



4th Sunday of Lent (Year A) Mass times, intentions + this week

Sat 21st March	10.00am	Michael Gallagher + parishioners of HR
Sun 22nd March 4th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Matt Murphy and all mums in heaven and on earth.
Mon 23rd March	9.10am	Canon William O'Sullivan
Tues 24th March	9.10am	Patrick Stanton
Wed 25th March The Annunciation	9.10am	Ted Murphy
Thurs 26th March	9.10am	Stephen Aldersley
Fri 27th March	9.10am	Julia Traynor
Sat 28th March	10.00am	Irene Bond
Sun 29th March 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Yuk Sim + Ling Fat Chau

Mass Times: The times given in the newsletter are when you can join in the live streaming of Mass. (You can watch the recording at any time). The Church will have to be closed during the celebration of the daily Mass.

**Holy Rosary Church will be open every day
from about 8.30am until early evening.**

Confessions	At any time, by appointment with Fr Philip.
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Parish of Holy Rosary

Serving the People of God
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4th Sunday of Lent 22nd March 2020

Each year *Laetare* ('Rejoice') Sunday gives encouragement to all those travelling the Lenten road to Holy Week and Easter.



Today's readings affirm that I do not make this journey alone. I am offered a helping hand by the Lord who is my shepherd and guide (**Psalm**). By leading me on the right path in good-

ness, he is being true to his name. I want for nothing. Though I may have been walking in darkness, even sometimes feeling as if I am trapped in the valley of the shadow of death, I am now exposed to the light of the Lord.

And the Lord, looking with love at my heart rather than at external appearances (**First Reading**), illuminates me, turning me into light (**2nd Reading**).

Jesus curing the man born blind is a well-known piece of scripture (**Gospel**). Perhaps I am like the one without sight who can suddenly see. And finding myself looking at Jesus, I can come to believe and to trust in him even more deeply.

Reason, indeed, to rejoice today!

A very Happy Mothers Day: to all mums and those who have a mothering role. Traditionally mothering Sunday was the day when you visited the church in which you were baptised. (The Church which gave birth to your life of faith.) Do you know where and when you were baptised?

FR PHILIP WRITES: In just a few days life has changed out of all recognition. The Catholic Bishops have said that there will be no public acts of worship. (This is to try to ensure the health and well-being of everyone.) Under canon 2181 the obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days has been removed during this time of emergency.

As your priest my heart goes out to each and every one of you, especially to those who feel ill, feel isolated or are in any difficulties. You will all be part of my prayer in the days and weeks to come. We will need to re-think our prayer and worship and we will need to stay connected to one another.

We had a wonderful meeting on Wednesday night of a group of parishioners who will co-ordinate our response to any one in need. We are (on behalf of the local Christian churches) acting as a clearing house for anyone in need. If you ring 526 8468 we will try to respond to your needs.

(We have sent out a help card to every house – we still need some to be delivered so if you can come to church and see your street is not yet taken please do so.)

Please remember:

- * The Catholic Church and the parish has not 'closed'.
- * Sunday and weekday Mass will continue but without a congregation.
- * The Mass will be available on the parish web site and on the new parish Facebook page.
- * Morning prayer, prayer during the day, evening and night prayer will be said each day for the needs of all.
- * There will be a weekly parish newsletter.
- * You can still ask for Mass Intentions for a particular date and day, post your request using the Mass intention envelopes in Church or ring up.
- * The church building will remain open from morning until early evening for personal prayer.
- * Your home is now also your church.
- * Resources for prayer will be available in the coming weeks.
- * Our churches Food Bank (at Hope) needs your generosity each week. Please continue to bring items.
- * You can look after people in your street and keep in touch with fellow parishioners.

If you need emotional, spiritual, pastoral or practical support do not hesitate in contacting the parish. We may be physically separated from each other that does not mean that we are spiritually and pastorally isolated. The parish is your family and families stick together in times of hardship.

RCIA/Journey in Faith: Please pray for those who are journeying towards the Catholic church. The weekly lessons have now stopped and we will have to wait to see when they can be baptised and received into the Church.

With You Always: On Thursday the children who were in school were given lessons to help them be ready for their 1st Communion. If your child was not at school that day please get your lessons from the parish office. As yet we have no news about the date of 1st Communions.

Fourth Synod 2020 Theme: Please put completed proposal slips in the Synod suggestion boxes in Church, or submit your proposal online at www.synod2020.co.uk/themes. Closing date now extended until 30th March.

If you wish to receive a copy of the weekly **newsletter by email** please send your email address to the parish office.

Food bank: Our local churches food bank will continue to operate at Hope centre each Friday from 11.30am—2.00pm. It will also open on another day (Tue or Wed) if the need arises.

Offertory Envelopes: Please collect you new envelopes from church. There are blank ones for those who do not pay tax. If you still wish to donate your weekly collection please put it in the presbytery letter box or in the candle wall box in church. (This will help the Church a great deal in these difficult times.)

Facebook: There is a new Facebook page: the parish of Holy Rosary. This can be accessed by searching Facebook or by logging on to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2568944063377912/>

Help Card: Please take one from church, keep it at home and if you can help to deliver some that would be a huge help.

Regulations from the Bishops: **Baptisms and weddings** will have to be postponed. We will phone those concerned. **Funerals** can only take place at the grave side or in the Crematorium—and only a few close family will be able to attend. (Fr Philip will celebrate a private Mass for anyone who has died and a public Mass can be arranged for after the time of restriction.)

Confessions can be heard on request, but not on the phone. **Holy Communion** cannot be taken to the sick and housebound unless they are very close to death.