

**Church of the Holy Name**

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**Newsletter 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025****Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)****Pope Francis**

When Pope Francis left hospital before Easter even my non-medical eye wondered how long he would have to live. We did not have to wait that long. The last day of his life said so much about the man: he received the US Vice President; and then he insisted on going out to meet his flock in St Peter's Square. The courage needed to do the latter defies belief as he must have been in pain but saying goodbye to normal people was so important to him. The day after his death I looked at the newsstand in my local Sainsbury's. Every headline was about Pope Francis. TV and Radio gave wall to wall coverage of his death and life with everyone praising his humility and integrity. He walked the talk. People could really identify with him. He did not care about the trappings of power. In Buenos Aires he travelled on a bus and his Popemobile was a Fiat and not a Mercedes. After his election he addressed the crowd from the balcony of St Peters with a simple "good evening". The next day he went on his own to settle his hotel bill. He did not live in the Vatican Palace but in a simple hotel eating his meals in the cafeteria. His first trip as Pope was to Lampedusa the Italian island where many refugees transit. He was famously non-judgemental: "Who am I to judge? Of course he did not get everything right. No human can. But people Catholic and non-Catholic loved the person: he was a real person who cared about us. And we should pray for his successor as Francis will be a hard act to follow.

**Chris Bourne**

**Mass Times this Week: Sat 26<sup>th</sup> to Sun 4<sup>th</sup> May**

<b>Day/Feast Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Intention</b>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	5.15- 5.45pm 6.00pm	<i>Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes</i> Our Lady of Lourdes	Atty De Souza, RIP
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> <i>Divine Mercy</i>	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name – <i>Divine Mercy Holy Hour &amp; Exposition</i> Holy Name	Abe Seagar, Private Intentions Juan Carlos Lema RIP  People of the Parish
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>St George</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Roger Taylor RIP
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.30am 10-12	Holy Name <i>Adoration at Holy Name</i>	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes - <i>Adoration &amp; Rosary</i>	
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Holy Name	Pope Francis RIP
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>St Athanasius</i>	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Ss Philip and James</i>	6.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	People of the Parish
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	9am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name	Mary Callaghan RIP  Joseph Peake RIP

**PRAYERS FOR POPE FRANCIS - this Friday 25th April from 7.00pm at Holy Name Esher.**

You are invited to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on the Vigil of Pope Francis' Requiem on Friday evening at Holy Name, Esher from 7pm-9pm

There will be Rosary at 7.00pm followed by periods of silence, music and prayers for the repose of his soul until 9.00pm Please join at any time. Thank you.

**A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM FR SEBASTIAN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl1xLmtoeG8>**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH AT EASTER**

We welcomed into the Church during a wonderful Easter Vigil: Stephen Liss and Nicholas Webb (who were baptised and confirmed) and Helena Na, Alistair Widdop and Kathryn Davies (who were confirmed). Thank you to all our catechists and sponsors who supported them and helped to make it such a special occasion.

**FHC CHARITY CAKE SALE THIS WEEKEND – please support by buying cakes after Mass.**

The children of the First Holy Communion in both churches will be providing cakes for a sale after the Saturday 6pm and Sunday 9am Masses this weekend. Proceeds will be for charity – please do support if you can.

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. ALL ARE INVITED!** We will have a special Holy Hour from 15.00 at Holy Name, Esher including Divine Mercy Chaplet and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus told St Faustina Kowalska, 'On that day (Divine Mercy Sunday) the very depths of my tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy... (Diary entry 699) If you have never heard of this special day or you would like more details about St Faustina and the Divine Mercy, please visit [www.divinemercy.org](http://www.divinemercy.org) Please also take a free Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer card which will be available in both Churches.

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**

Congratulations to the Short and Haycock families as their children will be baptised at Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 7pm at OLOL**

Our next meeting is Thursday 1st May 7pm at OLOL with an opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer for your deceased loved one. This is followed by the chance to join our meeting afterwards, considering What do you wish you had done differently before or after the death? Can you share some of your fears or worries? All are very welcome to attend for tea and a chat. The following meeting will be Tuesday 3rd June 10am at Holy Name.

**ESHER & THAMES DITTON PARISH RETREAT – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Holy Name**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, we invite you to our parish retreat from **4pm- 7pm** where we will welcome Fr Matthew Szerszen from the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel for the weekend. He is a gifted preacher, an outstanding author and a pre-eminent expert on St Michael the Archangel, the nine choirs of Angels, the spirituality of St Faustina's Diary and the message of Divine Mercy. There will be special talks on these subjects, the opportunity for Reconciliation, prayer and a Eucharistic healing service before we finish with Holy Mass at 18.00. The retreat is free to attend and available to everyone in the Parish, please share this special invitation to your friends and families. For further details please see the posters in the Church or online on our

Facebook page. Any help with refreshments on the day would be great. **This really is an opportunity not to be missed!**

### **"THE SAVIOUR" - Over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May - Gillespie Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes**

We shall mount an important exhibition of the art of the eminent Iraqi artist **Ala Bashir**. This will be in aid of the charity ICIN (Iraqi Christians in Need), and all are invited. Further details will be published in due course, but for the moment please consider whether you could offer a voluntary hour or so to act as a steward, to help keep the exhibition running smoothly. If you feel able to help, please speak to John Merrigan (07949913487) or Suha Rassam 07404644357).

## **YOUTH**

### **NEXT PARISH YOUTH GROUP- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 7-9pm Holy Name**

For all those in school years 7-13 (ages 13 +) Our Youth group is fun and relaxed and takes place every other Friday at the Holy Name Church, Esher in the Parish Rooms. It's a great opportunity to learn more about your faith, to enjoy friendship, share pizza, play games and spend some time in prayer.

