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Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

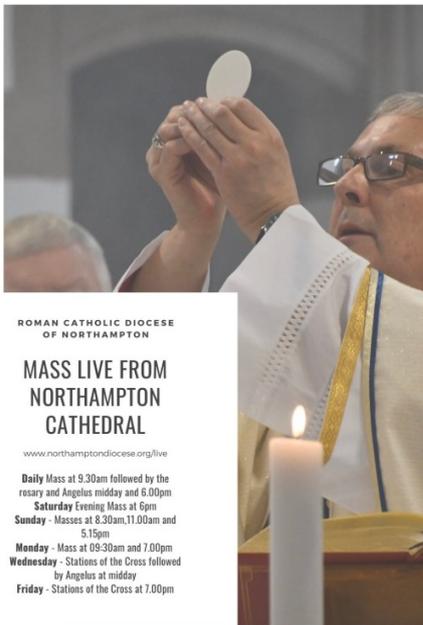
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24th Sunday of the Year

13th September, 2020

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## 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/>

Alternative Masses, adoration, prayer, etc. can be found at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

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

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

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

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## THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday - **6.30pm** - Janette Stokes RIP, wedding anniversary

Sunday - **8.30am** - Marry O'Connor RIP / **10.30am** - for the Parish

Monday - for the Parish

Tuesday - **10.00am** - for the Parish

Wednesday - Teresa Gormley RIP

Thursday - for the Parish

Friday - **7.00pm** - Mary Brody RIP

Saturday - **6.30pm** - for the Parish

Sunday - **8.30am** - for the Parish / **10.30am** - for the Parish

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

[parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends.

Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away:

**Filippo Di-Pietra** - His funeral service will be held at Kettering Crematorium, Monday, 21st September at 2.30 pm

**Teresa Gormley** - Her funeral (Requiem Mass) will be held at St Edward's Church, Tuesday, 22nd September at 10.30am (reception of the body into the church, Monday, 21st September at 7.00pm)

**Margaret Hamill** - Fr Gregory had the privilege of visiting her and giving her the sacrament of anointing a few days before she passed away.

**May Christ, the Good Shepherd welcome them and all who have died into the peace of eternal life and may He comfort their families in their time of grief.**

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**Due to Fr. Gregory testing positive for Covid-19, both he and Fr. Nicholas are in isolation and Masses are cancelled. The church will re-open as normal for Masses on Friday 18th September at 7pm.**

The Presbytery is also closed to callers at the door. **Anyone who attended Masses or otherwise came inside either the church or presbytery from Friday 28th August onwards is advised to be alert for symptoms.** Our stewards and cleaners have sanitised the church regularly, but you may wish to get a swab test just in case. You can book your test online using the link <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> – or call 119. Users of our booking system may also receive a call from NHS Track & Trace.

**Please note that there will be no Mass on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September due to a funeral. Therefore, the next Tuesday Mass will be September 29th.**

### **MESSAGE FROM FATHER GREGORY**



One of the Polish poets once wrote such words: "O noble health! No one will know what you taste like until he loses you..." I think most of us could say similar words, because we all appreciate people, health or even favourite things or pets, especially when we lose them. Today I can say with certainty that I know what health tastes like and these days I appreciate it even more than a few days ago.

As you know I've lost my health and I cannot understand how or when it has happened. Last Saturday, after a short period of feeling unwell, following the advice of one of my friends, I decided to do test for Coronavirus. My only symptom was a slight sore throat and it's easier for me to tell what symptoms I haven't had on last Friday. I didn't have a high temperature, I didn't lose my taste or smell, and I didn't feel any muscle ache. The last two have appeared since last Tuesday. Most of my friends - probably wanting to cheer me up - told me that my throat problem was just an innocent symptom of ordinary cold or mild flu that many people experience in early September when it gets colder outside. I clearly remember my great surprise when I got a text message from NHS saying my result was positive. I couldn't believe

it and immediately imagined all the people I had been seeing in recent days. I felt a great responsibility for those who attended Mass on last Sunday at St. Edward's Church. I also imagined my parents who think and care of me every day. Today it is difficult for me to describe all the feelings that appeared in my head on Sunday at 4:06 pm. At first, I thought it was just a bad dream or a nightmare that would end quickly. It hasn't ended quickly... Throughout the evening and the following day, I asked myself many times: Could it have been prevented at all?

