

Parish of Mary, Mother of God, Bradford



Parish Priest: Mgr. Paul Grogan

St Winefride's Presbytery, 54 St Pauls Avenue, Wibsey, Bradford BD6 1ST 01274 677992

The Parish Office is ordinarily open Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 noon.

✉ Office.MaryMotherofGod@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



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🌐 www.marymotherofgod.org.uk



@MMOG2008

Sunday 22nd March 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) (YEAR A)

First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1.6-7 10-13 David is anointed king of Israel.*

Resp Psalm *Ps 22: Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14 Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.*

Gospel *Jn 9:1-41 The blind man went & washed himself & came away with his sight restored.*

Sunday 22nd March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Private Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 23rd March	Private Mass	Arthur Barnett A
Tuesday 24th March	Private Mass	Eric Michael Parkin LD
Wednesday 25th March The ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD SOL	Private Mass	Brendan O'Byrne A
Thursday 26th March	Private Mass	In Thanksgiving, Bentley Fam
Friday 27th March	Private Mass	Parish Dead List
Saturday 28th March	Private Mass	Special Int (Florie Bentley)
Sunday 29th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Private Mass	People of the Parish

Greetings

I hope that you are all safe and I am remembering you all each day in my prayers. I have just been speaking to one parishioner on the phone and he remarked that, once this is all over, we'll all appreciate more keenly how marvellous it is to gather together for Mass. I'm sure he's right. In the meantime, this is a God-given opportunity for us to grow in faith. First of all, we need to mark Sunday properly as the Lord's Day. One way of doing this would be to access the live-streamed Mass which Bishop Marcus will be celebrating this Sunday at 11am at the Cathedral (<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk>). Secondly, as Lent progresses, we need to maintain, indeed to deepen, our life of prayer. There are lots of prayer resources on our parish website (www.marymotherofgod.org.uk). Hard copies of these can be obtained from St Winefride's Church, which is open between 8am and 5pm each day. Thirdly, we need to look after each other. Thanks, in this regard, to the many parishioners who have joined our telephone teams whose members each agree to telephone five vulnerable people each week to check on their welfare. Fourthly, please continue to contribute to the parish financially by placing your donations in envelopes through the presbytery letter-box. Alternatively, please take out a standing order –see below. *Fr Paul*

Standing orders

Our parish has now lost most of its income. Parishioners can no longer congregate on a Sunday and contribute to the collection. And we have had to close our two halls, which have been an important source of revenue. Like many families and firms, we are going to face a tough few months. We need to keep our parish afloat financially. Accordingly, I should appreciate if you would consider **donating by standing order**. To do this, please print off the **Standing Order and Gift Aid Form** on the parish website or collect one from St Winefride's Church porch, and complete it and hand it in at our Parish Office in St Winefride's Presbytery. If you are a taxpayer, please make sure that you complete the **Gift Aid** section so that the parish can claim back 25% from HM Revenue and Customs at no further cost to yourself. Thank you.

Do you require a bit of help? Do you need somebody to do your shopping or to run an errand for you? It looks like the COVID-19 crisis is going to go on for some time and we need to look after each other. Lots of parishioners have been asking for opportunities to assist others through the parish and unless I start giving them jobs they'll grow frustrated. So please phone the Parish Office 01274 677992 and let us know how your brothers and sisters in the parish can assist you!

Thank you to everybody who has enquired about my health and sent me good wishes for a speedy recovery. I fell ill at the end of last week and so I have been in self-isolation since Friday. My symptoms have been easing since then so I fully expect to be able to resume my normal duties—insofar as any of us can at the moment—on Friday morning after the recommended seven-day period has elapsed. Thank you in particular to Breda Blessington who has been looking after me during this period. Breda is a retired nurse who providentially specialised in virology. *Fr Paul*

The Franciscan Friars have had to close the Soup Kitchen because of the virus. So instead they are going to give out soup and sandwiches at the door. With this in mind we now need different things. For the time being could we ask for bread and tins of tuna or salmon. Cleaning and Sanitizing items would also be very useful. Donations of these items will be collected from the porches of both churches from 10am to 11am this Sunday (22nd March) and next Sunday. Queries: Marian: 07890 63 01 01.

Bishop Marcus has issued a **Pastoral Message** for today, Laetare Sunday, and he will read it out at the 11am Mass at Leeds Cathedral. It will be available immediately afterwards on the diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk>

This coming Sunday, 29th March, marks the culmination of **Behold 2020**, the event that celebrates **the re-dedication of England as "The Dowry of Mary"**. This will take place at midday on that day. We can take part in two ways. Firstly, we can make a personal promise. Secondly, we can take part in a communal entrustment. Details: www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/behold-2020.

A Prayer for Help & Healing, Covid-19

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to You today with our fears and concerns. You know what is in our hearts. We love You, we trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us, to stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. We ask You to bring your loving touch and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now from the coronavirus. Please comfort them. Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please be with those who are trying to find a remedy to this pandemic.

Lord, we are afraid and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

(if you have a special intention mention it here)

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal. Amen.

Mary, our Mother, Untier of Knots. Pray for us.

St. Anthony the Great, patron of those affected by infectious diseases. Pray for us.

St. Edmund, patron of the victims of pandemics. Pray for us.

St. Damien of Molokai, who put himself at risk to minister to lepers. Pray for us.

St. Anthony the Great, patron of those affected by infectious diseases. Pray for us!

St. Roch, who prayed for those suffering from infectious diseases. Pray for us.

St. Joseph, patron of the dying. Pray for us.

St. Jude and St. Rita, patrons of impossible causes. Pray for us.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who was dedicated to caring for the sick. Pray for us.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.