think in this Gospel, as in the one from last week, we can really see the compassionate heart of Jesus. Everything that he does flows from that compassion. He has come to bring healing and wholeness to all those who ask for his help. No one is turned away because everybody is precious to Jesus.

The Church continues this precious ministry of healing today, through praying for the sick, caring for the sick, and especially in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Church continues this precious care for those who are sick, ill, dying, wounded, or broken in any way.

The 11th of February is always celebrated as the World Day of the Sick. This beautiful initiative was started by Pope John Paul II in 1993 as a way for us all to remember those who are ill, to pray fervently for them and also to pray for their caregivers.



As you will all know, the 11th of February is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling the 18 apparitions that our Blessed Mother Mary made to Bernadette, beginning on 11th February 1858 and ending on 16th July. It is not by chance that this date was chosen as the World Day of the Sick. In Lourdes we see the continuation of Jesus healing ministry, now performed through the intercession of his Blessed Mother. I know that many of you will have been to Lourdes. I had the privilege of going on pilgrimage in 2019. It was such a moving experience to see so many people praying to our dear Mother Mary. I will never forget my stay there. In total over 5000 cures have been recorded and about 70 of those declared miraculous by the Church. But there are many thousands more which have never been written down. In fact, it is said that everyone who comes to Lourdes is touched in some way by the healing love of Jesus.

I would like to encourage all of us to join with the whole church on Thursday 11th in praying very specially for all those who are suffering from any kind of illness. Let us have a special thought for all who suffer from the ravages of the corona virus, those who are ill in hospital and those who are slowly recovering at home. Let us also remember all those who care for the sick. Doctors, nurses, health care workers and the unseen carers, who look after members of their families at home.

Pope Francis has written a beautiful and meaningful message for this day. If you would like to read it all, please follow the link. http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco_20201220_giornata-malato.html



I just include this quote: *'Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.'*

Let us remember that prayer is such an important way of showing our care for the sick. When we take some time each day to pray, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospel stories tell us that Jesus often went to a quiet place to pray. He needed to be in touch with his Father. He needed that time of peace and quiet to be ready to meet the demands of his mission.

Let us also take some time each day just to place ourselves in the loving, gentle, and safe hands of our Friend who loves us and cares so much for us. More than ever, in these testing times of the pandemic, we need to draw strength and courage from the knowledge that we are loved and cherished.

Have a lovely week. Please stay safe and well.

Fr Lijo

Weekly Notices

Times of Sunday masses: Due to the lockdown and the reduced numbers coming to mass at the weekend, for the time being the 8.00am mass will be suspended. This means that the times of our weekend masses will be as follows. **Saturday 6.30 pm** **Sunday 9.30 am.**

I am sure we are all longing for the time when things can return to normal. In the meantime, let us support each other by our prayer and our concern.

Coffee and Company: If you would like an opportunity to catch up with fellow parishioners whilst enjoying a coffee, follow the link below on Tuesday February 9th at 10.30am. Meeting ID: 717 9804 7271

Passcode: Gf30pY Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71798047271?pwd=eWcrMzZoY0tkWHdMcHBwQ2dCMzhhQT09>

Parish Diary: Copies of the 2021 Parish Diary are available in the narthex. If you would like a copy please ask one of the stewards.

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark: This year we read the Gospel of Mark most Sundays. Fr Matt Blake OCD, who until recently was based at St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross, will give a general introduction to Mark's Gospel to help us enter more deeply into the extract we hear each Sunday. He will look at the overall structure of the Gospel and some of its principal themes. The talks will be on Live Stream and YouTube. www.carmelitechurch.org. YouTube "Kensington Carmelite Church". Dates are Wednesdays 20, 27 January and 3, 10 February at 10.00 am and repeated at 8.00 pm. The talk from 20 January is available to view online. Details via the website.

Climbing the Holy Mountain of Easter: *'The annual Lenten season is the fitting time to climb the Holy mountain of Easter'* Paschale Solemnitatis #6 1988. Would you like an opportunity to share and reflect on the Sunday readings during Lent as a way of preparing to celebrate Holy Week and the Easter Triduum more meaningfully? We will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays 17 and 24 February, and 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March to look together at the readings for the following Lenten Sunday. If you would like more information, and to join the group, please email Liz Clark on liz.clark4@btopenworld.com

Princes Risborough Food Cupboard: Thank you all so much for your generous donations. Donations may be made to St Mary's Church Bell Tower, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, or in the trolley at the entrance to Tesco's at any time they're open.

Things we could do with more of: Tins of peas (garden, not mushy or marrowfat), Tins of sweetcorn, Tins of other vegetables, Tins of soup, Tins of meat, Meat pies (tins), Tins of fish, Tins or jars of pasta sauce or curry sauce, Packets of rice, Tins of fruit, Tins of rice pudding, Tins or cartons of custard, Long-life dairy milk (UHT), Packets of cereal, Jars or packets of coffee, Jars of jam, Packets of biscuits, Fruit squash, Dog food, Cat food, Toothpaste, Shower gel, Used carrier bags (we recycle them).

The Presbytery: New Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 0JN. Tel: 01844 345578
E-mail: presbytery@st-teresas.org.uk Website: www.st-teresas.org.uk
Parish Priest: Fr. Lijo Jose MSFS Deacon: Sean Duffy (343705)
Safeguarding Representative - Phil Hughes (345006)

F I F T H S U N D A Y O F T H E Y E A R

Saturday 6th February	6: 30 pm	Celine Doody, RIP.	
Sunday 7th February	9: 30 am	Stan Elcock, RIP.	
Monday 8th February	Private Mass	Deacon Sean, Int.	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Tuesday 9th February	Private Mass	The People of the Parish	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Wednesday 10th February	10: 00 am	St Scholastica Retreat, Int.	St Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday 11th February	Private Mass	Ryan Ninan, RIP.	Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday 12th February	Private Mass	Evelyn Scott-Jackson, RIP.	Weekday of Ordinary Time

MASS BOOKINGS for Wed 10th and Sat/Sun 13th/14th February 2021

Please: Do wear Masks – Do not come if shielding, symptomatic or self-isolating.

Please think carefully –

about your own vulnerability – and that of others around you – before deciding whether to come. At this time, there is no obligation to attend.

For each booking, we need: **Names**, which **Mass**, number of **Seats** and **PHONE** number

10am Mass on Wednesday 10th February

Booking: opens: 9am on Saturday 6th January

: closes: 9am on Tuesday 9th February

Confirmation: by 6pm on Tuesday 9th February

Email: stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

Masses at 6.30pm, Saturday 13th and 9.30am, Sunday 14th February

****N.B. No 8am Mass on Sunday 14th February****

Booking: opens 9am Monday 8th February

: closes 9am Friday 12th February

Confirmation: by 6pm on Friday 12th February

Email: stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301374 (or answerphone)