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Charity No - SC011041

**ST MARY'S LANARK  
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR  
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**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT  
14th March 2021**

**St Joseph our Lenten Companion**

Lent, of course, is a journey - a journey on which we travel, spiritually, from captivity to freedom. We want to leave behind old ways that trap us and prevent us living life to the full and we want to embrace the freedom of the children of God. We could not have a better companion on this journey than St Joseph.



In the Scriptures, the place that represents all that traps, binds and confines human beings - all that prevents them making progress to God's promised land - is Egypt. The people of God had to pass over from the land of captivity to the land that God had promised. Lent is the time of their exodus journey. But, as we know, Joseph made this exodus journey from Egypt too. Let's ask him to protect and guide the body of Christ again as we set out from captivity and journey to freedom.

The hardest thing about Lent is simply getting started! Saint Joseph is our perfect example. What does he do? Well first of all he LISTENS. He takes time and he LISTENS to what God has to say. At the start of his journey he is pretty stuck. He has a fiancé who is pregnant; he has a son who is not his own, he has someone threatening his family's life. Each time Joseph hears the same words: "Listen! Up! Go!" Every Lent we think - right, what shall I do? What will I give up; what will I take on? St Joseph shows that there's an important step before we up and go: to listen and understand what God would have us do.

St Joseph trusts that the word he receives - the intuition he has is good and comes from God: that it is a word that is guiding him out, keeping him safe and bringing him new life. Take a bit of time to listen to the Lord this Lent. Whether you're a morning person or a night-owl - fix a time to listen - ask St Joseph to help you to hear.

We don't actually have a lot of information about what St Joseph did. We know, from the Scriptures, that he was a worker; a carpenter. We know, that despite the circumstances, he took Mary home to be his wife, that he went with her to Bethlehem to be registered - that he remained in Egypt to avoid Herod, and that he returned to Nazareth to bring up his child in quiet and safety. In all this, and in everything else in between we know that Joseph put himself and his own life on hold. He sacrificed his own desires for those of Jesus and Mary. Not only this - Joseph's whole life was fixed on the cross and on making possible the sacrifice that was to set us free. We learn this from another of Joseph's journeys and how the Scriptures describe it.

At the time of the Presentation and of the Finding of the Child in the Temple we are told that Joseph "went up to Jerusalem." He taught his son how to make the journey: the journey of sacrifice that, one day, Jesus would make for us all; to set us free. Joseph carried his offering on that journey - the poorest offering that could be made, two turtledoves, a symbol of all the little offerings he had made to date. Yet from this Jesus learned something of the self-sacrifice that is necessary if we are to put others first and please God. From Joseph, Jesus learned something of the sacrifice that takes our sins away, the sacrifice that sets us free.



St Joseph is a great companion for us during this season of Lent. He is a trusted guide to lead us close to God. It's always remember St Joseph under his title "Patron of Workers". Most of us don't suddenly break free from our sins - we have to work at it - we need to keep going and persevere until we finally break free. This isn't the only reason why St Joseph, the Worker is important in Lent. Most of the things that ensnare us, keep us mesmerised and fixated are not true. They are illusions. The Devil always captivates us with lies. Work, and our God-given calling to make and do, to order things in the world, serves to fix our mind on what is real. Work sets us free from fantasy and keeps our feet on the ground, especially the opus Dei, the work of God, our prayers. This puts us in touch with reality and keeps us free from sin.

St Joseph pray for us

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday 14th March

10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent  
12noon Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent  
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

### Monday 15th March

9.30am Holy Mass  
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

### Tuesday 16th March

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass  
6.00pm Holy Rosary for the repose of the soul of William Reilly

### Wednesday 17th March

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

### Thursday 18th March

9.30am Holy Mass  
6.00pm Novena in Honour of St Joseph - Week 9

### Friday 19th March

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

### Saturday 20th March

9.30am Holy Mass  
12noon Angelus and Recitation of the Holy Rosary

### Sunday 21st March

10.30am Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent  
12noon Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent  
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

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

## Novena Prayer to St Joseph

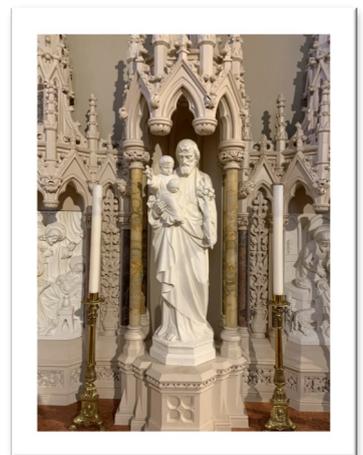
Saint Joseph, you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I come to you as an example for holiness, for you are especially close with God. Therefore, I humbly commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, pray for me to have a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore:

*(Mention your request)*

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.



## Mother's Day

Today we celebrate Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day), an important day to remember and be thankful for our Mother's, those who are still with us and also those who are with the Lord. Historically, since the Middle Ages, Mothering Sunday was the day in which Christians returned to their mother church, the church in which they received the sacrament of baptism, in thanksgiving for their faith. Although we are still encouraged to stay at home, we can visit our mother churches spiritually, through prayer. As we remember our own baptism, Mothering Sunday also gives us the perfect opportunity to pray for the priest/deacon who baptised us. It is also a day in which we can pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

### SCIAF Sunday

To mark SCIAF Sunday, Bishop Toal, Bishop President of SCIAF, has composed a letter to be read out in all parishes. The letter will be read out at Mass this weekend and posted on the parish Facebook Page for those who wish a copy. If you would like to support the work of SCIAF you can hand a donation into the church, or alternately you can donate online at [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk). Please remember in your prayers the charitable works of SCIAF.