### **FUN FRIDAY YOUTH CLUB - 25th April 3.30-4.30pm at OLOL \*Please note time change\***

Join us for Fun Friday in the Parish hall of OLOL for games, crafts, and snacks. All primary school children and their families welcome!

### **YOUNG VINCENTIANS YOUTH CLUB - Year 7 - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 5.30-6.30pm at OLOL**

Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of May from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the café at OLOL. We will be organizing for our charity drive for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, including our action plan to support the Spring into Action campaign.

### **DITTONS FAIR – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

The annual **Dittons Fair** takes place on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm on Giggs Hill Green. Churches Together will again be hosting a Prayer Tent and managing the Plant Crêche. Volunteers are needed for both. If you are able to help for an hour or more, please contact Stella Eusebio: [stellaeusebio@hotmail.com](mailto:stellaeusebio@hotmail.com).

## **FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **Mass for the Pope on Sunday**

Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass for the Repose of the Pope's Soul at Arundel Cathedral at 11am on Sunday 27 April. All are welcome.. To watch the Mass via livestream visit: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream)

### **Grandparents' Pilgrimage - Worth Abbey - 11 June 10am - 3.30pm**

You are warmly invited to join the Grandparent Parish Groups at our annual day of reflection and friendship. Join us for Mass, time to pray together and the wonderful opportunity to talk to fellow grandparents, sharing your experience and the joys and challenges of family life. To register your place, scan the QR code on the poster or go to the Diocesan website events calendar, through which places for events can be booked. This can be found at W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events> and then follow the Grandparents' Pilgrimage link. We look forward to seeing you there. For more details contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser E: [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk), M: 07415 306222

## **THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS**

Please see below the link to Universalis which has current weekend readings. This can always be found on the front page of our website too <https://www.universalis.com/Europe/England.Arundel/mass.htm>

## **MARCH OFFERINGS**

Standing Orders £11,762.77 Offertory Cash £2,853.37, Offertory Contactless £1,640, Cafod Fast Day £1,020.71, Kingston Young Carers £255.20, School of Joy Appeal £5,424.96, International Women's Day £194, Soups £70

## REGULAR EVENTS at Holy Name and Our Lady of Lourdes (LOL)

<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet:</b> All welcome to pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord encouraged St. Faustina to say.	Weekly - <b>Sundays</b> after 9am Mass in the Lady Chapel	Holy Name
<b>TakeTime Meditations:</b> A calm, compassionate space to meet God with the opportunity to explore your faith with others.	Weekly - <b>Mondays</b> at 8pm on Zoom	Email parish office for Zoom link
<b>Playgroup and Café:</b> A cuppa and a chance to catch up with friends every Friday. Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers too.	Weekly - <b>Fridays</b> 9-10.30am	LOL
<b>Sew 'N So's:</b> Complete your craft projects with a warm welcome, friendly chat and suggestions about anything you are "stuck" on.	Weekly - <b>Fridays</b> 11am-1pm Call: Jo W on 020 8224 3705	LOL
<b>Fun Fridays:</b> A youth club for all primary school aged children and their families. It takes place the first Friday of every month (term time) from 3:30 to 5pm in the church hall at LOL. Games, crafts, snacks, and prizes. It's a great opportunity to hang out with friends after school and enjoy seasonal themed activities.	Monthly – 3.30pm Look out in newsletter for next one	LOL
<b>Parish Youth Group:</b> For all those in school years 7-13 (ages 13 +) Our Youth group is really fun and relaxed and takes place every other Friday at the Holy Name Church, Esher in the Parish Rooms. It's a great opportunity to learn more about your faith, to enjoy friendship, share pizza, play games and spend some time in prayer. For more information contact the parish office	Every other Friday (see newsletter)	Holy Name
<b>Drinks and games after Saturday and Sunday evening Masses:</b> come along after the 6pm Mass to meet fellow parishioners	Monthly – first weekend of the month	LOL
<b>Rosary:</b> All welcome, especially anyone who would like to learn the Rosary or anyone who needs a refresher in a peaceful environment.	Weekly - <b>Friday</b> 7pm Monthly - <b>1st Saturdays</b> at 9.30am First <b>Monday</b> of the month 7.30pm (weekly during May & October) Weekly <b>Wednesday</b> 9.30am	Holy Name Holy Name LOL LOL
<b>Bereavement Coffee Morning:</b> Anyone enduring the pain and loss of bereavement is welcome to attend this caring, supportive gathering.	Monthly - 1st Tuesdays at 10am	Holy Name
<b>Grandparents and Elderly Group:</b> Open to all grandparents and elderly in the parish. Come along for a chat and a cuppa.	Monthly - 3rd Tuesdays at 10.15am	LOL
<b>Bible reading group:</b> Come along for coffee, prayer and discussion: Have you ever thought about what you read in the Bible? Is it true? In what ways is it true? Is it a myth? Who says so? A small group who meet regularly to read and pray the bible together. Informative, useful, and fun	Fortnightly – Wednesdays at 10am  Call: John Merrigan (07949 913487).	LOL
<b>Parish Soups:</b> A delicious selection of homemade soups served with bread and cheese. Come along and bring a friend!	Monthly - 2nd Wednesdays at 12pm	LOL
<b>Taizé Evening:</b> A short service of meditative and reflective prayer, combining periods of silence, readings from Scripture, and Taizé music based on Psalm.	Monthly - Thursdays at 7pm See newsletter for dates	Holy Name
<b>Esher Catenians:</b> open to all practising Catholic men looking for a local, national and international social network	Monthly – generally 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00pm for 7:30pm E: Andrew_burton33@aol.com	Various, including Surbiton Golf Club, The Angel T