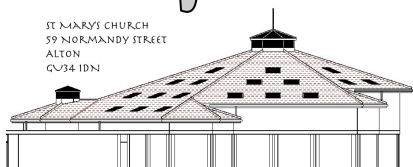


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH
59 NORMANDY STREET
ALTON
GU34 1DN



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Parish Priest - Rev. Peter Hart
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Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell
What3words: masks.scans.dinosaur

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 4th February, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

(Year B) Week 4

Saturday *Our Lady on Saturday*
5.30pm The People of The Parish

Sunday **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Medstead 9.00am Special Intention
St Mary's 11.00am Peggy Hart, RIP

Monday **St Agatha, Martyr**
9.30am Amy & Leonard Gilbert, RIP

Tuesday *Ss. Paul Miki & Companions*
NO MASS

Wednesday *Feria*
9.30am Welfare of Gavin O'Donoghue

Thursday *Feria*
9.30am Special Intention

Friday *Feria*
9.30am Tom Young, RIP

Saturday *St Scholastica, Virgin*
9.30am Special Intention
4.45pm Confessions
5.30pm Bill Wood, RIP

Sunday **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Medstead 9.00am Regina Heal, RIP
St Mary's 11.00am Living & Deceased
Benefactors of St. Mary's (F)

Confessions: By request at any time

Fifth Sunday of The Year

Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Confirmation 2024—Meeting

The first meeting for candidates who wish to join the 2024 Confirmation Group for will take place on Sunday, 18th February following the 11am Mass in the Hall



Fifth Sunday of The Year

4th February, 2024

This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, called the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever.



He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a 40-day period of repentance and renewal leading up to Easter Sunday. During this time, we examine our hearts and strive to imitate the way of Christ through acts of self sacrifice and repentance.

Ash Wednesday, 14th February

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 9.30am and 8.00pm

Stations of the Cross

Each Saturday during Lent, at 5.00pm.

Meeting for First Communion Parents

A meeting to prepare for the First Communion part of the course will be held on Saturday morning in the hall, on **11th February** after the morning Mass

Sycamore Lenten Retreat

Friday Evenings during Lent 7.00-8.30pm
16th; 23rd; 1st & 8th March. Then Tuesday 12th March.
Finally Friday 22nd March

Alton Foodbank

still provides emergency food for individuals and families in need. There is a continuing need for tinned meats, vegetables and fruits, cereals, UHT milk, in fact anything that is not perishable. If you are able to help, then please leave any donations at the back of the church. Thank you.

HOSPITAL STAYS

If you or a relative are admitted to Winchester or Basingstoke Hospitals please ask the Hospital Staff to notify the Chaplain so that you can be visited.

**If we don't know you're there
- visits cannot be arranged.**

Please pray for **Jeanne Abraham, RIP**

who has been called home to God.

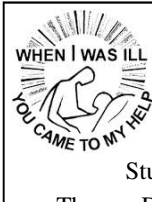
Funeral Service at St. Mary's, 12 noon,

Wednesday, 28th February

And also **Mary Vivian, RIP**

Funeral Service Monday, 12th February, 11.30am

Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord, Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon them May they rest in peace. Amen



Please remember in your prayers

Maria Proli, Sister Terry, Eileen Bowler, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Sheila Payne, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling,

Kate Cradock, Jonathan Wiltshire, Alex Smith, Mary Sturgess, Brenda Gregory, Margaret Collins,

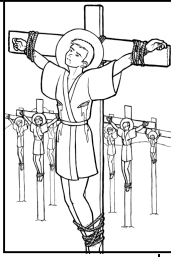
Theresa Davies, The Rogers Family, Flavia Stampa Gruss,

and all in need of God's grace at this time.

Saints of the Week

February 6th The Japanese Martyrs

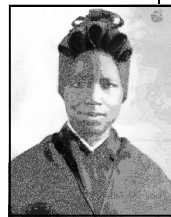
Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to many as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, immediately killing over 37,000 people. Three and a half centuries before, 26 martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Among them were priests, brothers, and laymen, Franciscans, Jesuits, and members of the Secular Franciscan Order; there were catechists, doctors, simple artisans, and servants, old men and innocent children—all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.



Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: "The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain." When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonized in 1862.

February 8th, St Josephine Bakhita

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan. Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.



Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

Reflection: Josephine's body was mutilated by those who enslaved her, but they could not touch her spirit. Her Baptism set her on an eventual path toward asserting her civic freedom and then service to God's people as a Canossian Sister. She who worked under many "masters" was finally happy to address God as "master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her.

From the Catechism of the Church—CCC 1502-1505

Christ the Healer

Christ's compassion toward the sick and his many healings of every kind of infirmity are a resplendent sign that "God has visited his people" and that the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Jesus has the power not only to heal, but also to forgive sins; he has come to heal the whole man, soul and body; he is the physician the sick have need of. His compassion toward all who suffer goes so far that he identifies himself with them: "I was sick and you visited me." His preferential love for the sick has not ceased through the centuries to draw the very special attention of Christians toward all those who suffer in body and soul. It is the source of tireless efforts to comfort them. Often Jesus asks the sick to believe. He makes use of signs to heal: spittle and the laying on of hands, mud and washing. The sick try to touch him, "for power came forth from him and healed them all." And so in the sacraments Christ continues to "touch" us in order to heal us. Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover. On the cross Christ took upon himself the whole weight of evil and took away the "sin of the world," of which illness is only a consequence. By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion."

World Day of Prayer – 2024

This year prepared by the women of **Palestine**
"I beg of you... Bear with one another in love" Eph 4:1-3
St Mary's Catholic Church, Alton
Friday 1st March, 2 pm. All welcome
 (Anybody who would like to help with hosting this event please contact Jo Higgins, 07821 687263)

Teach me dear Lord frequently and attentively to consider this truth: that if I gain the whole world and lose thee, in the end I have lost everything: whereas if I lose the whole world and gain thee, in the end I have lost nothing."

Cardinal Blessed John Henry Newman

Catholic Quotes

Charity unites us to God... There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect. --

Pope St. Clement I

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." -- **St Augustine**

ASPIRATIONS TO MARY

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mary, pray for us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation! Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us! Mother of the Word Incarnate, intercede for us. Mother of God, hear our prayers. Amen

D	E	S	S	E	S	S	O	P	E	SYNAGOGUE	MOTHER	FEVER
K	N	U	C	B	E	D	I	R	R	HAND	SUNSET	POSSESSED
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