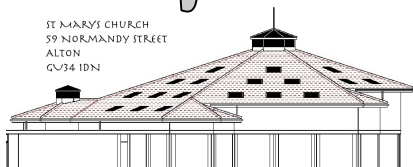


# St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

**Sunday 4th May, 2025**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year C) Psalter Week 3**

<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Ss. Philip &amp; James</i>	
	<b>5.30pm</b>	Mary Gavahan, RIP (CO'D)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>Medstead</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Intention of the Priest
<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Jack & Sheila Mather, RIP(AMM)
<b>Monday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
		NO MASS
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
		NO MASS
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Rosary</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
		NO MASS
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	<b>5.30pm</b>	David Barron, RIP (MC)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>Medstead</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Intention of The Priest
<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Bro. Ralph Loftus, RIP (AMM)
		<i>Confessions: By request at any time</i>

The Baptism of  
Marty James Haddow, Jasper Patrick Haddow  
& Casey Jessica Harman  
will take place following the 11am Mass today, Sunday, 4th May, '25

## 3rd Sunday of Easter

### Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O Sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

### Responsorial Psalm

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, who created all things and has shown compassion on the human race. Alleluia

### Communion Antiphon:

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

## *The Special Collection next week-end,*

### *10th & 11th May is for the Clergy Training Fund.*

The fund supports our Seminarians, including the 11 men currently in formation for the Priesthood—a 6/7 year journey to ordination. To sustain a Seminarian costs around £30,000 per year. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations so your generosity to this collection is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow

## Prayers for the Conclave

"Almighty God, we pray that the conclave brings us a Pope who pleases You, one who guides Your Church to grow in faithfulness to You. We pray together with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints. Please Lord, protect and guide your Church during this time of transition. We ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit upon the cardinals present, Lord, that there may be a renewed Pentecost in your Church. Give them the wisdom, prudence, and fortitude they need to elect whom you have chosen to lead and guide us. May the Cardinals listen attentively to Your Spirit during the conclave. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The rest of the world has settled "back to normal" after Easter holidays now, but we continue to dwell on the resurrection of Jesus and the growth of the Church. Today's Gospel, which many people consider the most beautiful of the resurrection stories, has many themes: the failed fishing trip, the inability of Peter to recognise the risen Jesus, the miracle of the 153 fish and the simple, powerful reassuring words of Jesus to his confused disciples: "Come and have breakfast." We can all find ourselves a place in this Gospel story, as we continue to wonder at the resurrection.



***Jesus came and took the bread and give it to them, and so with the fish?***

*It is the Lord"! (Jn 21:7) This exclamation of the Apostle John emphasises the intense emotion experienced by the disciples on recognizing the risen Jesus, who appeared to them for the third time on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. After a long night of loneliness and toil, the dawn arrives and his appearance radically changes everything: the darkness is overcome by light, the fruitless work becomes an easy and abundant catch of fish, the feeling of tiredness and loneliness is transformed into joy and peace. Since then, these same sentiments enliven the Church. If at a superficial level it sometimes seems that the darkness of evil and the toil of everyday life have the upper hand, the Church knows with certainty that the light of Easter now shines eternally on those who follow Christ. The great message of the Resurrection fills the hearts of the faithful with inner joy and renewed hope.*  
(Blessed Pope John Paul II)

## Minute Meditations

People walked days to hear me preach and in such numbers that I often spoke outdoors. I did not insist on pulpit or shade. I spoke in my clearest, strongest voice, teaching them the word of God and its challenges, encouraging them to be faithful. I would also urge people not to judge by appearances, but it is a great temptation. In considering your undulations, you do well to consider a balance between appearances and inward realities. Do they speak in concert or discord?

Do not look to my life, however—or to the lives of others—but your own. Bring your words and your work to the centre and there you will find Christ who will hold you up as you find the balance.

*from the book A Retreat with Saint Anthony: Finding Our Way by Carol Ann Morrow*

## Saints of the week

### Saint Rose Venerini's—7th May

Rose was born at Viterbo in Italy, the daughter of a doctor. Following the death of her fiancé she entered a convent, but soon returned home to care for her newly widowed mother. Meanwhile, Rose invited the women of the neighborhood to recite the rosary in her home, forming a sort of sodality with them.



As she looked to her future under the spiritual guidance of a Jesuit priest, Rose became convinced that she was called to become a teacher in the world rather than a contemplative nun in a convent. Clearly, she made the right choice: She was a born teacher, and the free school for girls she opened in 1685 was well received. Soon the cardinal invited her to oversee the training of teachers and the administration of schools in his diocese of Montefiascone. As Rose's reputation grew, she was called upon to organize schools in many parts of Italy, including Rome. Her disposition was right for the task as well, for Rose often met considerable opposition but was never deterred.

