

Last week's collection + Standing orders: Total £728 47p Thank you

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 months' notice must be given, please see Father to make arrangements, please speak to Clergy Marriage preparation course is on the four Sundays in Feb. and in June at Our Lady's Moss Side: Book on line at marriage.stjosephsmanchester.co.uk: Sacramental programme 2019/20: Contact: Clare Clegg (07389 192655).
ALL CLUBS AND GROUPS SUSPENDED

BURNAGE FOOD BANK; opening times are: Tuesday 12.30pm-2.30pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Kingsway, Burnage M19 1PL and Friday 3pm-5pm St Bernard's Church Hall, Burnage Lane, M19 1DR. www.burnagefoodbank.org.uk or tel: 07936698546.

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest. Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way. Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?

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ST. BERNARD'S PARISH NEWSLETTER PALM SUNDAY



SUNDAY 28TH MARCH 2021

Holy Week

Clergy: Mgr. Michael J Kujacz, Fr. John Coe, Fr. Kevin Gradwell.

Address St. Bernard's R C Church, Burnage Lane, Manchester M19 1DR

Tel 0161 432 3628 Website <http://stbernards-burnage.homeip.net> Live stream

michaelkujacz@hotmail.com **STAY WITH US ON OUR JOURNEY HOLY YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

Palm Sunday **You tube: "St Bernard's Burnage",** **March: Month of St Joseph**



On Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story - the tale of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The drama of this week starts on the Mount of Olives. On Thursday evening we relive the Lord taking bread and wine to be his Body and Blood: Olives, bread, wine, the dying and rising of Jesus. There can be no olive oil without the crushing of the olives. Bread needs flour but flour cannot be made without the crushing of the wheat. And wine comes forth from the crushed grapes. There can be no Easter without Good Friday. As olives and wheat and grapes, crushed, give rise to something new, so the life of Jesus offered by himself to be crushed as a sacrifice for sin, gives rise, in the Resurrection to new life for Jesus and for ourselves.

This week as a Diocese we pray for the parish of St. James and All Souls, Salford, for Fr. Frankie Mulgrew, their parish priest, and for the chaplaincy to Salford University. We pray for their parish primary school and for All Hallows High School. May they experience divine renewal by faithful listening like disciples.

Pope Francis Tweet: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:23-24). Precisely then, in trials and in solitude while the seed is dying, that is the moment in which life blossoms, to bear ripe fruit in due time."

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS for March: Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

I am sorry that because of restrictions many of you will not be able to share in the Liturgies of Holy Week, this year. You will be very much in our thoughts and prayers and I hope that it won't be long before we can all be together again. May the grace of Holy Week fill each and every one of us. God Bless, mjk

This week's timetable

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| PALM SUNDAY | 28th March | Morning Mass Evening Mass | 10am 6pm | *Confessions after Mass* |
| Monday | 29th March | Mass of Holy Week | 9-30am | Mass |
| Tuesday | 30th March | Mass of Holy Week | 6pm 7pm | Confessions & Exposition Mass |
| SPY WEDNESDAY | 31st March | Mass of Holy Week | 9-30am | Mass |
| HOLY THURSDAY | 1st April | MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | 7pm | Mass *FULL* |
| GOOD FRIDAY | 2nd April | Stations of the Cross Led by Sr Ann McCabe THE LORD'S PASSION | 10-30am 3pm | *Confessions after Stations* *FULL* |
| HOLY SATURDAY | 3rd April | EASTER VIGIL MASS | 7pm | *FULL* |
| EASTER SUNDAY | 4th April | MORNING MASS | 10am | *FULL* |

Keep up to date on the website with the Parish Pump and Sacristy Chatter.

Masses this week: Special Intentions, Christine Kelly, John Treanor, Eileen Harkin, Padric Cawley, John Brennan, Margaret Quinn, Bernard Howell, Marcia & Brian Nuttall, Recovery from sickness, Margaret Walsh, Jim Lister, Maurice Doyle, Veronica Kelly, Joan Tierney-Barry, Joseph Cahill.

