

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

7th April 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

April Monthly Devotion: Holy Spirit



THEME: Believing without seeing

It takes a leap of trust to believe, without visual or tangible proof, that Jesus is risen from the dead. But having made that leap of faith, we are empowered to win over all that is evil and destructive within ourselves and in our world. For when we believe, the spirit of Jesus makes his home in us so that our love, mercy, and integrity can develop and spread through the world.

| Date | Celebration | Service Time & Location | Intention |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday 7 th April | 2 nd Sunday of Easter | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's | Gertrude Mc Sherry (RIP) Sally Bibby (RIP) Vincent Mooney (RIP Ann.) |
| Mon 8 th Apr | Feast of the Annunciation | 6.15pm St. Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 7:00pm. | Father Oliver's intention |
| Tues 9 th Apr | Ferial | 8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am | Parishioners' Intention |
| Weds 10 th Apr | Ferial | 8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am | Parishioners' Intention |
| Thurs 11 th Apr | St Stanislaus | 9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am | Parishioners' Intention |
| Friday 12 th Apr | Ferial | 9:00am St Paul's School | Pupils and Teachers |
| Sat 13 th April | Ferial | Domestic Church: Bible Readings; Acts. 6:1-7; Jn. 6:16-21 | Sick and Housebound |
| Sunday 14 th April | 3 rd Sunday of Easter | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's | Parishioners' Intention Zenon Lipa (RIP) 1 year Ann. Elizabeth & Edward Riley (RIP) |

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am or by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Wed. 10 th April 6pm | FHC Teaching | St. Mary's meeting room |

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Tyrese Jidenna Onyia was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for him and his family.

JOHN 20:19-31: Jesus was still wearing his human body, and still retained the wounds which had caused his death. The disciples had lived and worked with him for many months; they recognised him now and were overjoyed to see him again. We can all sympathise with Thomas. It is all very well to be told something incredible has happened, but we need the proof of first-hand evidence before we commit ourselves to anything we may regret. We sometimes forget that the other disciples had been just as sceptical at the beginning, calling the women's claims, 'idle talk' and running to the tomb themselves to see what had happened. But if we are doubtful and want to be convinced, we have to put ourselves where we are likely to find proof; it is no good closing our minds and our Bibles or staying away from Mass because we are full of doubts. If we do that, we shall miss Jesus when he makes his presence known and give ourselves no opportunity to thrust our hands into his side. At first Thomas reacted by keeping away, and his doubts grew.

Then, drawn by Christ's love, he put himself in the place to which Jesus had come before. This was his initial act of faith, and Jesus honoured it, coaxing Thomas' trust to grow and blossom.

HOLY SPIRIT: The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*) The Holy Spirit is the Person of Love in the life of God. He is also like a breath, an aspiration of infinite Love, from which we draw the breath of life. On the day of Pentecost, the Divine Spirit communicated such an abundance of life to the whole Church that to symbolize it "there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles were sitting." But it is also for us that the Holy Spirit has come, for the group in the Cenacle represented the whole Church. The Holy Spirit came to remain with the Church forever. This is the promise of Jesus Himself. He dwells in the Church permanently and unfailingly, performing in it without ceasing His action of life-giving and sanctification. He establishes the Church infallibly in the truth. It is He Who makes the Church blossom forth with a marvellous supernatural fruitfulness, for He brings to life and full fruition in Virgins and Martyrs those heroic virtues which are one of the marks of true sanctity.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen. (*St. Augustine*)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of April is that the dignity and worth of women be recognized throughout the world. "In many parts of the world, women are treated like the first thing to get rid of," Pope Francis said in a video released April 2. "There are countries where women are forbidden to access aid, open a business, or go to school," he said, adding: "In these places, they are subject to laws that make them dress a certain way. And in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced." He urged the world to "not deprive women of their voice. Let us not rob all these abused women of their voice. They are exploited, marginalized." The Holy Father pointed out that "in theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons. But this does not play out in practice. Governments need to commit to eliminate discriminatory laws everywhere and to work toward guaranteeing women's human rights," Francis said. "Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress." He concluded with a prayer: "Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION commemorates the pivotal moment when the archangel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary. During this divine encounter, Gabriel revealed to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The feast holds immense importance as it marks the **Incarnation**—the moment when the Word became flesh in Mary's womb and is referred to in both the **Angelus** and the **Hail Mary**, as well as being the first **Joyful Mystery** in the Rosary. The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated across various Christian denominations, including the Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglicanism, Catholicism, and Lutheranism and holds a special place in the hearts of believers, emphasising Mary's pivotal role in God's plan for humanity.

ECUMENICAL ANNUAL SONGS OF PRAISE will take place this year at the Moravian Church, Yew Tree Lane on Sunday 7th April at 2.30 pm. Do attend if you can.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE is recruiting a Level 2 Teaching Assistant. This is a permanent post, 35 hours a week during term time. Applications should be submitted by Tues 16 April 2024. All Saints has 830 pupils, a superb staff and a thriving local community. To apply, visit www.corpuschristitrust.co.uk/vacancies If you have any queries, please email ljones@allsaintscatholiccollege.com

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: Palm Sunday £623.63; Easter Flowers £234.92; Holy Thursday (SVP) £125.29; Good Friday (Holy Places) £251.06. Thank you for your generosity.



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

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Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

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