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Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Fourth Sunday of Lent

14th March, 2021

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/>

Or in other church services via <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

Mass intentions for the next week:

Saturday - 6.30 pm - Fr Gregory, birthday int

Sunday - 8.30 am - Tom and Kitty Brazier / **10.30 am** - Aaron Thottam, thanksgiving // Patricia Ives RIP

Monday - David Banks RIP, 90th birthday int

Tuesday - **10.00 am** - Maureen Molly RIP // Sunesh James RIP // **11.00 am** - Funeral Service of Maria Milinkovic RIP

Wednesday - Michael Mangan RIP // **1.00 pm** - Funeral Service of Giuseppe Labruzzo RIP

Thursday - Aneta, Marcin and Laura Marchwinsky int

Friday - **6.30 pm** - **Stations of the Cross** / **7.00 pm** - Bishop David Oakley int - first anniversary of his episcopal ordination

Saturday - 6.30 pm - Ann Mongan RIP

Sunday - 8.30 am - Livingston, Galpin, Scallon - Families / **10.30 am** - for the Parish

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

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.

Maria Milinkovic (55) - Her funeral service will be held at Kettering Crematorium on Tuesday, 16th March at 11.00 am.

Giuseppe Labruzzo (74) - His funeral service will be held at St Edward's Church on Wednesday, 17th March at 1.00 pm.

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.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.

INFORMATION REGARDING SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Advice given to the parish from the Diocese following advice from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is that sacramental preparation sessions are suspended while the current regulations are in place.

Therefore, sacramental preparation sessions in this parish will not take place until the lockdown eases. We will update you as soon as we receive new instructions.

Thank you for your understanding.
Fr Gregory



HOMILY

Today's gospel is very different from the one we heard a week ago. Today we have not heard of any spectacular actions or miraculous signs performed by Jesus, or any surprising behaviour of the Master of Nazareth, but we did witness the meeting and very friendly conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.

Who was Nicodemus and why does Saint John - among other very interesting events in the life of Jesus - describe in his Gospel this particular encounter? Read the Homily on our website, www.stedwardskettering.org.uk on Sunday morning.

CAFOD

Visit www.cafod.org.uk for information on Lent initiatives, especially 'Walk for Water'. Do something different to raise money to fight poverty!

Some members of the parish are walking alongside Abdella this Lent by challenging themselves to walk 10,000 steps every day. If you wish to join in for all or part of the challenge, more details of this and the sponsorship details may be found through the links on the Parish Facebook Page. Information may also be found through cafod.org.uk/walk on the CAFOD website.

CORONA KITCHEN UPDATE

The Corona Kitchen has moved venue. They are now operating out of the Corn Market Hall on London Road - the full address is

The Cornmarket Hall,
42, London Road
Kettering. NN15 7QA

The opening times remain the same 4 - 5 pm, Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri.

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul continues to run their soup kitchen on a Thursday afternoon 3.30pm - 5pm.

CELEBRATING STS. JOSEPH AND PATRICK THIS WEEK

This week we have the feast days of two extremely popular saints: **St. Patrick on March 17th** (Wednesday) and **St. Joseph on March 19th** (Friday).



Statue of St. Patrick, Hill of Tara

Ireland's Most Well Known Saint

Though a small country, Ireland has produced an enormous number of saints given its low population. The website <https://www.catholic.org> lists 331 of them. Many lived during the 4th and 6th centuries, the period of early Christian Ireland, when Celtic Christianity produced many missionaries to Great Britain and the European

continent. For this reason, Ireland is described in a 19th-century adage as "the land of saints and scholars".

The Irish saint we are all probably most familiar with is, of course, St. Patrick. His feast day is celebrated in many places around the world on March 17th and he is patron of various places including Nigeria, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Murcia in Spain, and the Archdiocese New York, Melbourne and Newark to name a few. Also the patron of engineers and paralegals, he is invoked against snakes and sins.

He was not a native of Ireland, being born in either Wales, Scotland or England. At about age sixteen he was seized by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland where he was enslaved as a shepherd for six years until his escape to return home. His years in captivity though, proved very fruitful spiritually. Wikipedia tells us "He writes in the *Confession* that the time he spent in captivity was critical to his spiritual development. He explains that the Lord had mercy on his youth and ignorance, and afforded him the opportunity to be forgiven his sins and convert to Christianity." He became intensely devoted to God in prayer.

Tradition has it that divine dreams inspired both his escape from captivity in Ireland and his return there later in his life as a bishop. Christianity was already established and he found very willing converts who turned to Christianity in large numbers. The rest is history!

