

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 7 APRIL – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) p259

8.00am Mass: Ann and Eamon McCluskey RIP
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am Mass: For the People of the Parish
3.00pm Divine Mercy Sunday devotions
6.00pm Mass: Gloria Salonga RIP

Mon 8th THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – Solemnity

9.00 am Rosary
9.30 am Mass: Private Intention

Tues 9th NO MASS TODAY

Wed 10th NO MASS TODAY

Thur 11th 10.30am FUNERAL MASS: Natalina Cura RIP

Friday 12th Feria

9.00 am Rosary
9.30 am Mass – Private Intention

Sat 13th 9.00am Mass – Private Intention
9.30am Holy Hour, Exposition, Benediction.

SUNDAY 14 APRIL – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) p262

8.00am Mass: Myrtle, Ernest and Andrew Frith (RIP)
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am Mass: For the People of the Parish
6.00pm Mass: Leslie Walker RIP

Holy Places of Palestine Collection

£134.00 (£57.00 Gift Aided envelopes, £30.00 Gift Aided DONA Machine, and £47.00 cash)

Tea and coffee are served every Sunday in the hall after 10am Mass. All welcome.

The Parish Office is normally open on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from **10am until 12noon**. All Parish Hall bookings should be made during these times.

Mass Intentions if you would like Mass to be offered please write clearly and complete a brown Mass Intention Envelope. **For Anniversary Masses, with a particular date, please give at least eight weeks' notice to avoid disappointment.**

Kingston Hospital If you are admitted to Kingston Hospital, it is your responsibility to inform the ward staff if you would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. If you are calling on behalf of a patient in the Hospital please call the Hospital Main Switchboard on 020 8546 7711 who will contact the Chaplain.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS–Tammy Finan and Steve Kearney E-mail: chessingtonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Readers 7th Apr 8am: Alberto Ravano

10am: Pauline Holman

6pm: Paul Johnston

Readers 14th Apr 8am: Mark Murphy

10am: Alex Duval

6pm: Frances Harryman

Counters 7th Apr Karen and Peter

Cleaners w/c 7th Apr

Jozwicki Group

CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME ON FRIDAY 12 APRIL AT 6.15 pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES RESUME AT THE 10 am MASS NEXT SUNDAY 14 APRIL

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION WE MUST LIVE THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE - BE A PRACTISING CATHOLIC CHERISH THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism – please speak to Fr Peter before fixing a baptismal date and reception venue.

Sacrament of the Eucharist – see above, Mass times
Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance

Confessions: Sundays 9.15am-9.45am, Saturdays 9.45 am -10.15 am during Holy Hour, Thursdays 10.15 am – 10.45 am, and after weekday Mass or by appointment.

Sacrament of Confirmation – annual course for baptised young Catholics – please apply to Fr Peter

Sacrament of Marriage – please speak to Fr Peter at least six months before the proposed wedding date.

Sacrament of Healing – It is our duty to call a priest to anoint family members in failing health. Please try to give notice if at all possible and don't leave it to the last minute. It brings consolation to the dying as well as healing to the sick. It can be administered at church, in hospital, care home, at home, indeed anywhere. Make sure you are anointed before an operation with general anaesthetic.

Sacrament of Ordination and consecration to the sacred Priesthood and Religious life – please speak to Fr Peter who will connect you with our vocations director.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK especially Cindy Albright, Patrick Beglane, Joyce Crooks, Tyler Curniffe, Louise Dovey, Delia Gallagher, Eileen Gathercole, Marie Gilbert & Family, Paul Jarvis, David Jordan, Solomon Justin, Georgia Kelly, Paul Kwan, Teresa McDonald, Sally McKenna, Jimmy Murphy, Pauline Murphy, Ryan O'Loughlin, Mark Peace, Jean Penycate, Kathy Richardson, Debbie Ruberg-Smith, Chloe Sheead, Mary Sheehan, Anne Srivastava, and residents of Amy Woodgate Home.

YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS BY CARD AND THESE CAN BE GIFT AIDED

We have a new machine called **DONA** in the entrance hall to enable donations to be made by debit or credit card. Just tap on the screen to reveal the donation categories (e.g. Offertory, Second Collection, Clergy Support Fund etc).

These donations can be Gift Aided as one offs, which is a great facility. This enables the parish to take an additional 25% of your offering from the tax office. Please do learn how to use this machine. Many of us these days have got used to using our credit and debit cards and carry very little cash around with us.

