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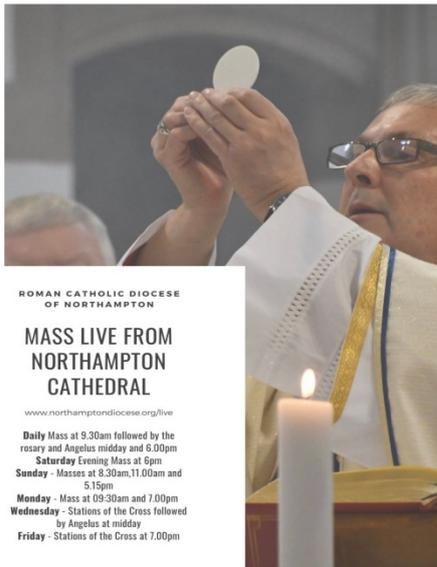
Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Easter Sunday

12th April, 2020

**No Public Masses will take place in any of our Churches
from Saturday 21st March until further notice**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



Please join us in saying a **Spiritual Communion** at:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/when-mcannot-be-celebrated-publicly-making-a-spiritual-communion/>

Or visit live streaming broadcasts of Mass from Northampton Cathedral at

<https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/spiritualit/sunday-and-daily-readings/>



**EASTER LIVE BROADCAST SERVICES
FROM NORTHAMPTON CATHEDRAL**

<https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

Saturday 11th April – EASTER VIGIL OF THE LORD’S RESURRECTION
8pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 12th April – EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Mass

11am Mass

5.15pm Mass



EASTER REFLECTION AND GREETINGS FROM FR. GREGORY

Dear brothers and sisters in the risen Christ!

We have been waiting for this time for a long time! As Christians, we are entering the

greatest celebration in the Catholic Church - Jesus' Resurrection! In these days we run with the women and the apostles to the tomb of our Lord to see and make sure that he is truly risen. We run to recognize and profess our faith again: The True Messiah Jesus Christ really lives! The empty tomb explains what Jesus preached and did when visiting the cities and villages of Palestine. This empty tomb confirms all his miracles and signs.

Perhaps some of us watched the movie directed by Kevin Reynolds - "Risen". This beautiful film tells of an investigation after the mysterious and incomprehensible disappearance of Jesus' body. We can see there the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus seen through the eyes of the main character of the film a Roman officer Clavius. Pontius Pilate ordered him to find and arrest the apostles of Jesus, who according to him stole the body of the Master. Clavius, following the alleged thieves, went primarily into the depth of his heart. Watching this film, we get the impression that what the Roman officer sought and wanted the most was "freedom from killing and dying". He wanted to free himself from the evil and violence that filled every day of his life. He was a ruthless killer, carrying out orders, but at one point he wanted to change his life. This young man and soldier gradually achieved his goal, looking life and meeting the true disciples of Christ. Clavius wondered a lot about the meaning of life and asked himself many difficult questions, and he slowly and gradually realized that not everything could be explained only by the human mind. The answer to his questions and dilemmas was not human wisdom or philosophy.

So, what influenced his life the most and completely changed it? It was above all a testimony of the life of the Apostles and the incredible goodness he experienced from them. At the end of this film there is another beautiful scene in which Clavius meets the risen Jesus. Jesus says to him, "You have seen me and you still have doubts. Can you imagine the feelings of those who will never see me but will want to believe!?"

Reading the gospel of the resurrection, we can say that the apostles and women were very happy and privileged because they saw Jesus many times. But what does it look like today? Can we - people living in the 21st century - rely only on the testimony of Jesus' disciples? Can our faith be based only on the history of over 2,000 years? Can't we personally experience the miracle of the resurrection and see the empty tomb? The answer to this question is very easy and optimistic: each of us can meet the Risen Lord. How can we do it? Let's look again at the gospel that faithfully describes the Resurrection of Jesus. The apostles, concerned about the testimony of women, made an effort to go to the grave. This attitude is of great importance to us, because our faith always requires some effort and dedication, or - in other words - we should take a step forward towards Jesus.

Once, in a very interesting book, I found a metaphor that I remembered: "Only dead fish swim towards the river, live fish always swim against the current." Using this wise metaphor, we can say that Jesus' disciples were like living fish. They made an effort ... They could see the empty tomb of their Master and entered the path of faith only because they decided to go against the tide, they decided to be active! This is a

very important lesson for each of us: to be able to believe and see the risen Jesus, we must first become active even in these extraordinary and sad circumstances caused by the shadow that has covered the whole world. We can meet the risen Jesus by reading the Word of God. We can meet him in everyday prayer and every Sunday Eucharist in which we can participate through the media, because every Sunday is for us Christians a "little Easter".