For those interested in a very thorough account of his life, how the shamrock is associated with his teaching of the Trinity and the story of his expulsion of snakes from Ireland, etc. go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick

Remembering that in today's secular world we badly need missionaries to spread the knowledge and love of God and that through our kindness, actions and example we ourselves are missionaries, here is a prayer to St Patrick for missionaries. May it make better missionaries of us all!

Prayer to St Patrick

Dear St. Patrick,

In your humility, you called yourself a sinner, but you became a most successful missionary and prompted countless pagans to follow the Saviour.

Many of their descendants in turn spread the Good News in numerous foreign lands.

Through your powerful intercession with God, obtain the missionaries we need to continue the work you began. Amen.

At <https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/st-patricks-day-prayers-irish-blessings> you will find a number of prayers to St Patrick and blessings which you might like for your family.



The Saint of Husbands and Fathers

Everything we know about **St. Joseph**, husband of Mary, comes from scripture. As the foster father or guardian of Jesus (and therefore guardian of the whole Church) he is much beloved by us all. Nearly every Catholic church has a statue or picture of him, usually carrying the child Jesus and lilies to signify his purity.

At https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4 St. Joseph's life story is traced through the scriptures. His royal lineage is shown when the angel first told him of Jesus greeting him as "son of (King) David," a royal title used also for Jesus. The poverty of his life as a carpenter is indicated by his offering of two turtle doves when he took Jesus to be circumcised and Mary to be purified at the Temple – a sacrifice allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb.

Ordinary husbands and fathers who simply work hard and do their best for their wives and children but may not be rich and successful in the eyes of the world can take great comfort in knowing that St. Joseph is their patron and role model. The world would probably have judged St. Joseph as poor, obscure, unsuccessful and totally unimportant – a man not even worth a second glance. Yet he is a shining star, a true hero, a man to be much admired for his great virtue.

St. Joseph's courage, trust and faith are illustrated in his acceptance of the task God entrusted to him to care for Jesus and Mary. In his compassion, love and humility he saves Mary from possible stoning as an adulteress and accepts her as his wife,

whilst knowing that her child was not his. He provides the perfect example of what a husband and father should be – the chief protector of their wife and children. Let us love him for showing us the honourable, noble task this is and the qualities required.

Prayer to St. Joseph for husbands

St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may be a good and holy husband just as you were for Mary. Help me to stay strong in adversity, faithful in temptation, and prayerful in all the decisions I make.

Pray for me, that I may be a kind and loving father just as you were for Jesus. Help me to be firm in discipline, gentle in guidance, and honourable in the example I set.

*Walk with me as you walked with the Mother and Child on the road to Egypt. May I bring peace and joy and love to my family, with you as my example and God as my strength. **Amen***

Patron of the Dying, Patron for a happy Death

Traditionally St Joseph is the saint to whom we turn for a happy death since the image of Jesus and Mary being with him in his last moments has long been in the minds of the faithful. It is what we wish for ourselves. With certainty we can ask him to intercede for us during our last moments on earth, taking great comfort in knowing that he will protect us. He will surely ask Jesus and Mary to be at our side strengthening, comforting and consoling us at that time.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you. Amen

St Joseph is also patron of: Unborn children, workers (St. Joseph the Worker), travellers, immigrants.



The Year of St Joseph

In his Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” [“with a father’s heart”] dating from 8th December 2020, Pope Francis called for a year dedicated to Saint Joseph on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

Traditionally we remember St. Joseph on Wednesdays and on certain dates throughout the year. You can find out more about this and prayers you may wish to pray to St. Joseph throughout the year at <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/the-year-of-st-joseph/>

HOLY WEEK and TRIDUUM 2021

General notes, including information from the Bishop’s Conference

1. The obligation to attend Sunday Masses continues to be suspended. 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 at the Catholic Bishop’s Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/> This directory aims to provide links to Live Catholic Masses online. Alternatively for Masses across UK and Ireland, visit <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>
2. If you wish instead to live stream Bishop David saying Mass, he will be doing this in Northampton Cathedral where he will preside at the following celebrations:
 - Palm Sunday – 11am
 - Holy Thursday – 7pm
 - Good Friday – 3pm
 - Holy Saturday – 7pm
 - Easter Sunday – 11am
3. For parishioners who choose not to attend in person, as an additional way of uniting in prayer with the universal Church, you might like to try our Stations of the Cross privately online. See <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/stations-introduction/> where you will find the 14 station prayers with images from St. Edward’s Station plaques.
4. All services are to be held in Cathedrals and main Parish Churches only. All the current requirements for public worship during the pandemic will remain in

place and extra attention will be given to this (eg: increased ventilation) as the numbers attending may be greater than heretofore. Stewards have a more important role over Easter given that new attendees may not be as aware of the restrictions as applied to churches and may need extra support.

