



St. Mary's Catholic Church

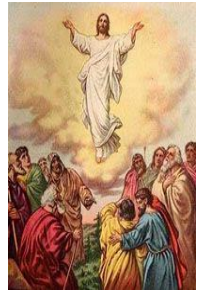
Parish Priest Fr Rafal Majewski

Presbytery: 5 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6PA Tel: (01273) 554509

Parish office: Wednesday 8.30am-12.30pm - Due to current restrictions

Parish office e-mail: brightonstmary@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Website: www.stmarysprestonpark.org.uk



Hall & Cassidy Centre - Bookings currently suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

(The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878)

Parish Newsletter for w/c Sunday 9 May 2021 *May the Month of Mary*

Mass proper		Intention	
Sun 9	6 th Sunday of Easter (B) Gospel: John 15:9-17	10am	<i>Sheila & Gordon Rodriguez</i>
		12noon	<i>Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish</i>
Mon 10	No Mass at St Mary's or St Mary's House Currently.		
Tue 11	<i>Easter tide</i>	10am	<i>Robert Olson, R.I.P.</i>
Wed 12	<i>Easter tide</i>		<i>Fr Kevin Alban, R.I.P.</i>
Thurs 13	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	10am	<i>Georgette Olson, R.I.P.</i>
Fri 14	<i>St Matthias, Apostle</i>		<i>Terry D'Silva, R.I.P.</i>
Sat 15	<i>Easter tide</i>		<i>Martine Olson, R.I.P.</i>
Sun 16	7 th Sunday of Easter (B) Gospel: John 17:11-19	10am	<i>Fred & Ivy Carrington, R.I.P.</i>
		12noon	<i>Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish</i>

Still booking Mass intentions - If you would like a mass said Please email brightonstmary@abdiocese.org.uk or put your envelope, with stipend through the presbytery door. Thank You.

Please remember the Obligation to attend Sunday Masses remains suspended at this time.

We very much appreciate & are very grateful for the kindness and financial support that so many of our parishioners have shown during the recent periods of restrictions and lockdowns.

We thank you for your generosity in the offertory collections and individual donations at this very difficult time, when so many of you have been affected, by the economic upheaval that Covid has caused.

PARISH



FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please keep in your prayers, Mary Ashing, Peggy Ingram, Mary Ives, Frederick Mckay, Amy Orman, Bernard Regan, Margaret Turner and all who carry their own crosses. Please let the Parish Office know if there are any new names, with the persons permission, to add.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME: Sid Morris, Anastasia Morris, Michael Ryan, Jonathan Chandler, Dolores Elliott, Paul Ingram, Doris May, Ludwig Bugla, Michlin Keeling, Paul Rippingale, Sarah Duff and Pearl Hoggarth.



FACE COVERINGS ARE MANDATORY IN CHURCHES CURRENTLY (unless exempt).

NHS COVID-19 TRACK & TRACE

Parishioners attending Church/Mass must either use the NHS Covid-19 App to check into the Church by scanning our QR Code - Which is our preferred method or If you do not have a phone which supports this, you will be asked for your Name and a contact number on entering by a Steward.

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL - If you would like to be put on a (BCC) mailing list to receive the parish newsletter via email, send an email request to the parish office brightonstmary@abdiocese.org.uk

ASCENSION THURSDAY

This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. **It is a holy day of obligation with Mass at 10 am.**

'... For us, at a distance of two thousand years, the meaning of that event [the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven] is quite clear. Here on earth, we are called to look up to heaven, to turn our minds and hearts to the inexpressible mystery of God. We are called to look towards this divine reality, to which we have been directed from our creation. For there we find life's ultimate meaning' [Pope Benedict XVI].

Bereavement support at St Mary's.

The past year has been very difficult for everyone but especially for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Grief is a very personal experience, but it can often help to talk to someone who is not a family member or close friend. St Mary's now has a trained "befriender" who you can talk to in confidence if you feel that it would be helpful.

