



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 21st July 2019 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 4

The One Thing Necessary

We have another familiar Gospel this week – the story of Martha and Mary. Mary sits at Our Lord's feet while Martha is running around being busy. This is often interpreted as a call for a proper balance between prayer and work - the Church needs Marthas and Marys. But this seems to miss the point. At the end of the passage, Our Lord doesn't say to Martha, "You do your thing and let Mary do hers." Rather He says, "*Only one thing is needed and Mary has chosen the better part.*" In other words, **prayer must be an absolute priority.**

People sometimes say, "I work hard, I don't harm anyone, I'm a good person, but I don't pray." But Our Lord never said, "Work always", but He did say, "*Pray always.*"

This Gospel gives us a good portrait of prayer. It isn't where we do all the talking – we also have to *listen*. It's like a conversation. Just as Mary sat at Our Lord's feet listening to Him, we have to learn to do the same. *Lectio divina* can be a good way of doing this, where we read a text of Scripture slowly and ponder it. Then listen to what the Lord may be whispering to us. What does your conscience tell you? God often speaks to us through our conscience. Or if you get a good idea, don't run off and do it immediately. First ask God what He thinks about it. Sometimes we tend to rush into things and then blame God when it goes wrong. Maybe He didn't want you to do it in the first place?

A steady number of people come to **Adoration** on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11am, but it would be encouraging to see more. **Time spent in prayer is never wasted.** Even if you get distracted or bored, God's grace is still working in you. Committing to a short regular time of Adoration can change your life. The church is open most of the day. In the four years I've been here, many (some of whom are not even Catholic) have told me how prayer in St Mary's before the tabernacle gives them peace of soul. Temptations become easier to resist and there are many other blessings besides. Just as you can't be exposed to the sun without receiving its rays, neither can you come to JESUS exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of His grace, His love and His peace. Make this a priority in your life. Come to Adoration. *Venite adoremus!*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	20 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	21 st	<u>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	22 nd	9.15am	St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
Tues	23 rd	9.15am	St Bridget of Sweden (Feast)
Weds	24 th	9.15am	St Charbel
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	25 th	9.15am	St James, Apostle (Feast)
Fri	26 th	9.15am	Sts Joachim and Anne, Parents of Our Lady (memoria)
Sat	27 th	9.15am	Saturday Mass of Our Lady
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	28 th	<u>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon	22 nd	11.30am-1.00pm	Grub Club Activities – Hall
Tues	23 rd	6.45-7.15pm	The Rosary – Church
Weds	24 th	7.30pm	UCM – Library
Thurs	25 th	11.30am-1.00pm	Grub Club Activities – Hall

NB: Due to the new government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

GRUB CLUB got off to a great start this week. The first week was quiet last year but this week we have served about 90 meals and welcomed some new families. The activities were very well received, we had football coaching going on in the playground, beginners' ballet in the Parish Hall – which even the adults took part in. There were lots of board and floor games going on. The craft-led activities consisted of jellyfish suncatchers and paper bracelets. Painting was very popular, with some wonderful works of art which we put up in our art gallery. But most of all there was a great atmosphere, the children made new friends, learnt new skills, and went home with a smile. We have started to distribute coats too.

THE WEEKEND MASS ROTAS for the period August to November are now available to collect from the back of the church.

OPEN GARDEN ON BEHALF OF UCM at the home of Dorothy and Terry Hutchings on **Sunday 28th July**, 1.00-6.00pm. Sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, teas and coffees or an optional glass of champagne will be served. All money raised will be donated to Kwediboma.

KWEDIBOMA HEALTH CENTRE: Many thanks to everyone who took part in the UCM pilgrimage to Walsingham for the donation of £200 for the Kwediboma Health Centre. The money will be used to help to build the new Maternity Ward.

KNEELERS: The centre aisle kneelers are being refurbished and will be returned on Monday. *Fr Paul*

THE FAMILY OF REGINA WOJCIECHOWSKA would like to thank St Mary's for their support and prayers. *Wieslaw, Aleksandria and Urszla*

ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST: The Summer issue of the Trust's newsletter is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died: Mary Wright **May she rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Guilemena Pizzolon, Lily Rigley, Betty Rowan, Philip Cimelli, Peter Pascall, Amelia Michalski, Roy Rowbottom, Kathleen Callan and Norman Denton

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

FROM THE SAINTS: “Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of JESUS in Eucharistic Adoration in order that our love may be complete” (*Pope St John Paul II, 1978-2005*).

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: The next Vespers and Benediction will be on **Sunday 28th July** at 6pm. *Fr Paul*

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY falls on **Thursday 15th August** and is a Holyday of Obligation, which means all Catholics are bound to attend Mass unless a *serious* reason prevents you from doing so. This is an advance reminder! Masses will be at 9.15am and 7pm. *Fr Paul*

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Saturday 27th July** at 3pm - Lectio Divina and Mercy Chaplet. The next event will be **14th September** - With God in My Life: Invitation, Mission, Gratitude, presented by Rev Seamus O’Looskan. Tel: 01509 813078, email rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com.

LAST WEEK’S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 685	Apostleship of the Sea: £172 of which £60 was Gift Aided
Standing Orders: £ 667 @ 30/06	<i>Thank you</i>