### 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.

## Laetare Sunday

On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Call it pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in colour indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of Passiontide. The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolised in a few other interesting liturgical possibilities. Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savour and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy! Being aware of traditions and customs assists us in celebrating the beauty of our faith. As you can see, there is much associated with even a nondescript day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent — not to mention the rest of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond. Take advantage of the richness of our Catholic traditions.

### Votive Candles St Mary's

Many people have commented that they miss lighting a candle in the church. If you would like a candle lit in St Mary's you can put your intention on an envelope, with the number of candles you require, and post it through the chapel house door, or hand it into the church porch on a Sunday or Monday, 12noon-1pm. If you wish your intention to be private please just write 'candle' on the envelope. Candles will be lit and placed before the altar.



### Re-Opening

On Tuesday, 9th March, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced that all going well, churches can re-open for public worship from Friday 26th March. This is a great joy for us as Catholics as this will allow us the opportunity to gather together to celebrate Holy Week, the most sacred week in our liturgical year.

**In next week's bulletin you will find more information regarding the re-opening of our churches, and all the information required for the celebration of Holy Week in our parishes.**

## Wee Box Appeal

Once again SCIAF are rolling out their Wee Box Appeal this Lent. Wee Boxes are available from St Mary's church porch on a Sunday or Monday between 12noon and 1pm, when the porch will be opened for those who wish a paper copy of the bulletin. SCIAF are also offering other ways to support the charity and make donations. For more information please visit the SCIAF website: [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk)





## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead** - William Reilly Kenilworth Road

Carmen Coia; Mrs Sagnella (Colchester); Mr MacDonald (Glasgow); Patrick Reilly (Coatbridge); Rose Kelly; Alys Scott.

**Months Minds & Anniversaries** - Mrs Gwen Mayor & The Children from the Dunblane School Massacre; Edward Hanlon; Archie Lindsay; Mr & Mrs Brady; Mary Meahan.

**Mother's Day Remembrance** - Kate Campbell; Mary McShane; Bernie McEwan; Rosemary MacIntyre; Gorgia Murray; Bernice Caldwell; Betty McLeish; Phyllis Carty; Elaine McQuade; Lily Grant; Jean Quinn; Eileen Dean; Agnes McGarrigle; Margaret (Tully) Fitzgerald; Bride Murray; Shirley Mortimer; Maryjane Brennan; Margaret Cushley; Mary Ann Heron; Anne Marie Burns; Margaret Reilly; Cecilia Joan Cloonan; Dorothea Allison; Mary Maynes; Agnes Foley (McGuinness); Agnes Brown Foley (McKendrick); Margaret McDonnell; Ann Caulfield; Mary Miller; Mary Anderson; May Quinn; Jean McNamara; Jessie Christie; Sarah McNamara; Verna McRedmond; Rena (Catherine) Smalls; Margaret Mulligan; Honor Lavelle; Annie Thomson; Agnes Hardman; Ella Caddle; Margaret McNally; Mary Caddle; Ella Lambert; Mary Melville; Mary McKenna; Kathleen Grieve; Catherine Connelly; Gertrude Mackin; Susan Rocks; Ann MacDonald; Bridget O'Rawe; Mary Russell; Anne Boyle; Mary Murray; Mary McLaughlan; Jane Greene; Pamela Greene; Jean Travers; Margaret Allison; Margaret Sammon; Jean Travers; Margaret Valentie; Mary Skinner; Bessy Wilson; Sharon Cotterill; Annie Main; Margaret Sheila Kelly; Mary Reilly; Molly Gilmartin; Lizzie Storrie; Mrs Malloch; Anne Boyle; Mary McLaughlin; Mary Murray; Josephine Freel; Jessie Lambert; Florence Kennedy; Lisa Geddes; Cathy Moore; Mariah Moore; Mary Devlin; Mary Reilly; Lizzie Fitzpatrick Reilly; Marie Hagan; Karen Reilly; Connie Reston; Margaret Sheila Kelly; Grace McManus; Mary Curran; May Welsh; Agnes McCabe; Elizabeth Clark; Martha Diplacito; Ellen Diplacito; Jane Doolan; Bridget Mullen; Theresa Kelly; Kathleen Kelly; Peggy Reilly; Helen Dennis; Rose Kelly; Margaret Kergan; Mary-Anne Woods; Kathleen Keegan; Fiona Reilly; Aileen O'Donnell; Irene Wallace; Madeline Highton; Muriel Meers; Anne MacIver; Carole Devlin; Ellen Golden; Dorothy Maxfield; Isabel Creighton; Elizabeth Joyce; Catherine McConaghy; Mary Jo Hegarty; Elisabeth McCluskey; Margaret Lindsey Reid; Cathy Travers; Betty Sliman; Catherine McGuire; Annie Grew; Ella Lambert; Jessie McKeown; Grace McTaggart; Catherine Donnelly; Bridget Gallagher; Sarah Quinn; Jessica Christie; Mary Cavanagh; Mary Donnelly; Mary Glavin; Catherine Driscoll; Mary McCosh; Ann McNulty; Jane Sherry; Winfred Callaghan; Mary Ann Hughes; Mary Kelly; Helen McSloy; Maryann Keenan; Elizabeth O'Connell; Diane Jamieson;

**Easter Remembrance:** If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Easter Bulletin, please hand in their names before FRIDAY 2ND APRIL. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection; please remember to mark your envelope as 'EASTER REMEMBRANCE'.

### Parish Finances

Sincere thanks to all who continue to contribute to the parishes financially by handing in envelopes with your offerings and also to the many who now contribute regularly through the banking system. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated in these difficult and challenging times.

**St Marys Mission RCDM**  
80-17-02 00265809

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

### 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.

