



# ST TERESA'S

## Newsletter

**31st January 2021**

My dear friends

The overwhelmingly sad news of more than 100, 000 lives lost to the Coronavirus is utterly devastating. In fact, Great Britain now has the highest coronavirus death rate in the world. Cardinal Nichols wrote on his Twitter page on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, ***"A day of great sadness all over the land. So many people, families, communities, remembering those who have died in these terrible months of the pandemic. Each one is mourned. Each one is to be prayed for. This is our instinct, our faith, our practice."*** He also tweeted, ***"Our prayer is rooted in the faith that in death life is changed, not ended, for the promise of eternal life opens the door of hope even in our darkest moments. I pray for each & everyone, those who have died, those who mourn, those who serve. Please, please join me in that prayer."***

I urge all of you to make some time this week to join Cardinal Nichols in prayer for those who have died, those who mourn and those who serve. And let us pray that our own faith may keep strong and continue to help us live through these testing times.

This week is the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time. Our Gospel comes from Mark 1: 21-28. (Incidentally if you are interested in learning more about Mark's gospel, please see the notice which follows this reflection). The first chapter of Mark's Gospel shows us a typical day in the life of Jesus. Sunday's Gospel is the story of the healing of the man possessed by an unclean spirit. I suppose if you are like me, you know this story so well. But let us take some time today to look at it-perhaps from another aspect. Let us allow this Good News to change us. I quote from Pope Francis: '*Always remember that the Gospel has the power to change lives! Do not forget this. It is the Good News, which transforms us only when we allow ourselves to be transformed by it.*' (Angelus, St Peter's Square: February 2015).

The first thing to notice is the way Jesus speaks- with so much authority. He speaks so well that everybody is astounded when they listen to him. Where does that authority come from? For me, his authority comes from his tremendous gentleness, kindness, and compassion. He does not need to shout or lord it over people. He simply speaks from who he is- Emmanuel, God is with us, the one who is 'nearest to the Father's heart' (Jn 1).

When he heals the man possessed by an unclean spirit, Jesus shows he has power over evil. But of course, we need to remember that the Gospels were written in a prescientific age- all illnesses at that time were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. We understand things very differently today. I do not think we should get too hung up on what exactly is meant by being possessed by an unclean spirit. If we do, we



might miss the very beautiful meaning of this story. To say that Jesus has authority over all things really means he can transform our lives and set us free from the sin that binds us or from everything that hurts us, from everything that causes us to feel broken and desperate and not our true self.

If we look at the man who is shouting at Jesus, we see he is really alienated from himself. We do not know why that is. What hurts has he suffered in the past? What kind of life has he had? He shouts out at Jesus. '*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: The Holy One of God.*' I wonder if the man senses the wide gap between his life and Jesus. I think he represents anyone who has ever experienced the brokenness of life. All of us, perhaps? In whatever way it happened, Jesus makes the man into a 'person with a clean spirit'. He heals the separation and the brokenness of this man's life. He becomes whole again.

Let us all entrust ourselves once again to the most Sacred, Compassionate and Loving Heart of Jesus, to the Heart that loves each one of us so much. We can be certain that if we allow him, he will transform us and heal us and give us the strength and the courage to carry on. Let us ask him to heal our brokenness, whatever that might be. Let us ask him to make us whole again.



I want to quote once more from Pope Francis: 'Jesus imparts to us all the light that illuminates the sometimes dark paths of our lives. He also transmits to us the necessary strength to overcome difficulties, trials, and temptations. Let us consider what a great grace it is for us to have known this God who is so powerful and so good! A teacher and a friend who shows us the path and takes care of us especially when we are in need'. (Angelus, St Peter's Square: January 2018).

Yes, Jesus is our truest and closest friend who is looking after us. What a beautiful and precious gift. I encourage you to spend some time reading this lovely gospel. Allow yourselves to be touched and transformed by Jesus.

I do hope you all have a good week. Please keep safe and well. I continue to hold all of you in prayer.

May God bless you.

Fr Lijo

## W e e k l y   N o t i c e s

**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.

**Please Pray** for the repose of the souls of two parishioners who have recently died.

Evelyn Scott-Jackson who died on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Stanislaus Michael Elcock who died on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

May the Lord receive them both into his eternal Kingdom of light, joy and peace and may their families and friends find comfort in the knowledge that their loved one are enjoying eternal rest.

**Coffee and Company;** To chat to other parishioners over a cup of coffee just follow the link below on Tuesday February 2nd at 10.30am. Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 786 3064 8515

Passcode: MXKJ6v

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78630648515?pwd=MWdmakNkUUQ1Sk5rRmxORFFvNG1Mdz09>

**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.

**Monthly Development Scheme:** Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to run our Monthly Development Scheme for the year 2021 - 22. I know many of you will be disappointed but thank you for understanding but it is just not possible in the present situation.

**Development Draw:** Congratulations to the winners of our January Draw 2021. 1st prize goes to Marie Leith and 2nd prize to Richard Dalton. Cheques are in the post.

**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](http://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](mailto:liz.clark4@btopenworld.com)

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

Saturday 30th January	6: 30 pm	Cahill Daly, Int.
Sunday 31st January	9: 30 am	Martin Champion, RIP.
Monday 1st February	<b>Private Mass</b>	Jane McMullan, RIP. Weekday of Ordinary Time
Tuesday 2nd February	<b>Private Mass</b>	The Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday 3rd February	10: 00 am	Celine Doody, RIP. Weekday of Ordinary Time
Thursday 4th February	<b>Private Mass</b>	The People of the Parish Weekday of Ordinary Time
Friday 5th February	<b>Private Mass</b>	Mary Butler, FM St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

**MASS BOOKINGS for Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Booking:** opens: 9am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January

: **closes:** 9am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Email:** [stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

**Masses at 6.30pm, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and 9.30am, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**\*\*N.B. No 8am Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February\*\***

**Booking:** opens 9am Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February

: **closes** 9am Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Email:** [stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301374 (or answerphone)