At the moment this will be over the telephone but once we are able, one to one support will be available, and we hope to set up a bereavement support group. It does not matter if your loss was yesterday or many months/ years ago, if you need to talk, we are here for you. Please see Father Rafal or contact the parish office for further details.



STEWARDS NEEDED FOR:

Sunday Masses' 10am & 12noon - Tuesday's 10am... until restrictions are lifted. We need more Volunteer Stewards/Cleaners to consistently open.....The more volunteers we have the easier it is for us all. A minimum of 4 volunteers are, consistently, needed & we really need your help. The volunteer application form can be found on our website, this needs to be completed & returned to the Parish Office either by email or physically through the letterbox. - There are certain restrictions imposed by the Diocese/Government on who can and cannot volunteer, unfortunately. Thank you.

PARISH GIVING

GIFTAID - If anyone is interested in supporting the parish by signing up to gift aid their donations, the Declaration Form and Standing Order Forms are on our website ("Giving" Section). If you have any questions, please email the parish office, and put 'Gift Aid' as the subject and our Gift Aid Co-Ordinator Maureen Fleet will get back to you.

** The Gift Aid Boxes for 2021/2022 have been handed out over the last 2 weeks masses - If you haven't received yours yet please contact the parish office by email and we will work this out with you **

MASS INTENTIONS - Many parishioners like to have a Mass said for their personal intention or for a loved one who may be living or deceased. In the church porch there are Mass Intention Envelopes. Please fill out the details requested clearly. It is also very helpful if you put your own name down as the donor and your telephone number/email in case, we need to make contact with you. Please give the envelope to Fr Rafal or post through the Presbytery letter box.

We endeavour to meet peoples' requests for a particular day or time, but this is not always possible. Occasionally we have to change an Intention at short notice, and this is normally to accommodate Funeral Masses which have to take precedence.

It is customary to give a donation with any Mass intention request. They form part of a priest's personal income.

OFFERTORY - Supporting Your Parish Church

During this challenging time the Diocese has come up with a way of helping us support our Church by launching an online parish offertory support campaign. The money will come in centrally and then be sent to the parishes accordingly. Just follow this link : <http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory> When making your donation, please leave a message to indicate the name of your church For example: **"I would like my donation to go to St Mary's, Preston Park in Brighton"**. This will ensure your donation is given to the correct parish as there are several St Mary's. If you are already signed up for Gift Aid with the Parish - please add your number to your message. *Thank you for all your support and prayers at this time.*

"Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you." - St. John Baptist de La Salle

SVP “THANK YOU SO MUCH”

....to everyone for your generous support so far. We rely on the generosity of donors like you! During this pandemic your SVP is desperately short of funds and would be very grateful for whatever support you can afford. This will enable us to donate to needy causes, as in previous years. There are 3 ways in which you can donate: 1) Through our Bank Account: SVP St Mary's Preston Park (Charity name): Charity registration number: 1053992. Nat West account 46083189: Sort Code 60-60-04. 2) Cheques can be made out to SVP St. Mary's Preston Park 3) Cash. Options 2 & 3 place in an envelope and put into the letterbox of the Presbytery. We hope that in the future we can all meet up and do regular activities. In the meanwhile, keep well. Best wishes your SVP.

DIOCESAN

Locations of livestream Masses, in our Diocese, can be found on the Diocesan website:

<https://abdiocese.org.uk/livestream>

Marriage week 10-16th.

10-16th May is Marriage week, a time for us to celebrate the joy and blessings of marriage. Pope Francis reminds us that “Marriage is like a plant. It is not an armoire, which is placed there, in the room, and it’s enough to dust it every once in a while. A plant is alive, and it needs to be cared for every day: to see how it is doing, to give it water, and so it goes. Marriage is a living reality: the life of a couple should never be taken for granted, in any phase of a family’s journey.” Pope Francis, 21st December 2015

Why not take some time this week to really find some time to talk to your spouse and nurture your marriage.



