

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2019

LAETARE SUNDAY

The First Reading – God is accompanying his people, as they make their way into the Promised Land. Our God is God-with-us, the God who accompanies us.

The Second Reading – Christ is the great Reconciler, the One who works to bring each and every one of us into a new relationship with God our Father.

The Gospel – There are two lost sons in this well-known Gospel passage. One gets lost by leaving his father's house. One stays at home and becomes lost in bitterness and resentment. The father loves both and reaches out to both.

BAPTISM: The April preparation classes will be on Tuesday 2nd & 9th in No.3 Berrymead Gardens, at 7:30pm. The welcoming ceremony will be on Sunday 7th, with the Baptisms taking place on Sunday 28th at 1.15pm.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2019/20: The offertory envelopes are available for collection at back of Church during the weekend masses of 30/31 March, 6/7 April and 13/14 April. Due to New Data Protection Legislation we can no-longer let you pick up your box. A volunteer will ask you for your name and address before giving you your box. Please be patient, it is just something we have to do. Any uncollected envelopes will be stored securely thereafter and can be collected from the parish office by parishioners.

EASTER MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: Music rehearsal for the Good Friday Liturgy will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 16th April.

Music rehearsal for the Easter Vigil will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 17th April.

Contact Anthony Bull: amjbull@yahoo.com for further information.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We desperately need people who can generously give 1 hour of their time each week to help clean the Church Hall. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to volunteer.

RCIA SCRUTINIES: During the 10.30 mass over the next 2 weeks we will be celebrating the scrutinies with 2 RCIA candidates who are preparing for baptism. Please keep them in your prayers.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL is appealing to parents of Year 5 Catholic girls who may be considering applying to take the entrance tests in September 2019. St. Michael's is expanding by an extra 32 places. Priority is going to be given to girls who are 'Pupil Premium'. This means girls who are having, or have had, free school meals because of low income or could be eligible to apply for free school meals. If you think your daughter could be in this category and you would like to find out more about the school and how to apply, the school invites you to attend on Tuesday 14th May at 7pm in the school Hall. *This is a specific evening targeted at support only for families in this category.*

There is an Open Afternoon and Evening for all parents on June 27th at 3.30pm and 7pm.

COFFEE MORNINGS FOR MOZAMBIQUE: Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our coffee mornings to raise funds for Mozambique. So far we have risen upwards of £640. Further donations are welcome.

HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE: The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) has asked that we make you aware of a historic document signed between Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad AlTayyib in Abu-Dhabi on 4th February 2019. Please follow the link below to the Vatican website and read more about it. w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2019/outside/documents/papa-francesco_20190204_documento-fratellanza-umana.html

LITURGY FOR SUICIDE for those affected by suicide please let family or friends who are near and dear to you know. This will take place at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, W5 2DY, on Wednesday 3rd April, commencing at 7.15pm. All are welcome.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: A YEAR OF THE WORD: The Bishops' Conference is conducting a short survey about how Catholics see and use the Bible. They would like as many people as possible to complete the survey so that they have a snapshot of the current situation. They will repeat the survey at the end of 2020 and compare the results. If you would like to take part in the survey please visit the website: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LDJBN5Y Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: will be held every Friday during Lent, at 3pm.

NO CHURCH FLOWERS during lent. Thank you.

RCIA: Join us at No. 5 Berrymead Gardens if you wish to learn more about the Catholic faith. Every Thursday at 7pm.

WALK IN CLINIC: A qualified therapist will help ease your pain every Friday 9 – 12pm at No.3. Free of charge.

TEA AND COFFEE: There will be tea and coffee in the hall after the 9.00am and 10.30am masses every Sunday morning.

PRELIMINARY EASTER SCHEDULE:

- **Tuesday of Holy Week**, 16th April, Christ Mass at 12pm in Westminster Cathedral
 - **Holy Thursday**, 18th April, 8.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper with Adoration until midnight.
 - **Good Friday**, 19th April, 3.00pm Liturgical Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 - **Holy Saturday**, 20th April, 8.30pm – Easter Vigil
- The full Holy Week Schedule will be available next weekend.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY: Not just today on this Mother's day but with each remembrance of the love she's expressed. My thankfulness to the Lord I've Professed. For my life began, in a warm and safe place. Then grew more secure in Mum's tender embrace. When I was little, she taught me to crawl, then to walk and run, and get up when I fall. Nurtured and cared for she raised me to stand, lifted, supported, by her loving hand. She believed in me, inspired me, it seemed. It was her example that pointed the way to the life in Christ I know today. My Mum I love her. On this Mother's Day, she's the reason I'm taking this moment to pray. My Mum, I love her, Let her know, dear Lord. Please bless her with the most abundant reward. Amen.