Dear brothers and sisters! At the end of my reflection, I want to thank you for your concern for me. Thank you for so many phone calls, emails, letters and Easter gifts. I'm sorry I can't answer you all, but I will repay you with my prayers. Thank you also for your generosity for the parish. I want to tell you that I'm really well, and most importantly I'm not alone! Jesus is with me because I celebrate Mass every day in our parish house in the room in which Father Wilson lived, prayed and worked. I remember him every day in my prayers, but I also pray for our parish, for people affected by the virus and for those who look after them. I am not alone here either because one of our seminarians Jithu is with me. I am very grateful for his friendship, support and good company!

At finally, I wish you a happy Easter despite the shadow that covers our world. I wish that this great feast of the resurrection will change our hearts, that we will have the courage to swim against the current! Let's ask ourselves what does it mean for me to swim against the current: at work at school, on holiday, in church or at home but also in isolation and in quarantine. Let our Lord's empty tomb be a call and an encouragement to us: It is worth sacrificing everything for Jesus, because he is the source and meaning of life; He is the beginning and the end of our life! Let's go with joy and announce that Christ really lives!



'I DESIRE TO EAT THE PASSOVER IN YOUR HOME' #EasterAtHome

An article from Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis fsp

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-04/easter-at-home-jesus-wants-to-eat-the-passover-in-your-house.html>

How can we celebrate the Easter Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday?

By accepting Jesus' invitation which we heard in the Palm Sunday proclamation of the Passion: "I desire to eat the Passover in your house" (Matthew 26:18).

Keep an eye on the Vatican News channel for live streaming of events.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

SICK CALLS AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME – A MESSAGE FROM FR. GREGORY

In accordance with official advice and to minimise the chance of me passing on infection, I cannot undertake to visit the sick or housebound except in case of serious need.

However, please do not hesitate to call on me to visit those in in imminent danger of death. Please telephone **01536 512497** with any such requests.

I will of course be happy to pray for anybody who is sick but not close to death, if requested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR FR. JO KIZITO

At this difficult time for us in the UK, please remember in our prayers Fr Jo Kizito and his work with Refugees in Uganda.

As in this country Public Mass has been suspended, but unlike in this country, he has to cope with all sorts of other viruses, malnutrition and poverty among the many thousands in his camp.

We received Easter greetings from Fr. Jo which includes the following message:

"...with hope that the Risen Christ, whose Resurrection event brings more Hope in bringing everything to new life. Let us pray for that! A promise that,..all (the) Community at St.Edward's, will, as usually, be exceptionally in the forefront of our thoughts and prayers throughout all Easter Event. A Very Happy Easter To You All Dear Friends. Fr.Jo."

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THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday - Lizzie Brady RIP; Martin and Mary Corigan; Gery Phil Martin RIP

Sunday - Salvatore Stifanelli; Barbet and Anderton Families RIP

Monday - for the Parish

Tuesday - for the Parish

Wednesday - Marie Tite RIP, Michael Brody RIP

Thursday - for the Parish

Friday - for the Parish

Saturday – for the Parish

Sunday - Florence Saunders RIP, Wanda and her family

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

HOW MIGHT WE CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY THIS YEAR?



The Sunday after Easter is the day Our Lord chose to fulfil the promise of a complete remission of sins and all reparation due, thus returning the soul to the purity of its Baptismal state as declared by St. John-Paul II and successive Popes. A truly wonderful grace to gain, normally achieved by attending Mass, venerating the image and praying the chaplet plus attending confession in the novena period between Good Friday and Divine Mercy Sunday.

However, it is not possible to fulfil the usual requirements this year. We can still say the novena (starting Good Friday) and venerate the image on April 19th and we can live stream Mass and partake in a spiritual communion *with the intention* of going to confession when our churches reopen.

The chaplet and image can be downloaded from <https://divinemercury.life/chaplet-of-divine-mercy/> and a list of Mass times across the country is available at <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

In order that we may still obtain the full graces, The Church is responding to the problems we all face as a result of this pandemic with great seriousness and generosity. The Holy Father is throwing wide open the doors of the Church's

storehouses of grace for the faithful, making it as easy as possible for all of us to be assured of the graces we need to speed the sick and the dying through Purgatory, and to be assured of the graces needed for salvation at the moment of our deaths.

Because of the pandemic, anyone who, with “the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible,” recites the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) with the intention “to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself,” can receive a plenary indulgence each day.

This great news was announced in an [official decree](#) from the Apostolic Penitentiary on March 20, 2020.

By the Divine Mercy graces promised to us by our Lord through St. Faustina, we can obtain unimaginable graces for ourselves, for those suffering as a result of this coronavirus, and for the whole world as we groan beneath the burden of this pandemic.

