

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

14th April 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

April Monthly Devotion: Holy Spirit



THEME: Through Christ's sacrifice our sins can be wiped out

God's revelation was a slow and very gradual unfolding, which we can trace in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms; and all this points to the necessary suffering of the Christ in order to save the world from sin. Now Christ has fulfilled his mission, and as Easter people we witness the new life he has made possible.

| Date | Celebration | Service Time & Location | Intention |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 14 th April | 3rd Sunday of Easter | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's | Parishioner's Intention Zenon Lipa 1 year ann (RIP) Elizabeth & Edward Riley (RIP) |
| Mon 15 th Apr | Ferial | Mass 7:00pm St Mary's | Father Oliver's intention |
| Tues 16 th Apr | Ferial | 8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am | Shupi Odetta Chikwesere's intention |
| Weds 17 th Apr | Ferial | 8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am | Parishioner's intention |
| Thurs 18 th Apr | Ferial | 9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am | Parishioner's intention |
| Friday 19 th Apr | Ferial | 9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am | Parishioner's intention |
| Sat 20 th April | Ferial | 9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's | Sick and Housebound |
| Sunday 21 st April | 4th Sunday of Easter | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's | Thanksgiving to SS Jude & Rita of Cascia Parishioner's intention Parishioner's intention |

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 17 th April 6pm | FHC Teaching | St Mary's meeting room |
| Tues 30 th April 6:30pm | 1 st Confirmation Meeting | St Mary's meeting room |

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Bowen Frederick Thomas Trundle was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for him and his family.

LUKE 24:35-48: Even though Peter and some of the others had realised that Jesus was the anointed Christ, about whom the prophets had written, they were still hard put to grasp that God has power even greater than death. Perhaps they thought his spiritual life was to help them, rather as Elijah's power fell on Elish. Perhaps they felt they ought to be strong enough to carry on as they had after being sent out by Jesus two by two. Then, they had come back thrilled and confident; now they felt weak and frightened, and probably very guilty and embarrassed by their pathetic cowardice and disloyalty on Thursday and Friday. Could it be that their own guilt and embarrassment was what prevented them from looking truth in the face? Was their wounded self-image causing them to hide from God's face just as Adam and Eve had done? At any rate, they are in great need of reassurance, so Christ reassures them by being with them once again, just like old times; and they do not believe their eyes. Triumphant over death and sin, knowing how delighted his friends will be once

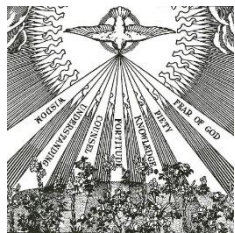
the penny drops, Jesus' sense of humour shows through as he voices their fears: 'Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones, as you can see I have.' At last they look at him with both physical and spiritual eyes wide open, so that they are once more receptive as Jesus patiently explains again about his fulfilment of the scriptures.

CONFIRMATION 2024: Booking for the confirmation programme for Year 8 students and above, has begun. Please pick up a consent form from the back of church to register your child.

BILINGUAL MASS FOR THE CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY: Bishop Mark will celebrate a bilingual Mass for all members of the Chinese Catholic community on Sunday 28th April at 2.30pm, at St Hugh's & St John's, Timperley. During the Mass, which will be concelebrated with Father Bruno Lepeu who is chaplain to the Chinese community, the Bishop will welcome members of the Chinese community who have been baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2024. To attend, please speak to Fr Isidore, to obtain a copy of the form which needs to be completed and forwarded to Father Tomasz Mamelka at office@sthughandstjohnstimperley.co.uk – using the title 'Bilingual Mass', by Fri 25th April.

GROWTH IN HOLINESS: PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE WORKSHOP: Pope Francis has designated 2024 a Year of Prayer. He urges us to embrace prayer 'as the royal road to holiness.' As part of your journey to deepen your prayer life, we invite you to access a workshop entitled Growth in Holiness: Prayer and the Spiritual Life offered to you freely by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, in conjunction with the Franciscan Catechetical Institute. If you are interested in accessing the workshops, and want to know more or how to sign up to the platform, please contact Jane Deegan jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Water. The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism.



Anointing. The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit.

Fire. While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.

Cloud and light. These two images occur together in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

The seal is a symbol close to that of anointing. "The Father has set his seal" on Christ and also seals us in him.

The hand. Jesus heals the sick and blesses little children by laying hands on them. In his name the apostles will do the same. Even more pointedly, it is by the Apostles' imposition of hands that the Holy Spirit is given.

The finger. "It is by the finger of God that [Jesus] cast out demons." If God's law was written on tablets of stone "by the finger of God," then the "letter from Christ" entrusted to the care of the apostles, is written "with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts." The hymn Veni Creator Spiritus invokes the Holy Spirit as the "finger of the Father's right hand."

The dove. At the end of the flood, whose symbolism refers to Baptism, a dove released by Noah returns with a fresh olive-tree branch in its beak as a sign that the earth was again habitable. When Christ comes up from the water of his baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes down upon him and remains with him. The Spirit comes down and remains in the purified hearts of the baptized. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES: The Mass Intention Envelopes are available to pick up at the back of both churches to request a Mass to be said for your intention.

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. *"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."*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: £519.03 This is an increase on the recent trend. Thanks to anyone who has made a conscious decision to increase their offerings and to everyone for your ongoing generosity. The amount includes donations via the portal, which is an easy option for those who do not carry cash.



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.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity no 234025