



Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit

Parish Team
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A Very Warm Welcome to all Parishioners and Visitors

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II 19 April 2020



Today, the second Sunday after Easter, traditionally known as Low Sunday, but since 2000 the Church has decreed it be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Between the First and Second World Wars, Christ entrusted his message of mercy to Sr Faustina Kowalska, a Polish Nun. Jesus told Sr Faustina '*Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy.*' As we live through these challenging and uncertain times it is Jesus' love which must inspire humanity today if it is to face this crisis and defend the dignity of every human person. Every person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one of us, no exceptions.

In today's Gospel we meet Doubting Thomas. Each one of us has something in common with Doubting Thomas, because at times, perhaps right now, we too are troubled by doubts. However, the Risen Lord is here with us. Do we recognise him? Are we aware he is here with us in our everyday life? Are we aware he is here especially in our moments of trials, difficulties and failures? Let us not be a 'Doubting Thomas'. Instead of denying our doubts let us bring them to the Lord. He is risen, and he lifts us up, he raises us up, right now. Ask him today to make you believe in him as the Lord of life. Alleluia!

May God bless you all

Deacon Ian

THIS WEEK

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Oliver Patrick Gannon RIP and remember his family at this time too.

Please note that we have decided to have **every Sunday Mass at 10.30 am** during the lock-down (and not at the earlier time previously advertised).

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you all so much for the many kind greetings, prayers, cards and gifts I have received over the last few days. You are very kind and thoughtful – as always.

Having live-streaming of Mass from the parish has made a huge difference for me, and I hope for you, most especially for the Easter Triduum services, but also for our Sunday and daily Masses. Even though I'm now saying Mass facing my laptop on top a couple of trestle tables in front of the altar in an otherwise empty church—which feels very strange!—it makes all the difference. I know people can hear me and join in prayer with me. Thank you for your kind comments about it as well, which reinforce the sense of being united with each other.

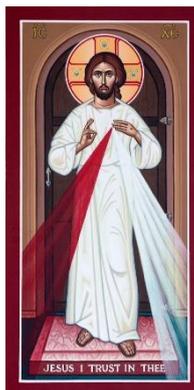
I am delighted that Deacon Ian has agreed to provide the front-page reflections for our newsletter for the coming weeks. I have certainly missed his contribution to parish life, and I am sure you have too. So it's lovely that we can tap into his spiritual wisdom again.

May God bless you all,

Fr Stephen

Need Support: Do you need help or support at this time? If you need any sort of practical help, or would just like a chat with someone, please do call 01372 458263 or email eandfparish@btinternet.com

Divine Mercy Sunday



Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, instituted by Pope St John Paul II in 2000. Sadly we won't be able to gather in the parish for the devotions, Reconciliation and Mass. However, you may like to follow up the links below.

EWTN Great Britain:

<https://www.ewtn.co.uk/live/tv>

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ruKlnR-riJorule-3tuhg>

The Pope has granted a **plenary indulgence** to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, to those quarantined, to health workers and carers of the sick, and to all who undertake to pray particular prayers for the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself. For the details see <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html>

Coronavirus Update

Live-streaming of Mass and other services from our parish is available at our YouTube channel, "Effingham and Fetcham Catholic Parish". Search for "YouTube Effingham Fetcham" and you should find it easily.

Mass (without a congregation) will be offered daily, generally **at 10.30 am on Sundays** and 9.15 am on weekdays (including Saturday). You can continue to request intentions via the parish office.

In this emergency circumstance the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the obligation of Easter Duties have been removed (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2181).

The Lord continues to be among us in the **Blessed Sacrament** in the tabernacles of our churches, consecrating our parish and our villages by His living presence amongst us.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is possible on request in cases of need.

Other Sacraments will not be celebrated except in emergency. Do please contact Fr Stephen in the normal way in emergency situations.

Funerals can now be celebrated only with close family members at the graveside or at the crematorium. However, we will be able to celebrate memorial Requiem Masses for those who have died once the present crisis passes.

Participating in Mass. Although Mass can only be celebrated without a congregation at present, we are all encouraged to join in spiritually. You can make use of live-streaming of Mass from our own parish (see above) or from many other places. You can also simply pray the prayers and readings of Mass at home, and make a *spiritual communion* e.g. "I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints."

Further resources are available from our diocesan website www.dabnet.org and from the website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales www.cbcew.org.uk. You could also try www.ctsbooks.org and www.cafod.org.uk.

GENERAL

Parish Circulation Email: In this very trying time for everybody the internet is becoming more vital as a means of communication. If you would like to receive emails from the Parish keeping you in touch, including receiving the weekly parish newsletter that is handed out at Mass, then please contact Michael Bray michaelpbray@btinternet.com or the Parish office. The list is only used for Parish and Diocese information and is sent bcc so individual email addresses are not visible.

BIDDING PRAYERS

This week, let's all pray for:

1. A deep and living faith in the Risen Jesus, for ourselves and for people throughout the world, and a revival of Christian hope in this time of anxiety and suffering.
2. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, that we will confidently entrust ourselves and the whole world to the loving mercy of our Saviour.
3. Pope Francis, Bishop Richard and all church leaders, and also for our national and local governments, that they will make wise decisions in the present situation.
4. All those suffering from the Coronavirus – the sick, the anxious, the bereaved, those experiencing financial and practical difficulties, and medical staff and researchers. We also pray for those who are particularly in danger from the virus in refugee camps and in the world's poorest countries.
5. For all those who have died recently, especially Oliver Patrick Gannon, and all who have died from the coronavirus, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now, especially Stuart Brown.

This Week's Masses

Saturday	18 Apr	9.15am	Celebrant's Intention
Sunday	19 Apr	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	20 Apr	9.15am	Alan Bryant - RIP
Tuesday	21 Apr	9.15am	Mrs Joan Bray & Mrs Bunty Gibson - RIP
Wednesday	22 Apr	9.15am	Pauline Farino – RIP & Tony Farino - Wellbeing
Thursday	23 Apr	9.15am	Rupert Pontifex - RIP
Friday	24 Apr	9.15am	Fr Geoff Nixon - RIP
Saturday	25 Apr	9.15am	Jo & Dennis King - RIP
Sunday	26 Apr	10.30am	People of the Parish

Owing to the coronavirus, all Masses have to be celebrated without a congregation. I will say Mass at 9.15 every day, and will continue to offer them for your intentions. A few that have been provisionally scheduled will need to be moved to another day: please accept my apologies for this – but I promise that no intention will be forgotten.

Confessions are available on request. Please contact Fr Stephen if you would like this.

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14 22-28 Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Luke 24: 13-35 1Peter 1:17-21

Please pray for those in our Parish who are sick:

Marie Bliss	Joanna Mills
Michael Boulvard	Janet Morgan
Pauline Boulvard	Jim Morgan
Christopher Brown	Ann Peck
Jeff Care	Maureen Rennison
Amy Chapman	Patrick Rennison
Maggi Cooke	Piers Ripley-Duggan
Marian Cross	Jean Rowlandson
Maureen Donoghue	Yolande Sharpe
John Donovan	Karen Silver
Mary Doran	Mary Skilton
Mary Hefford	Jenny Smith
Ros Kennedy	Pat Turton
Derek Knott	Simon Turton
Tessa Knott	Andrea Vaughan
Noreen Landers	Rose Wedlake
Filomena Lionetti	Alf Wiggins



Newsletter items to the Parish office by 10.00am Wednesday