5. The arrangements for each Mass and how to book these is given below. Remember that we could not hold Easter services at all last year as we were told to close churches; there is more detailed information here so that people who have not ventured back to church until now know what has been put into place for their safety. Please note that processions are not permitted, and this includes the Good Friday Walk of Witness. All services will be shorter and simpler than usual with no singing.
6. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO BOOK YOUR PLACES AT MASS AS ATTENDANCES ARE INCREASING DURING LENT!** Although we do our best to accommodate anyone who arrives at church without booking, we have recently had to turn a few of these people away as our maximum capacity under current restrictions had been reached. We are really unhappy to have to do this, so we ask that everyone books their place, whether for Mass, Stations or Confession.

Booking Arrangements for Holy Week:

- Call the dedicated phone number – **0739 6606 881** Monday or Wednesday 9.30am-12 noon or Thursday evening 6-8pm only. Please do not call outside of these times and don't call the presbytery in order to book your Mass. Please do not text your booking requirements as this may not be picked up in time. Line opens Monday 15th. March at 9.30am.
- Only one Mass can now be booked in any one weekend and bookings can be taken to cover two weeks only. If the Mass is full you will be offered the next available Mass.
- To reserve your seat, you will be asked for your name, phone number and the number of people in your household for whom you are booking. This is for NHS Track & Trace and also enables us to contact you if we have advance warning of a Mass having to be cancelled.
- Please give your booking as quickly as possible, to free up the busy booking line!

Confessions before Easter. Both Fr. Gregory and Fr David Donaghue will be available on Wednesday 24 March: 10am - 11am and 6pm - 7pm. Please book your ten minute slot on the above number (24 slots available). Additionally, during each Stations of the Cross on Fridays, Father Gregory will be available to hear confessions in the Lady Chapel.

Stations of the Cross These take place at 6.30pm on Fridays during Lent followed immediately by Mass at 7.00pm. Please remain seated during the meditations; prayers for each Station (shorter than normal with no singing) will be led from the

lectern. If you would like to pray the Stations of the Cross privately online at home, visit our website <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/stations-introduction/> where you will find the 14 station prayers with images from St. Edward's Station plaques.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

March 27th - Saturday Vigil - Mass at: 6.30pm

PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD

Masses at: **8.00am; 9.30am; 11.00am**

- There is no procession. Fr. Gregory will move through the church for the place where the palms are to be blessed.
- The palms will be distributed by stewards using single use gloves as parishioners leave church after receiving communion.
- The tradition for people to bring their own greenery/decorated palms is encouraged so long as individuals do not share the palms with others.
- The shorter form of Mark's passion will be read from the lectern. The congregation are not permitted to proclaim the crowd parts.

MONDAY – No Public Mass

TUESDAY – Please Note – No Public Mass

WEDNESDAY – No Public Mass

HOLY THURSDAY MASS of the LORD's SUPPER at 7pm

- The Holy Oils will be received more simply
- The washing of the feet will be omitted
- Holy Communion is given under one kind in the hand only
- There is no procession at the end of mass, and no Altar of Repose.
- There will be no Watching as there is no Altar of Repose.

Please Note: the Chrism Mass will take place at the Cathedral, however, Government lockdown rules covering Holy Week state: "When visiting a place of worship you should stay local and avoid travelling outside your local area, meaning your village or town". Live streaming of broadcasts of Mass from Northampton Cathedral take place at <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

GOOD FRIDAY at 3pm

The Liturgy of the Passion is celebrated according to the missal with the following alterations:

- The Passion according to John will be read but the people are not permitted to proclaim the crowd parts.

- The Cross is shown to the people three times, and they respond by genuflecting or bowing at each showing. Only the celebrant venerates the cross by kissing it.
- I will then hold the cross up for a brief period of silent veneration by the assembly, for which the people kneel or bow.
- The practice of individuals venerating [kissing] a cross they have brought with them [including a cross on their rosary cross] could be included as long as the cross is not shared with others.
- Holy Communion is given under one kind from the Reserved Sacrament into the hand only, and any Hosts remaining are to be returned to the tabernacle.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm (alternative for those who work at 3.00pm)

EASTER WEEKEND

As space is limited on Easter weekend, please book for EITHER the Vigil Mass OR an Easter Day Mass but not both to enable everyone to attend a weekend Mass,

