



2 The Grove, Kettering NN15 7QQ. **Telephone** 01536 512497

Website: www.stedwardskettering.org.uk

Email: parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

EASTER SUNDAY

4th April, 2021



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 Easter Vigil - 8.00 pm - Marion Forsdyke RIP

Easter Sunday - 8.00 am - Teresa Antill / **9.30 am** - for the Parish / **11.00 am** - Janette Stokes RIP

Monday - Edward Doherty RIP

Tuesday - **10.00 am** - Maria Trembecka RIP

Wednesday - Dodson family

Thursday - Holy Souls int

Friday - **7.00 pm** - John Peck RIP

Saturday - 6.30 pm - Lizzie Brady RIP

Sunday - 8.30 am - Father Owen O'Neil - get well int. / **10.30 am** - Gribben and McAnally families / **3.00 pm** - Divine Mercy Service

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.

Fr Tony Whitfield - Ordained on 13 June 1979, he was a priest in Bletchley, (1979-1983), Our Lady's, Luton (1983-88), and in Oundle from 1988-2004, when he retired.

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.



MESSAGE FROM FR. GREGORY

I would like to wish you every blessing to you and your families this Easter. It is a season of celebration, of new life that God offers to each of us. Life has triumphed over death. This year, however, for the second time in our lives Easter occurs at a strange time for all of us, and we greatly miss having you all present in our church to celebrate the Eucharist together. May the Risen Lord keep you and your families safe and we pray for all medical personnel and for those who work hard to ensure our safety. May God bless and reward their efforts, and please God we will see you all again in the near future. Easter reminds us that Christ is Risen, that our God is with us, and we have nothing to fear. Instead, we go forward each day in hope. "Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us" (Romans 8:35-37)

With every blessing and good wish,
Fr Gregory



HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY 2021

On the feast of the Jewish Passover, it is a tradition and one of the most important moments, that one of the youngest members of the congregation or family asks a very important question: Why is this night different from all other nights? Why is this Passover different from all other nights? We could ask the same question today. Why is this day, the day of the resurrection different from all other days? Why do we sing every year as a responsorial psalm: *This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad*? Why is this year's Easter different from other Easters? Read more on St. Edward's website on Easter Sunday morning. www.stedwardskettering.org.uk



HE SAW AND HE BELIEVED

Just over a year ago the first stay-at-home instruction came into force and a lot has changed in our lives since then. Many have experienced the loneliness and frustration of isolation, the fear of illness and we've seen on our screens the selfless dedication of front line workers putting their lives at risk to save others. The adjustment to a different way of life continues to be a heavy burden for many to bear. For some who themselves have tasted the bitter cup of suffering that is the virus, or have been left with Long Covid or have lost a loved one, the anguish is unbearable.

But those days of isolation gifted us with a keener sense of our need for one another, our need to belong. How much more we now value the phone call from afar or knock on our door from a neighbour.

Now that there is some easing of restrictions in sight, deep within us flow feelings of aspiration and hope springing up to new life, helped by lighter evenings and Springtime being upon us. Easter Day is not just a comfort to soften the hard truth of human frailty and the profound sorrow in the nature of things, but it is the lens for reading the human story. Today's Gospel text is from John but echoes something common to all the resurrection accounts: "*Till this moment they had failed to understand*" (Jn 20:9). An insightful moment when perspective is completely altered and what has been painful is experienced now as redemptive. We know that God is in the suffering. But today, the Crucified one is risen.

To watch Pope Francis recently, in an inter-religious and ecumenical moment, praying for the revival of life, of trust, of community and of faith among the ruins of Mosul on the banks of the Tigris (from the cradle of God's people) was an Easter

moment of our time. An image that changed perspective and enabled for a moment the world to imagine transformed life, resurrection!