She died in Rome in 1728, where a number of miracles were attributed to her. She was beatified in 1952 and canonized in 2006. The sodality, or group of women she had invited to prayer, was ultimately given the rank of a religious congregation. Today, the so-called Venerini Sisters can be found in the United States and elsewhere, working among Italian immigrants.

Reflection: Whatever state of life God calls us to, we bring with us an assortment of experiences, interests and gifts—however small they seem to us. Rose's life stands as a reminder that all we are is meant to be put to service wherever we find ourselves.

### Saint John of Avila—May 9

(c. 1500 – May 10, 1569)

Born in the Castile region of Spain, John was sent at the age of 14 to the University of Salamanca to study law. He later moved to Alcala, where he studied philosophy and theology before his ordination as a diocesan priest.



After John's parents died and left him as their sole heir to a considerable fortune, he distributed his money to the poor. In 1527, he travelled to Seville, hoping to become a missionary in Mexico. The archbishop of that city persuaded him to stay and spread the faith in Andalusia. During nine years of work there, he developed a reputation as an engaging preacher, a perceptive spiritual director, and a wise confessor.

Because John was not afraid to denounce vice in high places, he was investigated by the Inquisition but was cleared in 1533. He later worked in Cordoba and then in Granada, where he organized the University of Baeza, the first of several colleges run by diocesan priests who dedicated themselves to teaching and giving spiritual direction to young people.

He was friends with Saints Francis Borgia, Ignatius of Loyola, John of God, John of the Cross, Peter of Alcantara, and Teresa of Avila. John of Avila worked closely with members of the Society of Jesus and helped their growth within Spain and its colonies. John's mystical writings have been translated into several languages.

He was beatified in 1894, canonized in 1970, and declared a doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012.

Reflection: Saint John of Avila knew that the lives of Christians can contradict the Good News of Jesus Christ—for example thinking racism is OK—implicitly encouraging Christians to live their faith half-heartedly, and causing obstacles to non-Christians who might accept Baptism. In 16th-century Spain, those who advocated reforming the Church were often suspected of heresy. Saint John of Avila held his ground and was eventually recognized as a very reliable teacher of the Christian faith.

*'A single 'Blessed be God' in adversity is worth more than a thousand acts of Thanksgiving in prosperity—St. John of Avila.*

**The Month of May** traditionally among Catholics is known as "Mary's Month," a specific month of the year when special devotions are made in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are many different factors that have contributed to this association. In ancient Greece and Rome, the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime. This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of Spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. In some parts of the early Church, there was a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th May, but it was not until the eighteenth century that the month of May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary. According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, "The May devotion in its present form originated at Rome where Fr. Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary. From Rome the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic church of the Latin rite." Various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month when he established the feast of the Queenship of Mary on 31st May. After Vatican II, this feast was moved to 22nd August, but 31st May became instead the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

### The Hail Mary ...

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you*". These are the words that the Angel Gabriel spoke when he brought the message to Mary that she would become the Mother of God's Son. God will become man and that most fabulous salvation event of all time is announced to a simple young girl, Mary.

*"Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb"*.

Those are the words Elizabeth spoke to Mary. After the Angel's message, Mary went to her cousin Elisabeth, who was also pregnant. Elisabeth greets Mary as "the blessed one" because the long-awaited Saviour will be born from her.

*"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death"*. We address Mary by her most significant title "Mother of God", Mary is the Mother of Jesus, Jesus is God. Jesus, the Son of the Divine Father also became Son of us humans through Mary. Thus She received her title "Mother of God".

We call Mary by her most significant title and ourselves in the Hail Mary by our lesser title "sinners". We call on Mary to pray for us. Jesus gave us His Mother as our Mother on the Cross. Jesus told the apostle John on the Cross to represent of all believers: "Behold your mother" To Mary He said, "Behold your son". Then Jesus gave Mary the maternal task of praying for us.

After she fell asleep, Mary was taken up into heaven. We rely on her maternal intercession. Mary's task in Heaven is to pray to God for us and to bring us to Jesus. The two most important moments of our lives are mentioned in that prayer: "*now and at the hour of our death*". In those moments, Mary may intercede especially for us in Heaven: The now is essential, - no one can change the past; we don't know what the future will bring. Now we must make something of it, allow Jesus into our lives and open our hearts to God's Plan for us.

We also ask Mary to pray for us at the hour of our death, in those moments when our bodies fail and we will meet the Lord in death. She may pray for us so that we will not succumb to our choice for Jesus Christ.

*"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen"*

### Prayer Intentions for May—For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized

### Please remember in your prayers

Sr. Joan Henry (St. Lucy's) 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**

