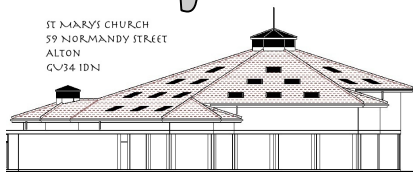


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

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



59, Normandy Street
Alton, Hants
GU34 1DN
Tel: 01420 82030

Parish Priest - Rev. Peter Hart
Parish Deacon—Rev Steve Joseph
Website: www.stmarysalton.co.uk
Email: stmarysalton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell
What-3-words: masks.scans.dinosaur

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 7th April, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

(Year B) Proper

Saturday	5.30pm	Pauline Fell Intention
Sunday		2nd Sunday of Eastertide
Medstead	9.00am	St Lucy Srs intention
St Mary's	11.00am	Amy & Leonard Guilbert, RIP
Monday		ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
	9.30am	Srs of Our Lady of Providence
Tuesday		<i>in Eastertide</i>
		NO MASS
Wednesday		<i>in Eastertide</i>
	9.30am	Leonarda Macaraan, RIP
Thursday		St Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr
	9.30am	Sr Eileen's welfare
Friday		<i>in Eastertide</i>
	9.30am	Sheila & Jack Mather, RIP
Saturday		<i>in Eastertide</i>
	9.30am	The People of the Parish
	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday		3rd SUNDAY of EASTER
Medstead	9.00am	Sheila Joseph, RIP
St Mary's	11.00am	Bernie & Shirley Irvine, RIP

Second Sunday of Easter Year B (Proper)

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Easter Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to the Father reconciled.

Death with life contended;
combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary, say what thou didst see upon the way.

"The tomb the living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!"

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen; he goes before you to Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious Christ, thy mercy show! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'.
Alleluia !

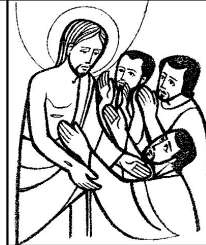
Communion Antiphon:

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

2nd SUNDAY of EASTER

7th April, 2024

After the joys and exuberance of Easter Sunday and Easter Week, we settle down into the longest Season in the Church's Year - **Eastertide**. This period of fifty days is a time of sustained gladness, which comes through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures which describe the risen life



of Jesus - not just his appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, but the teachings from his ministry which reveal the risen life he now possesses. We also spend time hearing about how the Resurrection made a difference: how the timid and frightened disciples were able to leave Jerusalem and boldly proclaim a message of life over death to the whole world, as we read through the book of the Acts of the Apostles. We also linger over the first letter of Saint John, which ties together so many of the themes of Easter: life, faith, baptism, the Spirit - all brought together in the person of the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead. On this second Sunday, we continue to track through "real time", by hearing what happened in Jerusalem on the Sunday after the Resurrection. with the Lord appearing to Thomas - strengthening his faith, and strengthening ours as we listen to the account.

Eight days later, Jesus came.

A Pope's Reflection—2nd Sunday of Easter

Every year in celebrating Easter we relive the experience of the first disciples of Jesus, the experience of the encounter with him risen: the Gospel of John tells that they saw him appear in their midst in the Upper Room on the evening of the very day of the Resurrection, "the first day of the week", and subsequently eight days later. That day, later called "the Lord's Day", was the day of the assembly of the Christian community which gathered for its own devotion, that is, to the Eucharist, a new form of worship which from the outset differed from the Judaic worship of the Sabbath. Indeed, the celebration of the Lord's Day is a very strong proof of Christ's Resurrection, for only an extraordinary and overwhelming event could have induced the first Christians to begin a form of worship that differed with regard to the Jewish Sabbath. Then, as today, Christian worship is not only for us a commemoration of past events nor even a specific, inner mystical experience; rather, it is essentially an encounter with the Risen Lord who lives in the dimension of God beyond time and space, and yet becomes really present amidst the community, speaks to us in the Sacred Scriptures and breaks the bread of eternal life for us. It is through these signs that we relive what the disciples experienced, that is, the event of seeing Jesus and at the same time of not recognizing him; of touching his body, a real body and yet free from earthly bonds. What the Gospel says is very important: namely, that Jesus, in his two appearances to the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room, repeats several times the greeting: "Peace be with you". Here, the traditional greeting with which people wish one another shalom, peace, becomes something new: it becomes the gift of the peace that Jesus alone is able to give because it is the fruit of his radical victory over evil.