John is clearly the model of Easter faith in this Sunday's Gospel... "*He saw and he believed*". (Jn 20:8). But Mary and Peter are inspiring as well. Mary rushes to judge the facts of a scene that shocks her. Her heart is set on finding Jesus' dead body, but the rolled-away stone scuppers her plans. How often have we been so attached to a plan or an idea that we react to a crisis rashly and want to immediately share with others our story or outrage? Mary's response is so rash and passionate because it reflects her passionate grief and love! It leads others to investigate further. Peter on the other hand is a seeker. He needs more details than those Mary can give him. Maybe the news is so astounding that it suspends his belief so he wants to see for himself. When he eventually enters the tomb and sees the burial cloths, we can imagine him standing there numb with shock. Have we not been numbed by many things we've seen this past year as well? Things so astonishing that they are hard to believe have happened?

But then the beloved disciple joins Peter and also notices the neatly rolled up cloth. He takes the leap of faith, amazing though the implication is, that Jesus has risen by his own power and that death and chaos have been defeated. In our lives and service, may we love like Mary, seek like Peter and believe like John.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MASS

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/> or <https://www.CatholicDirectory.org>

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BOOK YOUR PLACES AT MASS

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.

- 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 these cannot be confirmed. **Text facility can only be used to notify CANCELLATION of your booking. Please do this if you no longer require your booking as we have a waiting list for each Mass over Easter.**

- 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!

All Masses after Easter weekend are at normal times:

Tuesday 10am. Friday 7pm. Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 8.30am. & 10.30am. with an additional service (no Mass) next Sunday as follows:

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 11th April at 3pm

Culmination of the Easter Octave, 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. This year the service will need to be shorter and simpler due to the restrictions, with only the basics needed to fulfil the devotion for those who wish to partake. Therefore at 3pm. we will open our church in order to bless and venerate the image of Divine Mercy and relics of St Faustina & St JPII (stay in your seats and bow to venerate, or bring your own image to kiss). We will also say the Chaplet together and there will be time for Adoration. You will need to have attended Mass over that weekend and been to confession during the Novena period or shortly afterwards in addition to praying the Novena which started on Good Friday. Confessions with Fr. Gregory or Fr. Ebin will be available after the short service without booking although you will need to **book for the service itself so that seats can be allocated safely**. Confessions will also be available on Saturday as normal.

For those devotees who would prefer to stay at home during the special dispensation period currently in force, you can instead obtain the same graces by live-streaming Mass and there will be Divine Mercy services in selected churches across the UK and Ireland which you can choose to take part in via <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/> Check out this site and scroll down to services around 3pm. for a selection. For Information about the Novena go to: <https://centrefordivinemercy.org/novena> where you will also find guidance on fulfilling the devotion at home.

Regarding the requirement to go to confession, Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics staying at home to ask God for forgiveness and then to go to confession when they feel able. Pope Francis said to speak to God, as he is your father, and tell him your sins...Promise him: 'Later I will confess, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to the grace of God.

NEW BOX SETS OF GIVING ENVELOPES 2021/22

The boxes of Giving Envelopes for the year commencing 2nd May 2021 are now available. They may be collected from St Edward's Church by Parishioners who attend church services from Palm Sunday and subsequent weeks .

On arrival at church could you please give your name to the Steward's on duty, who will then give you the correct box allocated, please note that you are not allowed to select your own box as you would normally have done in previous years as we still all have to abide by the current Covid regulations to keep us safe.

Any Parishioner who is unable to collect from St Edward's Church during the Easter Period is kindly requested to collect their box from the Presbytery at 2, The Grove, Kettering when they are able to do so.

May we take this opportunity to once again thank all Parishioners for their continued financial support in these difficult times.

GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

to all Parishioners who have made out a Gift Aid Declaration in the past few years. If your situation has now changed e.g. change of address, or you are no longer a Tax payer etc, then please let us know so that we can update the information.

The Parish really appreciates your contribution in this scheme as the Gift Aid Declaration you provide makes a real difference to the income our Parish receives.

If Parishioners who have **not** Gift Aided their donations and can meet the current Tax rules would like to Gift Aid, please let us know.

To advise us of any changes or make an enquiry then you can email the Parish Office parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk or put a note through the Presbytery Door for the attention of Nigel Hinson. Any correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence at all times.

Many thanks indeed.

Nigel and Marilyn Hinson - Parish Gift Aid Voluntary Administrators

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

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.
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