



ST TERESA'S

Newsletter

21st March 2021

My dear Friends

This weekend we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent. I often think that this week is a preparation for Holy Week and certainly the Gospel for this Sunday points us in that direction.

Many people from all over have come to the Temple in Jerusalem for the festival to praise and worship God. Jesus and his disciples are also there in that huge crowd. Some Greeks speak to Philip, *'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.'*

We do not know why they ask this. Perhaps they have heard about Jesus, heard about his miracles, his teaching. Are they simply curious? Do they want to become his disciples? We do not know.

But it is in this context that we need to listen to the reply of Jesus to his disciples. He speaks about his death and the fruit that it will bear. *'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.'*

He is also very clear on what it will take to become a disciple. *'Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too...'*

In other words, we must let go of our ideas and our plans and place ourselves in the hands of God and allow him to take hold of us and lead us and guide us. We can only understand this in the light of the death of Jesus. Because this is the road he took. He is the grain of wheat which falls into the ground and dies. The seed buried in the cold, damp darkness of earth breaks apart, disintegrates and from this disintegration comes new life. Jesus surrendered completely to the Father's love by obediently laying down his human life for us. Jesus will undergo intense suffering, physical disintegration, death and burial so as to bring forth the new life of the resurrection.

In our lives we die many many 'little' deaths-the loss of loved ones, relationships breaking down, loss of our jobs, the loss of our health, lost opportunities. These are very painful to live through- but if like Jesus we surrender ourselves completely into the Father's love we will be able to face these deaths, holding on to the hand of Jesus, knowing that he understands our pain and distress and knowing that he too underwent suffering and death. These little deaths prepare us for our final death, when as Jesus did, we will place everything into the Father's hands and walk into our eternal life, where we will be at last enfolded in that wonderful love forever.

Dear friends, please do stay safe and well. Be assured of my thoughts and prayers as we spend this week preparing ourselves to celebrate the most sacred week of the year-Holy Week. May God bless you all.

Fr Lijo

W e e k l y N o t i c e s

Mass Times: Please note: On Palm Sunday 28th March and Easter Sunday 4th April, there will be two Sunday Morning masses. 8.00 am and 9.30 am.

Services for Holy Week: I have attached to this newsletter all the times for our services during Holy Week. You will have to book your place as usual. Can I encourage you to book as early as possible since places are limited due to the lockdown restrictions.

The services have to be adapted in order to comply with government regulations. I have explained the changes briefly on the attachment.

Preparing Our Church for Easter. Volunteers needed! Can you spare some of your time to help with a socially distanced church cleaning session during Holy Week?

Tuesday, 30th March at 10.00am. Even if it's just for half an hour, many hands make light work!

Coffee and Company: If you would like to chat and catch up with other parishioners just follow the link below on Tuesday March 23rd at 10.30am. Join Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 750 2302 5913 Passcode: ZhPze5
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75023025913?pwd=ZS9lem16RmFhc2NMZFJlZ0hmQ0FaUT09>

Weekly Giving Envelopes – Please collect your envelopes for the next twelve months from the narthex. Many thanks for your continued support. If you would like to join the scheme, please contact the parish office to request a box of envelopes and, if required, a Gift Aid Declaration form.

Our Parish CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day: Many thanks to those who have already responded to CAFOD'S Family Fast Day Lent Appeal by taking home an envelope or donating on line directly. Envelopes can be returned at any of the weekend masses or posted through the presbytery door. If you were unable to pick up an envelope last weekend, please consider donating at cafod.org.uk/lent, or place your donation in a plain, sealed envelope with **CAFOD Lent Appeal** clearly written on the outside, and return as detailed above.

Prayer Resources for Lent: It is still not too late to join the online course Pathways of Prayer for Lent 2021, run by the Pastoral Ministry Office of our Diocese. Please use the following link; <http://formationpathways.co.uk>

Climbing the Holy Mountain of Easter: 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 starting this Ash Wednesday 17 February, and continuing Wednesday 24 February, and 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March. If you are interested in joining the group, please email Liz Clark on liz.clark4@btopenworld.com

Providing A Helping Hand: "Finding God: Faith and Mental Health". Drawing on both the ancient teachings of the Church and modern research, Fr Billy Swan discusses ten ways Christian faith can support good

mental health and wellbeing. Cost £3.50 from CTS books. The bookshop is happy to post books to customers. Their contact number is 02078 341363. Or why not browse their website? <https://www.ctsbooks.org/>

Friends of the Holy Land: This is an opportunity to provide support to vulnerable Christians within the Holy Land! “Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land – Poems and Reflections for Lent and Easter” is an imaginative way to follow Jesus on his final days leading to his Passion, Death and Resurrection, which also connect Our Lord with those of the Christian minority still witnessing to Christ in the Holy Land today. Please visit www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk for more information about this publication. Your help will go towards supporting the work of the Friends.

Would you like to learn more about your faith? Consider joining online to follow the **Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies** or **Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies**. Both courses offer the same eight modules in Scripture and Catholic Theology with the CCRS leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Those who follow the CCRS/DCRS say they gain a great deal from the course, deepening their knowledge and understanding of their faith. To find out more about the course, contact Steve O’Brien. Email obrien@nores.org.uk or for an application form contact Ann Collon. Email: admin@nores.org.uk or visit our website www.nores.org.uk/AdultEducationCCRS

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 fish, Tins of tomatoes, Tins or jars of pasta sauce or curry sauce, Tins of fruit, Tins of rice pudding, Tins or cartons of custard, Long-life dairy milk (UHT), Jars or packets of coffee, Packets of biscuits, Fruit squash

F I F T H S U N D A Y O F L E N T			
Saturday 20 th March	6: 30 pm	Tom Slattery, RIP.	
Sunday 21 st March	9: 30 am	Eileen Russell, Int.	
Monday 22 nd March	Private Mass	Jack McGuinness, FM	Weekday of Lent
Tuesday 23 rd March	Private Mass	The People of the Parish	Weekday of Lent
Wednesday 24 th March	10: 00 am	May Campbell, RIP.	Weekday of Lent
Thursday 25 th March	Private Mass	Bertram & Jessie Mitford, FM	The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday 26 th March	Private Mass	Albert Ward, FM	Weekday of Lent

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)