A VERY HAPPY EASTER SEASON IN THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS - HE IS RISEN, HE IS TRULY RISEN!

My dear brothers and sisters - I thank you sincerely for your generous Easter Offering to me. That is so kind. I would like to thank the large number of people who were involved in the Holy Week ceremonies in various ways. Many of you worked hard behind the scenes to prepare for each service. The dedication and endurance of our young altar servers was wonderful to see. I was particularly moved to see how they worked together to present the Crucifix to the people during the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday. The enthusiasm of our developing choir, now fully supported and led by our young organist Max Knight from Richard Challoner school, was inspiring. It has enabled us to re-introduce the beautiful and moving *Missa de Angelis* in our liturgy. Our readers were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Thank you to the money-collectors, welcomers and those who clean the church. I thank also those who attended the *Walk of Witness* and prepared refreshments to welcome our brothers and sisters from the Methodist and Anglican Churches in Chessington and Hook. And the flower arrangements provided by one family were quite spectacular. Above all, thank you for the spirit of joy and happiness you exhibited to one another and to me. May the Risen Christ spur us on to be true witnesses.

IMPORTANT! ST CATHERINE OF SIENA IS HOSTING A DIOCESAN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SATURDAY 27 APRIL 10.30 am to 3.00 pm

I am delighted to say that the Episcopal Vicar Gerard Bradley has offered to lead a day of reflection here in our parish for all readers and eucharistic ministers in the western end of the Archdiocese. **I ask them to tell me if they are attending, for catering purposes, and I ask for volunteers to help** with the organisation of the day, especially to help lay out lunch and clean up afterwards. With my thanks.

TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY HOLY HOUR

7 APRIL 2024 AT 3 PM
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Divine Mercy Devotions
Confessions
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
3.45 pm – 4 pm



FUNERALS

Thursday 11 April, 10.30 at St Catherine of Siena
Natalina Cura
Wednesday 24 April, 10.00 am at St Clements Catholic Church, Ewell.
John Stratford
Friday 26 April, 2 pm, St Catherine of Siena
Milan Hrabec
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen.

THE RESURRECTION IS A HISTORICAL FACT

The scriptural passages in this Easter Season tell us of the early appearances of Jesus risen from the dead. The Scriptures tell us that women were the first messengers of Christ's resurrection to the Apostles (CCC 641 ff). Crucially, the Apostles did not believe the women. Some people then and now say that the Apostles and all the disciples, male and female, had been so traumatised by the crucifixion of Christ (and their feelings of guilt at their lack of courage in scattering and denying Christ) that through post-traumatic stress and hysteria they jumped at the idea that Christ had risen from the dead. But Scripture contradicts this view. **The Resurrection was not an idea. It was fact witnessed by hundreds.** Moreover, the Apostles needed a lot of persuading to believe that Christ had risen from the dead. These were solid, down-to-earth and trustworthy men who, though traumatised, had healthy doubts about the very possibility of resurrection, even though they had been told several times by Jesus that he would rise from the dead, and even though they had witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Initially the Apostles did not believe the women's eye witness account of the risen Christ and rejected it as an "idle tale." Even when Christ first appeared to them, we are told in the Gospels that they thought they had seen a ghost. Christ reassures them and asks them to touch him. In Luke's Gospel he even asked for something to eat and they gave him broiled fish which he ate. But he also rebukes them for their unbelief in Mark's Gospel and for failing to heed what he had been telling them several times as they accompanied him on his mission. We hear how Jesus then opened their minds to the Old Testament Scriptures, that they had to be fulfilled, that the Christ must suffer terribly and die before then rising from the dead on the third day. Christ's body was truly physical though no longer earthly. He could pass through locked doors, disappear at will and defy time and space and the laws of nature (CCC 646, 659).

A RESURRECTION FULL OF PEACE, LOVE, MERCY

In today's reading from John's Gospel the risen Jesus shows the Apostles his wounds and his first words are **"Peace be with you."** **This is a calm, merciful and peaceful resurrection with the very special peace of Christ.** Pope Benedict explains, "the wounds of the risen and glorious Lord are the permanent sign of God's merciful love for humanity. From them flows a spiritual light that enlightens consciences and pours into hearts comfort and hope." The Apostles' encounter with the risen Christ exuded **love, hope, forgiveness and mercy** – and great **patience** as he later appeared to Thomas who said he would not believe until he had felt the physical wounds of Christ – Then he declared: **"My Lord and my God."** **Do we feel Christ's physical wounds?**