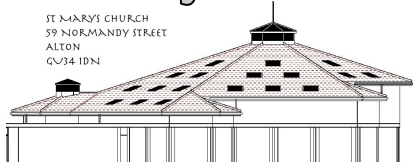


# St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 13th April, 2025

PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of The Lord  
(Year C) Psalter Week 2

<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Lent Feria</i>	
	4.45pm	Stations of The Cross
	5.30pm	Eric & Vicki Kennedy, RIP (MD)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord</b>	
<b>Medstead</b>	9.00am	Intention of The Priest
<b>St Mary's</b>	11.00am	Nelly & Frank Chester, RIP AMM
<b>Monday</b>	<i>of Holy Week</i>	
		NO MASS
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>of Holy Week</i>	
		NO MASS
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>of Holy Week</i>	
	9.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
	10.30am	Funeral Service for Wendy Watson, RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
	8.00pm	Mass of The Lord's Supper Watching until 11pm
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Good Friday</i>	
	10.30am	Stations of The Cross for Children
	3.00pm	Solemn Passion Liturgy
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Holy Saturday</i>	
	10.00am	Polish Blessing of Food Baskets
	8.00pm	Solemn Easter Vigil
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord</b>	
<b>Medstead</b>	9.00am	Intention of The Priest
<b>St Mary's</b>	11.00am	John McGinty, RIP (MMcG)

*Confessions: By request at any time*



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**13th April, 2025**

On Passion (Palm) Sunday the Gospel dominates the celebration, and, in a sense, its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings,

which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as much more than a simple story. It is THE story of

God achieving salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus

Christ. Thus the immense depth of the Isaiah reading - a personal testimony to suffering - should open our hearts to understand more of the depth of Jesus' sacrifice.

**'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**

Fr. Peter would like to thank everyone who has offered prayers and sent cards .

Following a further 'set-back' he was re-admitted to hospital

On Thursday (10th)

Please continue to keep him in your daily prayers.

## **Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord**

### Entrance Antiphon

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest ! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy ! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory ! Who is this king of glory ? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest ! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy !

### Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me ?

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

### SUNG ACCLAMATION

Jesus the Christ, obe-d-i-ent for us,  
Humbl-ed himself to death upon a Cross.  
Wherefore God raised him giving him a name  
more glor-i-ous than any other name.

### Communion Antiphon:

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

## **HOLY SATURDAY BLESSING OF FOOD**

### *Swieconka - Poswiecenie Pokarmow*

"Blessing of Easter Food" on Holy Saturday morning at 10.00am. This is an ancient Polish custom. Information

can be found on:

<http://annhetzelgunkel.com/easter/swiecone.html>

Everyone is welcome.

## **GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION**

The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Land.

Please see special notice over the page

## **EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION**

All donations, including Gift Aid where applicable, given at Masses on Easter Sunday (including the Easter Vigil), other than those by regular standing order, will be used exclusively to support the priest(s) appointed to the parish.

## **LENTEN REFLECTION**

*It is a moving experience each year on Palm Sunday as we go up the mountain with Jesus, towards the Temple, accompanying him on his ascent. But what are we really doing when we join this procession as part of the throng which went up with Jesus to Jerusalem and hailed him as King of Israel? Does it have anything to do with the reality of our life and our world ? To answer this, we must first be clear about what Jesus himself wished to do and actually did.*

*He was journeying towards the Temple in the Holy City, towards that place which for Israel, ensured in a particular way, God's closeness to his people. The ultimate goal of his pilgrimage was the heights of God himself; to those heights he wanted to lift every human being. Our procession today is meant then, to be an image of something deeper, to reflect the fact that, together with Jesus, we are setting out on pilgrimage along the high road that leads to the living God.*

*(Pope Benedict XVI)*

***"Let sacrifice, not convenience,  
Be the measure of your generosity."  
Blessed Pope John Paul II***

## Saints of the week

### 16th April, St. Bernadette Soubirous 1861

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.



There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked scepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmaries and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

**Reflection** Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there. Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand—as we all must do from time to time

### 18th April—Blessed James Oldo

You've heard rags-to-riches stories. Today, we celebrate the reverse.

James of Oldo was born into a well-to-do family near Milan in 1364. He married a woman who like him, appreciated the comforts that came with wealth. But an outbreak of the plague drove James, his wife, and their three children out of their home and into the countryside. Despite those precautions, two of his daughters died from the plague. James determined to use whatever time he had left to build up treasures in heaven and to build God's realm on earth.



He and his wife became Secular Franciscans. James gave up his old lifestyle and did penance for his sins. He cared for a sick priest, who taught him Latin. Upon the death of his wife, James

himself became a priest. His house was transformed into a chapel where small groups of people, many of them fellow Secular Franciscans, came for prayer and support. James focused on caring for the sick and for prisoners of war. He died in 1404 after contracting a disease from one of his patients. James Oldo was beatified in 1933.

**Reflection** :The death of those we love brings a troubling awareness of our own mortality. James had that experience when he gazed into a friend's grave, and it brought him to his senses. He determined to use whatever time he had left to build up treasures in heaven and to build God's realm on earth. Our time is limited, too. We can use it well or foolishly: The choice is ours.

### Thought for the Week

The Easter Triduum holds a special place in the liturgical year and the life of the Church, because it marks the culmination of the yearly celebration in proclaiming the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Triduum officially begins on the evening of Holy Thursday and continues until the evening of Easter Sunday. During this three-day period, the Church celebrates the core of the entire Christian faith.

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, we remember and celebrate the Last Supper, the meal that Jesus shared with His apostles on the night before He was crucified, at which He instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist when He took bread and wine and told His apostles "this is my body" and "this is my blood" and "do this in remembrance of me."

On Good Friday, we are drawn into the most sorrowful of mysteries, the death of Jesus on a Cross. Crucifixion was a painful, shameful way to die, yet Jesus willingly submitted Himself to such suffering on our behalf, to free us from our sins. We mourn as we recall that, in a very real sense, it was our sins that Jesus was crucified for.

Holy Saturday is a day of silence and prayer as the Church prepares for the evening Easter Vigil, the "greatest of all vigils," when the Church recalls the history of salvation, receives new people into the Church, and celebrates the Resurrection of the Lord.

Easter Sunday is the holiest day of the year. It is the day when the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In His resurrection Jesus gave proof of His divinity and opened for us the way to a new life in union with Him.

Sunday, 27th April, 3pm—St. Peter's Church, Winchester  
**Mass for the Feast of The Divine Mercy**  
 All Welcome

Please pray for  
**Brenda Gregory, RIP**  
 who has been called home to God.  
*Eternal Rest Grant unto her, O Lord,  
 Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her  
 May she rest in peace. Amen*

### Requiescat in Pace

Funeral arrangements to be announced when available

### Please remember in your prayers

Mary McGinty, Sheila Payne, Maria Proli, Sister Terry,  
 Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson,  
 Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Alex Smith,  
 Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire, Pauline Duffin, Simon Wilder  
 Mary Sturgess, Brenda Gregory, Margaret C

Theresa Davies, Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert

**MARY, MOTHER OF THE AFFLICTED,  
 PRAY FOR THEM**