The "peace" that Jesus gives to his friends is the fruit of the love of God which led him to die on the cross, to pour out all his blood, as a meek and humble lamb "full of grace and truth. For this reason Bl. John Paul II chose to call this Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy, with a very specific image: that of Jesus' pierced side from which blood and water flowed, according to the account of an eyewitness, the Apostle John. However Jesus is now risen and the paschal Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist flow from him, who is alive: those who receive them with faith receive the gift of eternal life.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us accept the gift of peace which the Risen Jesus offers us, let us allow our hearts to be filled with his mercy! In this way, with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, we too can bring these Easter gifts to others. May Mary Most Holy obtain this for us. Mary Most Holy obtain this for us.

Saint of the Week

April 11th, Saint Stanislaus

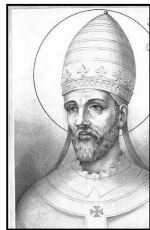
Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government. Born near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072. During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II. The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus then continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands. Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak.



Reflection: Saints John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Thomas More, and Stanislaus are a few of the prophets who dared to denounce corruption in high places. They followed in the footsteps of Jesus himself, who pointed out the moral corruption in the religious leadership of his day. It is a risky business.

April 13th, Saint Martin I, Pope

When Martin I became pope in 649, Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine empire and the patriarch of Constantinople was the most influential Church leader in the eastern Christian world. The struggles that existed within the Church at that time were magnified by the close cooperation between emperor and patriarch. A teaching, which was strongly supported in the Eastern Church, held that Christ had no human will. Twice, emperors had officially come to favour this position. Shortly after assuming the office of the papacy—which he did without first being confirmed by the emperor—Martin held a council at the Lateran in which the imperial documents were censured, and in which the patriarch of Constantinople and two of his predecessors were condemned. In response, the Emperor first tried to turn bishops and people against the pope. Failing in this and in an attempt to kill the pope, he sent troops to Rome to seize Martin and to bring him back to Constantinople. Already in poor health, Pope Martin offered no resistance, and he returned to Constantinople, and was then submitted to various imprisonments, tortures, and hardships. Although condemned to death and with some of the imposed torture already carried out, Martin was saved from execution by the pleas of a repentant Paul, who was then the patriarch of Constantinople, who was himself gravely ill. Tortures and cruel treatment having taken their toll, Martin died shortly thereafter. He is the last of the early popes to be venerated as a martyr.



Reflection: The real significance of the word martyr comes not from the dying but from the witnessing, which the word means in its derivation. People who are willing to give up everything, their most precious possessions, their very lives, put a supreme value on the cause or belief for which they sacrifice. And so Martyrdom, dying for the faith, is an incidental extreme to which some have had to go to manifest their belief in Christ. A living faith, a life that exemplifies Christ's teaching throughout, and that in spite of difficulties, is required of all Christians. Martin refused to cut corners as a way of easing his lot, to make some accommodations with the civil rulers.

CHRIST HAS CONQUERED, CHRIST NOW RULES, CHRIST NOW REIGNS SUPREME.

**Feast of Divine Mercy, St. Peter's Church, Winchester
Sunday, 7th April, 2024 Mass 3pm All Welcome**

Pope's Prayer Intention (April) For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Thank you

For all your Easter gifts and best wishes and your very generous Easter Offerings. Fr Peter

Alton Foodbank

still provides emergency food for individuals and families in need. There is a continuing need for donations of 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 donation in the porch. Thank you.

Please pray for the sweet repose of **Heather Smith**, Canon PJ's Mum who died last week.
*Eternal Rest Give to her O Lord, Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her
May she rest in peace. Amen*

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

An Ancient Easter Prayer

from the **Roman Missal, at the Easter Vigil**
O God of unchangeable power and light eternal, look kindly upon the wonderful mystery of Your Church and by the tranquil operation of Your perpetual providence, carry forward, the work of human salvation and let the whole world feel and see, that things, which were cast down are being raised up, that things which had grown old, are being made new and all things are returning to perfection, through Him, in whom they have their source, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

HE IS RISEN, HE IS NOT HERE

Easter Quotes

"It cost God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things: but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion." —C.S. Lewis,
"The cross will be for us as it was for Christ: proof of the greatest love." —Mother Teresa
"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song." —Pope St John Paul II

Please remember in your prayers



Ann Lowther, 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.

S	A	R	F	I	N	G	N	I	S	EVENING
I	D	E	H	T	A	E	R	B	O	DOORS
G	A	G	U	D	F	E	E	H	S	FEAR
R	N	N	S	O	O	E	D	O	S	PEACE
V	A	I	D	O	R	O	T	L	A	HANDS
E	I	F	N	S	G	S	R	E	M	SIDE
G	C	O	A	E	I	D	I	S	O	BREATHED
R	I	A	H	D	V	E	R	E	H	FORGIVE
O	T	A	E	F	E	E	B	A	T	THOMAS
F	T	S	E	P	S	L	I	A	N	HOLES
										NAILS
										FINGER

