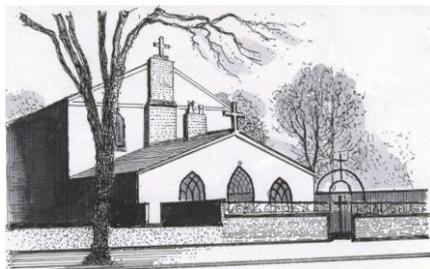


Our Lady

Help of Christians



Parish Priest: Fr David Melly
Deacons:
Rev Jim Davies
Rev Tom Simms

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PALM SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2018

(Prayer of the Church Week 2 Parish Mass Book Page)

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Saturday	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Tony Barrow
	10.30am	Michael Kilgannon
Monday	7.30pm	
Tuesday	9.00am	Harold Davies
Wednesday	9.00am	Tony Smith
Thursday	7.30pm	Robert Longmuir
Friday	3.00pm	Passion of the Lord

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	8.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Paddy Ryan
	10.30am	John Wylie

Novena	No novena this week
Confessions	No confessions until further notice
Meditation	Monday after Mass & Saturday 10.15am

Counters team next Sunday - Team E

Geraldine Simmons, Teracina Taylor Jim Davies Ken Fidler

HOLY WEEK: This is Holy week one of the great gifts of God to each of us. It is an opportunity to stop and reflect on our faith in a very powerful way and hopefully grow closer to Our Lord.

HOLY THURSDAY: On Holy Thursday we stop to remember where the Mass began and will hear the Lord call us again to a more faithful celebration of this great mystery. After Mass we remember the agony in the garden. This is a time to stop, reflect on and learn from the suffering of Christ. During this time of watching with Jesus we will celebrate night prayer at 9.30pm and at 10pm recall the soldiers coming to arrest this good man.

GOOD FRIDAY On Good Friday morning we join with our fellow Christians in St James' church at 10.30am. At 3pm we pause to remember the passion of Jesus and the power of this great event. We also pray with the whole church throughout the world for the needs of the church and the world. A retiring collection will be taken for the upkeep of the Holy places in the holy land.

HOLY SATURDAY: The Easter Vigil is the highlight of the church's year. For reasons which become obvious we cannot begin this celebration until after dark. This year because Easter is early we can begin at 8.00 pm. Here we pause to celebrate the Lord's victory over the power of darkness and to renew our baptismal commitment to him in his fight against evil. I said some time ago that if you have never been to the vigil that you should try it sometime. Don't let this year be the time you try because of space.

EASTER GREETINGS CAMPAIGN 2018: If you wish to give comfort and hope to a victim of torture or other abuses, please take an information sheet from the Porch and send a card to the prisoner with your own message. Thank you, J&P Group

GIFT AID AND STANDING ORDER FORMS: I am informed by the finance team that all the new Gift Aid forms have been processed and that all completed standing order (SO) forms returned to the parish up to last weekend have been forwarded to the applicable banks. Please check your bank statement to make sure both that your instruction has been activated and that you have not paid twice (unless you want to!). The 2018/19 boxes and envelopes had already been printed before this campaign started so even if you submitted a standing order form you will have been issued with a new set of offertory envelopes. Please keep the box (*but don't use the envelopes*) until you are sure your bank has activated your SO instruction. Once you are sure, you may dispose of the envelopes. For parishioners who have opted not to set up a SO, arrangements for making weekly offerings by envelope or cash in the plate remain exactly as before.

TAKING STOCK: Perhaps now is a good time to stop and take stock of how you support the church to keep it going. Being human, it is easy to drift from year to year. It is so easy to go on giving the same amount year in and year out and forget that money decreases in value. What you could get for £5 20 years ago you no longer can get. It is the same with Mass offerings. When I came here almost 20 years ago most people offered £5 for a Mass offering. As I said £5 no longer buys what it did 20 years ago.. The offering traditionally was meant to support the priest on the day he offered the Mass. Initially it was food that was given and brought up at the offertory. As some of the food was dirty, like potatoes, the priest needed to wash his hands after the offertory. He still does it though there is no longer the need. Money took the place of food. Now £5 won't go far for a priest even in Africa where many of our Masses are offered.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS: If anyone would like to attend the Eucharistic Congress in the Echo Arena on the 8th September please let Dave know.