Worth Abbey Online Retreats

Saturday 15th May: C S Lewis: a Prophet for our Time - Led by Robert Elliot

Saturday 29th May: The Post-Covid World: Pope Francis’ vision ‘Let us Dream’ - Led by Austen Ivereigh

The retreat will take two recent texts by Pope Francis that lay out a vision of a post-pandemic future in which fraternity, rather than individualism, can be the organising principle of our world. Let Us

Dream, which came out in December 2020, is the first ever book by a pope in response to a crisis. In it, Francis offers us a three-step way of changing so that we emerge better from the pandemic: by learning to contemplate, discern and take action. Fratelli Tutti (‘Brothers and Sisters All’) is the title of Pope Francis’ October, 2020 encyclical letter on human fraternity and social friendship.

Saturday 5th June: The Wisdom of St Benedict – Fr Martin McGee: Three talks exploring the riches of St Benedict’s rule which seeks to help us live out the Christian life in all its fullness.

Fri 18th-Sun 20th June: The Motif of Feast in the Bible

Led by Viv Randall and Michael Woodward (both Lay Community of St Benedict)

Book your place online at www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats For all enquiries, email: toc@worth.org.uk

Calling all parents and those supporting families on the adventure of faith!

The Colour and Shape Online community is a new way to resource, inspire, and connect families looking for support as they accompany their children on their own faith journey. Together we are exploring how to live a **joy-filled life of faith** that creates sacred space in the home and celebrates the liturgical seasons of the church creatively and sustainably. But it’s not just for parents! The network is for **all those supporting families** and gathers together **grandparents, godparents, teachers, youth workers, clergy, children's liturgy leaders, and catechists** so that we can all inspire and learn from each other.

Throughout the year we run courses online (such as the ‘Parenting for Faith’ course) and beginning May 4th we will be starting ‘The Prayer Course’ (from 24/7 Prayer) – an eight-week journey through the Lord’s Prayer which discusses a wide variety of prayer practices and themes. There will be optional Zoom meetings on Thursday evenings, beginning May 6th, and all are welcome!

Visit www.colourandshapeonline.com to find out more about the community and to sign up. It’s free and we can’t wait to meet you!

MASS FOR ENGAGED COUPLES – Arundel Cathedral – Friday 25th July

Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards the lifelong commitment made by a couple preparing for marriage. We look forward to meeting many engaged couples from across the Diocese and sharing in their joy.

Please [click here](#) to book your place or contact our Marriage and Family Life Adviser – email:

Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Prayers of Intercession

Priest:

Let us bring our prayers for the whole world before our heavenly Father, who sends us the Spirit of truth.

Let us pray for Pope Francis as he asks us all to nurture our interior life. *“We all need to meditate, to reflect, to find ourselves”* Let us welcome meditation to our daily lives to draw closer to Jesus and against the daily stresses, to care for our interior life that should not be neglected.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer.

We pray for leaders of nations. That they will respect neighbouring countries, strive to live in peace, and have appropriate regard for the boundaries between one country and another.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer.

As the Coronavirus devastates India, we pause to remember the many families that are left alone abandoned with deeply unwell family members, unable to reach or receive medical care. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray that the covid-19 pandemic will bring to birth a greater sense of compassion among all peoples and a great willingness to provide care for those in need.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer.

We pray for married couples, that they will stand as equals in a mutual bond of love, and that through the years, their love will grow in strength and depth, touching many with the warmth of their care.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer.

Priest:

Almighty God, we worship you, we give thanks to you. Keep us close as we go about our daily lives remembering your unfailing love for us. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER

*Take my hand, O Blessed Mother,
hold me firmly lest I fall. I am nervous when I'm walking and to thee I humbly call.*

*Guide me over every crossing,
watch me when I'm on the stairs, let me know you are beside me, listen to my fervent prayers.*

*Bring me to my destination safely every single day,
help me with each undertaking, as the hours pass away.*

*And when evening falls upon us, and I fear to be alone, take my hand, O Blessed Mother,
once again and lead me home.*