In your prayers please remember: Bernard Grigaitis, Teresa McHugh, Margaret Walsh, Valerie Bridge, Margaret Moran, Prince Philip, Paddy Lyons, Stephen Bostock, Oliver, Fr. Kevin Gradwell, Teresa Barrett, Sr. Theresa Moore, Bernard Howell, Margaret Hennigan, Philip Tobin, Elizabeth, Fr Frank Jennings, Patricia Divine, Theresa Patrick, Clare Bainbridge, Mary Boylan, Ged McCarrow, Fr Anthony, Ann McManus, Maurice O'Connell, Fr Frank Jennings, Breda Duggan, Alan Gibson, Brenda & Bill O'Hara, Fr Frank Deeney, Marcella McNevin, Celia & Alf Meschi, Colm Harkin, Maureen Nash, Annette, Paddy Doherty, Ellen Leach, Vincent Gibson, Padraig Kavanagh, Canon Frank Deeney, Piers Henderson, Patrick Griffin, Michael Griffin, Michael Maguire, Audrey O'Neil, Carol Archer, James Hegerty, Audrey O'Neil, Monica Gallagher, James Barrrens, Michaela Rabbitt, Mary Callaghan, B Keaveney, Antony & Christopher Mullen, Janet Ackley, Trevor Teale, Carol Archer, Ann McKenna, Barbara Hegarty, Barry Keaveney, Katherine Mahon, Mary Wheatley, Steven Moorhouse, Tess Kenrick, Val Begley, Kevin Malpas, James Barren, Ged MacCarron, Cam Lusco, Breda Gallagher, Margaret Bayhi, Paul Cannon, Angela & Dennis Keyworth, Denis Joyce, Mobishir Rawthore, Nancy Maguire, Kath Welch, Ann & David, Mary O'Neill, Sarah Byrns, Kitty Kinsella, Marian Parker, Ian Lomas, Arianna, Oliver Agnew, Pat Scott, Lisa McElwaine, Fr Leo Heakin, Sir Bobby Charlton, William Harkin, Lyndsey Kelly, John Phillips, Stefan Lachkovic, Karen & Billy Hennessy, Debbie Roberts, Dillon Ward, Brian Waugh, Michael Turner, Chris Forbes, Yas Poptani, Sr Pat Carney, Dorothy Harold, Christine, John Griffin, Fr Chris Lough,

Jane Riley, Jacky Watts, Margaret Hills, Sheila Walsh, John Kirwin, Christopher Burke, Ann O'Connor, MJK, Anne Hutton, Sandra Lannatta, Kevin Hempzell, George Hegarty, Margaret & Dave Watkins, Sue Atherton, Lizzie Frost, Breda Orr, Orla McManus, Betty Ann Jones, Kathleen Curley, Anthony Mullen, Marion Moran, Ronald Bradshaw, Ann & John MacCarron, Fr Vincent Cavey, Mary Winterbourne, Mary Mulvihill, Phyllis Dowd, Celia Deignan, Eileen Kenny, Mary Jordan, Michael Carney, Maureen Walkin, Bernie Quezena, Lee Hegarty, Richard O'Connor, Patrick Clarke, Anna Lawless, Eddie McDonald.

Our Lady's Lamp for all who are mourning this Easter & the Sacred Heart Lamp: for John Press Family New lists at the back of the Church to sign up: suggested donation £5. Thank you



Please arrange your Baptisms by Annie or Janice using the Parish website on: baptismstbernards@gmail.com :please be aware that some social distancing rules will apply and limited numbers. We have now recommenced Baptisms.

HOLY WEEK: All Masses and Services, apart from Stations of the Cross at 10.30am on Good Friday are FULLY BOOKED.

All parishioners who booked places on the Holy Week forms have been allocated a place in church unless you have been notified. Please be aware that in order to maintain social distancing you may be asked to sit in a place in church you wouldn't normally sit. Please follow the Stewards guidance and also arrive in good time for your Mass or Service. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping St Bernard's safe for everyone.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES; New envelopes are available for collection from Pat Jones either before or after Mass. You will notice that you may have a new number for your box this year. You will be asked to confirm your contact details so that up to date information is held by the parish for the diocese. Thank you very much for your contributions to St Bernard's this year. If you are a UK tax payer please consider being a gift aider for our parish.

CAFOD: Many thanks for envelopes, offerings & for giving online & by text this Lent. The Big Walk for Water photos can be seen at www.cafod.org.uk/water & we can pray for the day when all communities have easy access to clean, life-giving water as we walk in solidarity with Abdella this Lent. **THANK YOU**

Meditation by St Gregory Nazianzen: " If you are a Simon of Cyrene, take up your cross and follow Christ. If you are crucified beside him like one of the thieves, now, like the good thief, acknowledge your God. For your sake, and because of your sin, Christ himself was regarded as a sinner; for his sake, therefore, you must cease to sin. Worship him who was hung on the cross because of you, even if you are hanging there yourself. Derive some benefit from the very shame; purchase salvation with your death. Enter paradise with Jesus, and discover how far you have fallen. Contemplate the glories there, and leave the other scoffing thief to die outside in his blasphemy.

If you are a Joseph of Arimathea, go to the one who ordered his crucifixion, and ask for Christ's body. Make your own the expiation for the sins of the whole world. If you are a Nicodemus, like the man who worshipped God by night, bring spices and prepare Christ's body for burial. If you are one of the Marys, or Salome, or Joanna, weep in the early morning. Be the first to see the stone rolled back, and even the angels perhaps, and Jesus himself."