



St Mary's Catholic Church Cadogan Street, Chelsea, SW3 2QR

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk

In residence: The Vicar General of the Diocese of Westminster, Mgr. Martin Hayes

Parish Office Tel. 020 7589 5487 Email: chelsea1@rcdow.org.uk

15th March 2020 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

We Welcome...

*People of All Faiths and Cultures
Divorced or Separated Persons
Families with Children
Those in Loving Relationships
Those in Difficulty
Married Couples
Single Persons
Those in Recovery
Travellers from Far and Near
Widows and Widowers
Visitors*

We Seek...

*To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup*

We Celebrate...

*Diversity
A spirit of hospitality
The unity that God wills
Enlightening those who seek God
Reaching out to alienated Catholics
Reverencing the dignity of each person
Caring for the needs of the less fortunate
Empowering Christians to realise their call
Providing a spiritual oasis
Honouring an understanding among all faiths
Nurturing our gifts and sharing them*

PARISH DIARY – REGULAR EVENTS

*Lectio Divina – Tuesdays during term time
(Email kjaubert@btinternet.com for details)
Mother's Prayers – Wednesdays STM Room 10am
SVP Meetings – 2nd Thursday of the month 7pm
SVP Outreach – 4th Thursday of the month 8pm
Good Friends Café - 2nd Sat. of the month*

10.30am

The Parish Office is open on:
Mon, Weds & Fri. 9.30am - 3.30pm



When Jesus says to the woman by the well: "Give me a drink", Christ expresses the divine thirst for souls. For us, too, the thirst for God, which every human being possesses, is not something pretend or cosmetic. It is real and it is a fundamental characteristic of our human natures, which the woman by the well acknowledges when she says "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Do I see my thirst for God and my following of Christ as something which is accidental to my life, or is it something that I value as being fundamental to my existence? Do I believe in the grace of God that can transform me inwardly and enable me to change my ways? Do I have the courage to live without sin as sin is no longer inevitable in the life of grace? Of course we all know that it is not always easy to find that courage. In fact it may be a difficult and complicated process. We frequently waver and our faith is weak and when we finally have the courage to do what is right and true it often demands a great sacrifice. We need to trust, though, that Jesus is with us in that process, even when we waver in our weakness.

We ought also to admire the Samaritan woman whom Christ meets by the well for her courage to stand in the truth and to follow Christ. Her difficult past is brought to light in the conversation: she is in her sixth relationship and that relationship is irregular. But she is able to stand in the truth and accept that the living water can only come from Christ. She is refreshed and goes off to preach the good news about God's mercy to others, the mercy that did not condemn her but rather gave her the courage to stand in the truth. Jesus also gives us that same courage even today by allowing us to accept the truth about those parts of our lives which are hidden in the shadows so that we are not held hostage by our sinfulness.

Fr Shaun

Third Sunday of Lent

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| Sat 14 Mar | 18.30 | Jeannette (Paul) Richard Raad RIP |
| Sun 15 Mar | 10.00 | Luis Miguel Laranja Bday & Pvt Int |
| | 11.30 | A. Fleury's Intentions |
| | 18.30 | People of the Parish |
| Mon 16 Mar | 12.00 | Trevor Knight RIP |
| Tues 17 Mar | 09.30 | Lady Oki Bruntisfield <i>St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</i> |
| Wed 18 Feb | | <i>Church open for private prayer</i> |
| Thurs 19 Mar | 12.00 | For the sick <i>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| Fri 20 Mar | 12.00 | Ramil, Vic & Gian Loyola |

Stations of the Cross 11.00-11.45am
Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 17.45 to 18.15
(Reconciliation at other times by arrangement)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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| Sat 21 Mar | 18.30 | Jad and Hoda Birthday |
| Sun 22 Mar | 10.00 | Private Intention |
| | 11.30 | Uncle Cosimo Cantoro RIP Anniv. |
| | 18.30 | People of the Parish |

Coronavirus; COVID 19

Because of the dangers presented by Covid 19, the Diocese of Westminster has asked that all Parishes implement the following measures at this time:

- 1. The chalice should not be distributed.**
- 2. Communion will only be given on the hand.***
- 3. The sign of peace will not be exchanged.**
- 4. Those who are vulnerable because of serious illness should stay at home.**
- 5. Hymn books and Missals should not be shared.**
- 6. Good hygiene is encouraged, especially the washing of hands before Mass.**

**If a person feels that they cannot receive communion in the hand they should refrain from receiving the Eucharist and instead make a spiritual communion.*

Royal Hospital Mass on Monday Mass at the Royal Hospital will cease and will be offered instead at the parish church on Monday at 12 noon.

Re-dedication of England to Our Lady The final visitation of the statue of our Lady of Walsingham will take place at Westminster Cathedral from 19th to 21st March and will include a Eucharistic healing service with Benediction at 7pm on 20th March. The closing

Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent at 6pm on 21st March. The Cardinal will celebrate the 12 noon Mass on 29th March, which will include the Act of Entrustment rededicating England to Our Lady. All are welcome. www.Behold2020.com

Easter offering The collection which is taken at Easter is your offering to Fr Shaun. It provides his salary and supports him in his ministry. Envelopes in which to make your offering are attached to this newsletter and are also available at the back of the church.

Confession at Westminster Cathedral Please find listed the times of Confession at Westminster Cathedral. **Monday - Friday** 11.30am to 5.30pm **Saturday** 10.30am to 6.00pm **Sunday** 11.00am to 12.30pm, 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Flowers for Easter We all love to see our church looking beautiful, especially so at Easter. After all Masses next week there will be a second collection for the Easter flowers. Thank you for your kindness and thanks to all those who will volunteer to decorate the church at Eastertime.

The Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse Will be marked this year on Friday, 3rd April 2020. We think about and pray for all those impacted directly by abuse – for the victims themselves, their families, friends, and communities.

Parish Vision We invite those who are interested in helping or leading initiatives to join us in the Thomas More room after the evening mass on Saturday, 14th March and after the 10am Family Mass on Sunday 15th March, to discuss involvement and next steps. If you cannot join, feel free to reach out to Allyson Schettino on 07479 508820 or allysoncschettino@gmail.com to be included going forward.

Confirmation Our Confirmation candidates will meet in the St John Southworth room on Saturday 14th and 21st March, 11am-12.30pm.

Congratulations To all our First Holy Communion children who made their First Confession on Friday 13th March. We hope that they had a wonderful experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are grateful to the Priests who came to support us.

Tuesday Mass Is at 9.30am due to a Deanery meeting.

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