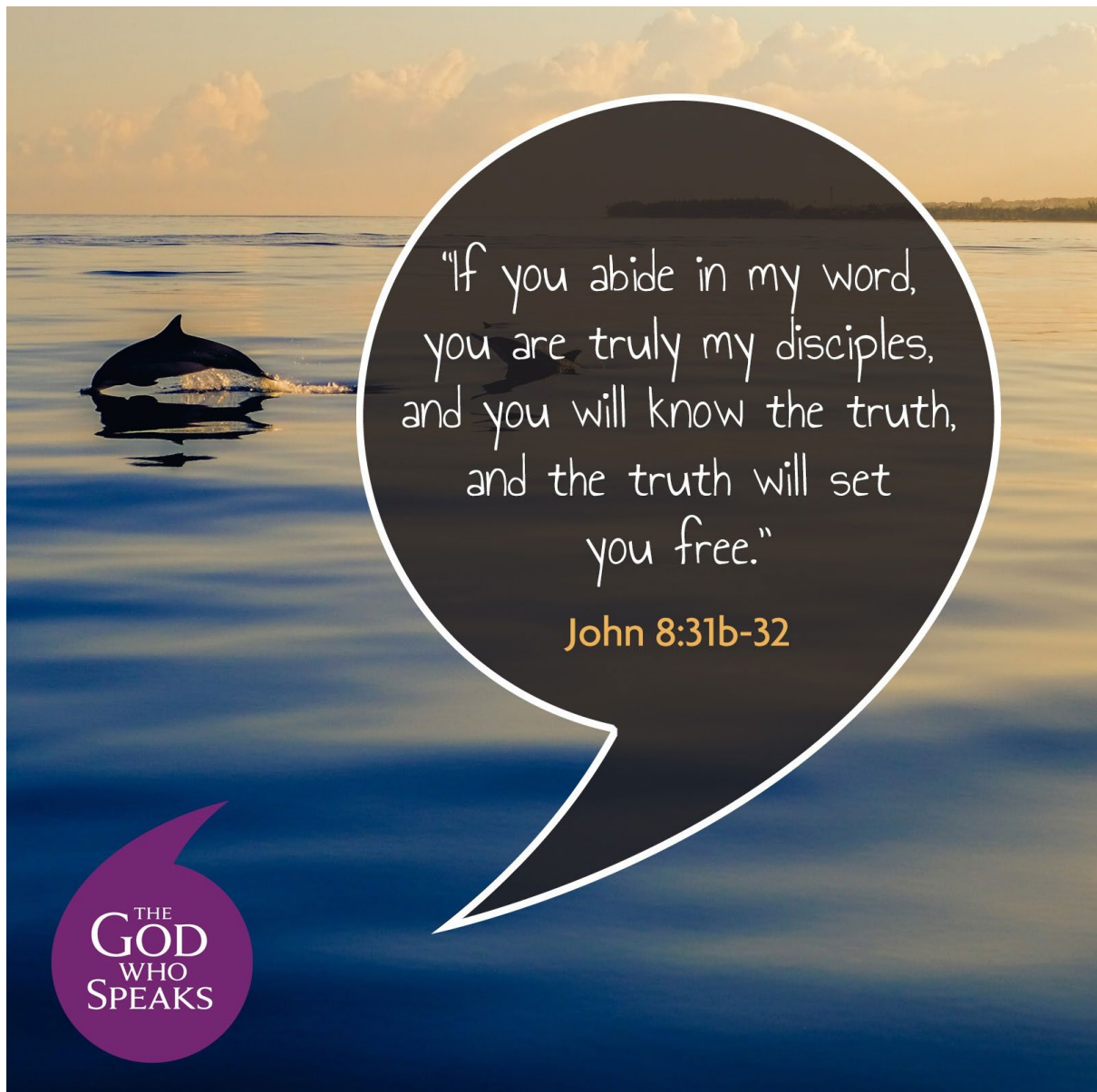
Either SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL at 8pm

- there can be no fire gathering outside
- the people do not hold or share candles
- the Paschal Candle is prepared and lit in its holder in the sanctuary
- The Litany is omitted as there is no baptism
- The Baptismal Water is blessed but not sprinkled
- The renewal of Baptismal Promises takes place
- Holy Communion is given under one kind into the hand from the newly consecrated Sacrament.

Or EASTER DAY

Masses at: **8.00am; 9.30am; 11.00am**

Mass includes the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, but without any sprinkling of holy water, or vigil candles.



**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/>

Come join our Parish Facebook group. Stay in touch with what is happening in St. Edward's Parish and with what is going on in the wider Catholic community around the world.

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 with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

USEFUL LINKS

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

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

Kettering Foodbank 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

"The Corona Kitchen", a hot food takeaway at **Corn Market Hall on London Road** serves from 4pm to 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/corona-kitchen/>

A list of free food outlets in Kettering (updated mid-February, 2021) can be found on our website here: <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/corona-kitchen/>

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.