Jesus told St. Faustina of a number of ways to help people make sure that their final destination is Heaven. Jesus made extraordinary promises for **praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet**:

At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the pardon is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 811).

... when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior (*Diary*, 1541).

He also made extraordinary promises for **veneration of the Divine Mercy Image**:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory (*Diary*, 47 and 48).

Jesus made extraordinary promises for **those who trust in Him**.

The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (*Diary*, 1578).

My daughter, know that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy, graces flow out upon the whole world. No soul that has approached Me has ever gone away unconsolated. All misery gets buried in the depths of My mercy, and every saving and sanctifying grace flows from this fountain. My daughter, I

desire that your heart be an abiding place of My mercy. I desire that this mercy flow out upon the whole world through your heart. Let no one who approaches you go away without that trust in My mercy which I so ardently desire for souls.

Pray as much as you can for the dying. By your entreaties, obtain for them trust in My mercy, because they have most need of trust, and have it the least. Be assured that the grace of eternal salvation for certain souls in their final moment depends on your prayer. You know the whole abyss of My mercy, so draw upon it for yourself and especially for poor sinners. Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul (*Diary*, 1777).

Jesus also made extraordinary promises to all those who **spread the message and devotion of Divine Mercy**:

Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior. At that last hour, a soul has nothing with which to defend itself except My mercy. Happy is the soul that during its lifetime immersed itself in the Fountain of Mercy, because justice will have no hold on it (*Diary*, 1075).

By Br. Jason Lewis, MIC

This Holy Week is unlike any we have had before in the history of the Church. Never before have Church doors been closed throughout the world by a common threat to humanity. It's forced us to "go underground," so to speak, like the Christians of the early Church. But even they were able to gather together, perhaps in hiding, to celebrate the mysteries of Christ and the Mass in common with other Christians.

We, however, have been forced to participate in the week of Christ's Passion though the difficulties of self-denial, confinement to our homes, and estrangement from friends, co-workers, and loved ones. For those who have been infected with the virus, the cross is especially heavy at this time. We know that the coronavirus attacks the respiratory system. In most cases, the immune system of healthy people can successfully combat the virus. Some people show no symptoms at all. Others show symptoms such as a dry cough and breathing difficulties, but they do recover. However, a smaller percentage will enter into a fight for their life. They may need a ventilator to assist them. Yet many will not have access to medical care or a ventilator. Many will be left alone in isolation, fighting for their next breath. Our Lord Jesus identifies fully with the human condition. He suffered terribly. He knows what it means to gasp for the next breath, over and over again. He knows what it means to be abandoned and isolated. And He knows what it's like to face death, not just His own death but with the full weight of all of our sins upon Him. He bore the weight for us all.

Yet our Lord Jesus also knew that death has not the last word. He knew that this short life is always passing. He knew that death on earth was just a preface into

eternal life. And He knew that He could trust His Father's divine plan so that fallen, sinful humanity could have life forever. And in His last breath, He commended His Spirit into His Father's hands. It was finished. With His complete offering of Himself as the pure, spotless, innocent victim, death was defeated. His Blood and Resurrection stamp the eternal seal of triumph for humanity. "O Death, where is your sting, where is your victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55).

In their desperation, victims of the Coronavirus have an unfailing source of strength and hope in the One who identifies with humanity's every weakness except sin... drawing from the throne of grace to receive mercy in their greatest time of need (Heb 4:15-16).

During the coronavirus pandemic, the death of the Crucified Christ demonstrates all the more the importance of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. In the Chaplet, we are offering the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus to the Father. Christ is the Crucified One who fought for eternal life of humanity with His every breath to His last. For the sake of His agonizing, sorrowful Passion, we are asking the Father to have mercy on us and on the whole world, for the sake of His very own Son.

Is the Father not moved? And does the Father not also see His own Son in the helpless victims dying in the pandemic, those who struggle to take every next breath? Are they not His very own?

Jesus told St. Faustina, "Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death" (Diary, 687). And we can obtain that great mercy at the hour of death for others. Jesus promised St. Faustina, "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between my Father and they dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior" (1541). The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy has power to save lives, because the root of its power flows from the perfect offering of the Crucified One from Mt. Calvary.

Reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, we should rejoice with unbound confidence in the mercy of God for those who are dying from the coronavirus in similar fashion as our Lord Jesus. He is the Merciful Father. Like St. Paul, we can be the co-workers of Christ in obtaining the necessary graces for dying souls to trust in the Merciful Savior in their final breath.

This life is but a quick blink of the eye. The next life has breath eternal.