I trust that God has at least kept my parishioners from becoming infected and I have not heard of such cases so far. Today, as I am writing this letter, my health is improving significantly and I hope that I will be able to return to my daily activities soon. I will only do this when I am sure that my ministry does not pose any threat to the health of other people. I look forward to my return to work because the most difficult experience for me is isolation, being idle and limiting my ministry to office work only. The only positive thing about my illness is that I have plenty of time to pray and develop my personal relationship with Jesus. Maybe it was he who wanted me to slow down and realize once again that not everything depends on me. Maybe it is thanks to my illness and my suffering which I am currently experiencing other people will open their eyes to the real threat of the pandemic. I will pray that it is so...

Thank you for your support and understanding! Thank you for all your good wishes that come to me recently, especially via e-mails. Thank you for your care, for bringing me food and doing shopping for me. Please do not take lightly any symptoms of even a mild cold, flu or other illnesses that may eventually turn out to be dangerous symptoms of Covid virus. Don't ignore any rules and regulations that help us protect other people's lives. **“O noble health! No one will know what you taste like until he loses you...”** Health is a priceless gift from God, let us appreciate it while we have it.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

***Fr Gregory Marchwinski***

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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS – OUR COMPASSIONATE COMFORTER



Dolorosa by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1665)

Last Tuesday (September 8<sup>th</sup>) we celebrated the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady - a day of joyful celebration of the birth of Our Blessed Mother, the mother of our saviour through whose willing acceptance of the role of Mother of God our redemption has been made possible. Just as Christmas is such a happy, thankful celebration of Christ's birth, the Birthday of Our Lady is also a happy day of deep gratitude for the part Mary played in the life of Jesus and its effect on us.

In great contrast, this Tuesday (September 15<sup>th</sup>) we commemorate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows which draws our attention to the terrible suffering of Mary's life heralded by the priest Simeon when she and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple for the presentation. Recognising Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, Simeon proclaimed: *"You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected- and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many will be laid bare."* (Luke 2: 34-35)

Fr. William Saunders at <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-feast-of-our-lady-of-sorrows.html> explains that although the title "Our Lady of Sorrows" focuses mainly on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of Our Lord, it is not limited to this but comprises the Seven Dolours (sorrows) of Mary: the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to

Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when Our Lord was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the cross; Our Lord's burial.

Though there are many different images of Our Lady of Sorrows, it is these seven dolours which are represented in depictions of Mary with seven swords piercing her heart. Fr. Saunders comments: "...each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, let it be done unto me according to Thy word, first uttered at the Annunciation." He goes on to trace the history of this feast day and its beginnings in the Roman Missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion.

What a wonderful title to think of when we ask for Mary's prayers at any difficult time in our lives but perhaps especially during these very hard times which the whole world is currently experiencing. Fr. Saunders explains that the word "compassion" derives from the Latin roots cum and patior which mean to suffer with. As His mother, Mary naturally suffered with Jesus. To see our totally innocent saviour suffering as He did must have been excruciating for His mother. The depths of her pain and its demands on her endurance are unimaginable to us.

This is what inspires our love for her and our desire to join her in suffering all for the sake of the Lord – to become true fellow disciples who do as Jesus asks and take up our cross to follow Him. So many times, our cross seems too heavy to carry. We stumble and fall and wish that the Lord would take the pain away. Because we know that Mary suffered so greatly and understands our pain it is then that we turn to Our Blessed Mother to comfort, console and strengthen us. We are enabled to take the next step because her love for her son and for us is so great.

