



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
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Charity No - SC011041

**ST MARY'S LANARK
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



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**2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
28th February 2021**

Servant of God Father Ignatius Spencer

Ignatius Spencer was born in 1799 into one of the wealthiest families in England; the family homes included Althorp House where Princess Diana is buried; Spencer House – across the lawn from Buckingham Palace; a house in Wimbledon – now home of the Lawn Tennis Association; a house on the Isle of Wight next to Osborne House; Oh and three London boroughs!



After Eton and Trinity College Cambridge, Ignatius, as the youngest son in the family, was ordained in the Church of England and became parish priest on the Althorp estate; it was assumed a Bishopric would soon follow. He was unusual in that he spent most of his time working with the poor, often denying himself even basic foodstuffs – the family thought he was eccentric!

In 1830 he was received into the Catholic Church and went to Rome to study at the English College. While there he met some Passionists including Blessed Dominic Barberi, who would become a good friend and colleague. Returning to England he worked as parish priest in the Black Country, commenting that his time hunting rabbits on the Althorp estate was not wasted as he now had to hunt out so many of the Irish living in caves dug into the side of slag heaps. He succumbed to TB and so was moved as Spiritual Director to Oscott College, where among other things he taught the students the finer aspects of playing cricket. In the summer vacation he went to Ireland for six weeks – begging for prayers for the conversion of England; this was to mark the beginning of his lifelong “Crusade of Prayer” for the conversion of England.

By 1847 he had decided to enter the Passionists; during his novitiate he had to minister in the workhouse and so contracted fever which left him on the point of death, but he survived. He made his vows at the feet of Blessed Dominic. Two years later Dominic died and Ignatius was appointed Provincial. He was the only Englishman in the community and so had to divide his time between translating, teaching, and formation work – in addition to preaching missions, and because of his celebrity status he was frequently asked to preach at the opening of new churches, including Mount St. Bernard Abbey. Sermons frequently lasted more than an hour.

He made several tours of Europe begging for prayers, be it from Emperors and Dukes, or beggars in asylums, but his main, and favourite, place to work was in Ireland. There he argued that the Irish should pray for their enemy – the English – and then God would listen to their prayers and convert the English! Interestingly, in one letter to a nephew who was Lord Lieutenant in Ireland he complains about how the Irish are being starved to death during the potato famine; the nephew agrees it is a pity but says it is the only way to subdue Ireland – it clearly suggests a policy of what today is called “ethnic cleansing.”

Ignatius lived in the middle of the Industrial Revolution at a time when society was moving from a rural to an urban setting. Typhus and cholera were common, and people lived in real fear of contagion. When Dominic Barberi (the Passionist priest who received Saint John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church in 1845) was taken ill on a train from London where there was an outbreak of cholera, people in Reading would not allow him to be taken into their home, convinced that he had the disease; in fact, he was suffering a massive heart attack.

The killer diseases of the 19th century had no cure, but many people instinctively tried to isolate themselves from others. One cannot help but see parallels with Covid 19 today; maybe the “new normal” is not so “new” after all.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday 28th February

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

Monday 1st March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary for the repose of the soul of Alys Scott

Tuesday 2nd March

- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass
6.00pm Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 3rd March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday 4th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Novena in Honour of St Joseph - Week 7

Friday 5th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 6th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary

Sunday 7th March

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

All of the above will be Livestreamed through St Mary's Facebook Page.

Sleeping St Joseph

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me and my loved ones.

Amen



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

This weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection, to help support the Clydesdale Foodbank. If you would like to donate food, or make a monetary donation, you can do so on Sunday or Monday between 12noon and 1pm, when the church porch will be open for those who wish to collect a paper copy of the bulletin or support the Foodbank. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Paper Copy of Bulletin

Each week during Lockdown there will be paper copies of the bulletin available for collection. Every **Sunday & Monday 12noon - 1pm**, St Mary's church porch will be open for those, who on their daily exercise, would like to collect a copy.

It may also be worthwhile thinking of neighbours or others who cannot get out and do not have access to the internet, if they would benefit from a copy being posted through their door.

300 Club: February Winners

Week 7th February: Week 14th February: 31

Week 21st February: 95 Week 28th February: 258

Congratulations to all our winners!!

300 Club subscriptions and winnings can now be paid through bank transfer. If you would like to find out more please email clubrooms@outlook.com



Resuming Public Worship

On Tuesday the First Minister of Scotland announced that public worship will resume on Easter Monday, 5th April 2021, with restricted numbers (likely 20 as per level 4 restrictions). She did however indicate that it may start earlier. This of course is good news, but how practical is it limiting us to 20 for Holy Week and Easter, more details will follow next week.

Oscott & Rome Stations of the Cross

As we continue to journey through Lent from home, using the wonders of social media, Fr John-Paul has arranged Stations of the Cross from St Mary's College, Oscott, and also from The Scots College, Rome. The Stations will be celebrated by seminarians of the Diocese of Motherwell; Colm Martin from Oscott and Kieran Burt from Rome. As you are aware Oscott and St Mary's Lanark, are very closely linked through Lord Robert Monteith and Saint John Henry Newman, and now Servant of God Fr Ignatius Spencer. We really do appreciate Colm and Kieran doing this for us, and for allowing us the opportunity to see these two beautiful chapels. Please remember all our seminarians in your prayers as they continue to discern God's call.

St Mary's Frist Confessions

After discussions with Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Allen, Fr John-Paul can now confirm that the Children from St Mary's Primary School will celebrate the Sacrament of First Confession on Tuesday 23rd March. Due to current guidelines and restrictions, as per last year, the First Confessions will be celebrated during the school day with only the teachers being present. We appreciate your understanding and support and we ask you to continue to remember the children in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

St Mary's First Holy Communion

Those children from St Mary's Primary School who have been presented for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will receive their workbooks home to start preparation. When the children return to school the class teacher and Fr John-Paul will assist them in completing their preparations. At this time we are unable to give any indication of a date to when the First Communions will be celebrated, however, we hope that this will take place before the end of June. As soon as we know a date parents will be informed.

Git Aid Envelopes

At present we are currently ordering in the new Gift Aid Envelopes for the new financial year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contribute through the Gift Aid Scheme, which allows us to claim back 25% (from the taxman) of each pound donated. This year we are changing the system slightly and both parishes will now be using the same envelopes, this in turn will mean that your number most probably will change. We understand that many people have a fondness for their number and have had it for many years, however, we feel this is the fairest way to join both system together. There are some people who have contacted the parish to advise their circumstances have changed and they no longer pay tax and therefore do not require envelopes this year. If you are in the same position and no longer require envelopes, we would be most grateful if you could email the parish to advise us, or note it on your next donation envelope so we know how many boxes we require to order. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme please email the parish for more information. Once again thank you for your continued support to our parishes.



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - Alys Scott
Grace Malone

Braedale Road
Bank House Care Home, Lesmahagow

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Father Joseph Brannigan; The Monteith Family; Jim McShane; Lisa Katherine McAlavey; Rosemary Sherry; Karen Smith Armstrong (Coatbridge).

*O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen.*

Parish Bank Details

God bless your continued generosity and support to our parishes, especially during these difficult times of Lockdown and uncertainty.

For those who are able, and would like to contribute to the parish through Bank Transfer or Standing Order, the details are as follows:

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Parish of St Isidore's
83-16-11 00235026

A Prayer For Protection In Time Of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.



An Act Of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