We can understand the depth of that love from three things quoted by Fr Saunders. Firstly, from the Second Vatican Council describing Mary standing at the foot of the cross: "...she stood in keeping with the divine plan, suffering grievously with her only-begotten Son. There she united herself, with a maternal heart, to His sacrifice, and lovingly consented to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth." Secondly in St. Bernard's words: "Truly, O Blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart.... He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since His." Thirdly from Pope St. John Paul: "She knows our sorrows and our pains, because she too suffered, from Bethlehem to Calvary... Mary is our Spiritual Mother, and the mother always understands her children and consoles them in their troubles. Then, she has that specific mission to love us, received from Jesus on the Cross, to love us only and always, so as to save us! Mary consoles us above all by pointing out the Crucified One and Paradise to us!"

Her task being to decline the limelight in order to point us to God, it is so fitting that the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is placed on the day after the commemoration of the Triumph of the Cross (September 14<sup>th</sup>). This is another interesting feast which can help us build our relationship with the Lord since it complements Good Friday's focus on the passion and death of Our Lord by honouring veneration of the cross itself as the instrument of our salvation. For those with a particular interest in the history of the early Church it may be something to explore on the many reliable Catholic websites.

There are many prayers and devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows. The following is from the website of the Association of the Miraculous Medal which you can find at <https://www.amm.org/prayers/olsorrows.aspx>

### **Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows**

Our mother of sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping.

We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion.

Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Amen

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**BOOKING A PLACE AT MASS – Following the closure after Fr. Gregory tested positive for Covid-19, the church will re-open as normal for Masses on Friday 18th September at 7pm.**

**There will be no Mass on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September due to a funeral. Therefore, the next Tuesday Mass will be September 29th.**

Please note.... Do not turn up for Mass in the usual way because space is limited due to the Covid-19 regulations and we might have to turn you away if we are full.

**We have implemented a seat booking system using a dedicated phone number – 0739 6606 881 Mon, Tues, Wed and Friday 9.30-12, Thursday evening 6-8pm only.**

The telephone will not be manned at other times. The phone line is not open on Thursday morning, instead opening Thursday evening to enable those at work during the day to be able to contact the booking line.

Face covering is mandatory unless you are [exempt](#). As it is still the diocesan preference to socially distance by around two metres (6 ft) where possible, there are limited numbers able to attend each Mass, However, you are now able to book for seats for two Masses in advance.

**The obligation to attend Sunday Masses continues to be suspended.** So please do not worry if you currently prefer not to attend Mass in church at all during these strange times as **permission is still granted for Spiritual Communion** via live streaming, details of which can be found in the Bishop's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) section](#). Alternatively visit <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

**Pre-booked Masses are scheduled for the following times**

**Tuesday mornings at 10am**

**Friday evenings at 7pm**

**Saturday Vigil at 6.30pm**

**Sundays at 8.30am (not 8am) and 10.30am**

To find out more about booking seats for Mass and what attending Mass will now entail please see <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/how-to-book-a-place-at-mass/> for the most up-to-date information.

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**ST EDWARD'S PARISH - THE PARISH COMMUNITY**

**FACEBOOK GROUP**

**The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.** Find the facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

**PARISH CALL AND CARE**

The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

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## USEFUL LINKS

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Refuge website <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

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## WEEKLY DONATIONS

Some parishioners have asked how they can maintain their donations which would normally be given via the collection plate. It is true that church income will significantly reduce as a result of the current arrangements for socially distanced public liturgies. While I will endeavour to keep parish outgoings as low as possible, please could I ask those parishioners who can afford it at this time, and do not currently give by Standing Order, to consider donating online.

There are several ways of donating during Covid-19 so that you do not need to leave home:

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "**St. Edward's Kettering**" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for any help you can give.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - The Diocesan Finance office has now introduced 'Giving Tuesday'. Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). When you get through you will be asked for your name & address, your parish, envelope number (if you have one) and gift aid status. You can make one-off catch-up donations or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.

- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.