

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR

Tel: 020 8804 2149

Email: pondersend@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest – Fr John Shewring

Parish Admin – Dorothy Eribankya Catechetical Coordinator – Steven Smyth 020 8443 4069
or 07784186406

Live streaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



The Holy Eucharist



April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

'Why are you so agitated, and why these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet: yes, it is I indeed'

Today's passage continues the story of the two disciples who encountered the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus and in the breaking of bread. The experience of the Risen Lord could not be contained and the two returned to Jerusalem to tell the eleven that they had seen Jesus. In the midst of their conversations, Jesus appears, offering peace. The disciples were terrified thinking that he was a ghost. While Jesus let them touch him, they were still incredulous and did not recognise him until after he shared a meal with them and spoke the words that helped them to understand the scriptures. This was very similar to the Emmaus encounter. This part of the story emphasizes the physical reality of the resurrected body of the Lord. In today's story the disciples touch him, they can see the marks of the wounds in his hands and feet and eat with him. He is no Ghost.

What troubles your heart today. In what areas of your life do you need greater faith?

Weekend Mass Intentions

Sat: - 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For the Repose of the Holy Souls

Followed by Confessions until 11.00am

5.00pm – Intentions of Mary Conway & Family

Sun – The church opens at 7.00pm

8.00am – Sheila Nellis - Anniversary

9.30am – Richard Cruz – RIP & Family Members

11.00am – Birthday Intention – Daniel Phagoo

5.00pm - Angela Marco - Anniversary

Mon – 8.15am - Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Judith O'Brien - Anniversary

No Exposition today

Tues – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of Fr John

Followed by Exposition until 11.00am

Wed - 8.15am – Church Opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of the Holy Father

Followed by Exposition until 11.00am

Thu – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Chief Ezeudenyi – RIP

& Lolo Teresa Ojinnaka – RIP

Followed by Exposition until 11.00am

Fri 5.00pm – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

6.30pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm – Fr Philip Dyson – Get Well Intention

Followed by devotions to O.L. Undoer of Knots

Sat – 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For the Repose of the Holy Souls

Followed by Confessions until 11.00am

5.00pm – Kathy Spicer - Anniversary

Sun – Church opens at 7.00am

8.00am – Intentions of Jacques Saminaden

9.30am – Private Intention

11.00am – Ifyanyi Okechukwu – Birthday Int.

5.00pm – Intentions of Mary Conway & Family

Good Shepherd Sunday – Vocations Sunday is on 21st April. There will be a 2nd collection for those students who are in training for the Priesthood.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING EASTER TIME

Saturday 13th – after Mass until 11.00am Mass

Saturday 20th – after 9.30 Mass

Please do take advantage of these times. A very special time of the year and so good for us to put things right with God and with ourselves. Face to face or private confessions are heard in the sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Meeting on Sunday 21st

April at 2.45pm

An opportunity to say our Legion prayers together and to give our reports on the work we have achieved over the past week or so. Please do try to come regularly.

Holy Fathers Prayer Intentions

April 2024

For the Role of Women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Saint Alphege – Bishop & Martyr – Friday 19th April 2024 (Diocesan). Born 953. Archbishop of Canterbury. Reputation for piety and sanctity.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 20th/21st April 2024

Good Shepherd Sunday is when we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest's Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. Your generous donations help ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd.

Donation envelopes have been distributed/ are available for your donation. Please take one and read the information and bring it back next weekend with your donation and please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests.

You can use the QR code to make your donation on line or visit:

www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE POLAND

20th to 28th May 2024

9 days half board

The price for half-board is
£1,197 9days/8 nights

Flying from Luton Airport to Krakow – the price includes: coach touring, professional guide, accommodation at the Shrine of Divine Mercy, 15kg check-in luggage. Deposit of £350 required. Travel insurance is compulsory. Passports must have at least 6 months validity. info@allsaintstravel.co.uk - for booking online.

Itineraries and booking forms are now available in the porch of church.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

11th – 23rd October 2024

This is a 13 days/11 nights pilgrimage at a cost of £4987 half board. The price includes all flights and tours. For booking at this price 26/04/2024. A deposit of £1800 is required. Tips, lunches, insurance not included. Single room £749 for 11 nights.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY

Our parish is dependent totally on the offerings that you make each week/month. We have no other means of income. So we ask you earnestly to maintain your giving regularly. If you would like to give by standing order or by envelopes please let us know and this can be arranged. Making a Gift Aid on your offerings increase the giving at no extra cost to you.

If you use envelopes please pick up your new box

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Monday 22nd April 2024

7.30 to 8.30pm in Meeting Room
Over the weeks of Lent and Easter, together we can look at the readings of the Mass for the following weekends and discern how the Word of God is speaking to us in our lives.

THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE

Saturday 25th May 2024
at Westminster Cathedral

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give to Fr John the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email and mobile number. **Please hand the details in as soon as you can. Thanks.**

During the Mass couples will be invited to renew their marital commitment.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Friday Evenings

from 5.00 – 7.15pm

Saturday Mornings

from 7.00 – 8.15am

*During this Year of Prayer,
Try and give a little
more time to Our Lord*

PARISH SHOP

Our shop is open after all Masses during weekdays and on Sundays. We have a large range of items – diaries. Cards. Statues and Rosaries and much more. We now have a selection of cards and gift items for First Holy Communion and for Confirmation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Wanting a Mass said for a person or occasion is good but a reminder that if you wish a special date then you must hand in your request well in advance if you do not want to be disappointed. Thanks

A THOUGHT ON RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

It is important that we always receive with the utmost reverence and respect. If you receive in the hand always place the Host into your mouth before moving away from the minister – do not carry it with you. Do not talk and make a prayer of thank you.

Prayers please:

Sick: Daphne Sullivan, Eliston Carron, Mehill Ftoni, Agnes Robinson, Peter Thorpe, Joe Harper, Mary Conway. Jesse Atta-Hayford. Suzi Modi, Agnes Guveya, Liz Freeman, Adreina Sifari, Margaret Felgate, Alfie, James Daly.

Recently Dead: Sean Walsh, Pauline Udenze, Fr Mark Leenane, John McGivenney. Thomas Lawlor. Brid McGonagle, Deacon Stephen Pickard, Michael Tanios Chaaya, Elizabeth Culbert, Cynthia Grant, Angelo Ciccarelli, Giusseppe Giambalvo. John Gilsenan, Michael James Daley, Richard O'Reilly, Pat Morris, Dominic D'Andrea, Gaspare Cusenza

Anniversaries: , Rose & Tony D'Silva , Marianna Amato, Cheryl Bentley, Peggy Power, Eifania Fernandes, Salvatore & Severina Fernandes, Michael Flanagan, Sean Flanagan, Oswald Gomes, Margaret Moody, Sheila Saldhana Theresa Ragbir, Lionel Thompson, Eddie Lacy, Eleni Djerkallis, Angela McKeown, Lorraine Hardie, Anne O'Sullivan, Alma Thompson. Solomis Djerkallis

Morning Prayer & Rosary – is said before all weekday Masses. Monday to Thursday and Saturday mornings at 8.30am and Friday evening at 6.30pm before Mass.

Legion of Mary – the next meeting of the Legion of Mary is on Sunday 21st April at 2.45pm in the hall.

Friday Lunch – is served every Friday in the hall from 11.30am onwards – open to all comers – no cost!

Contactless Offerings to the Parish – you can find the Dona Contactless Terminal in the porch of the church for any donations you may wish to make to the parish and for payment for any purchases from the parish Repository. Not for special collections

THE YEAR OF PRAYER

Following the Year of the Council we now enter the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. It is a weekly resource of prayer and meditation based on Pope Francis' recent catechesis on prayer. It is compiled in 52 parts providing a reflection for each week of the year. You will find them on the table in the porch each week.

Please remember: The Church reminds us of the importance of going to Confession and of receiving Holy Communion at Easter time.

SUNDAY PLUS

The reality of love

In touch



By Lucy Russell

We might hear the idiom “out of touch” about a person who isn’t informed or doesn’t have the same ideas as most people about something. It’s also a phrase which means we no longer see or communicate with someone. Being “out of touch with reality” is more serious. It describes a mental state where you feel detached from your surroundings which seem unreal. In these examples touch itself isn’t a feature.

The power of touch is extraordinary. Touch causes the brain to release oxytocin and stimulates the release of other feel-good hormones at the same time as reducing stress hormones. Physical contact from someone you care about makes you feel safe. Touch is the first sense we acquire.

As human beings we have a need to touch and be touched. It’s vital to successful relationships, including our relationship with God who touches us through the sacraments and through the loving touch of another person.

The Gospel makes clear that the resurrected Jesus was truly human. The reality of Christ’s love is

tangible. “Tangible” means being understood by the sense of touch. Something that is tangible is physically real and can be touched. “See by my hands and my feet that it is myself” said Jesus to his confused and frightened friends. “Touch me and see for yourselves...” Touch me and see. Touch me and understand. Be informed of – and in touch with – the reality of my existence and my love for you. You are safe. All will be well.

Lucy Russell is the author of “Who Do I Say I Am?”, available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

“See my hands and my feet,” Jesus says. To look is not only to see, it is more; it also involves intention. Looking is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others. To look. Do I see or look at Jesus?

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Sunday 16 April

St Bernadette
of Lourdes
(1844-1879)

St Bernadette had asthma. Interestingly, her biographers mention that she suffered from the condition before meeting Our Lady at the rock of Massabielle in Lourdes – and are

silent about any adult asthma attacks. Did she grow out of it? Did Bernadette herself receive the first cure when she obeyed Our Lady’s instructions to bathe her face in the muddy pool, which became the miraculous spring and future pilgrimage destination of millions of people? Was it such a normal part of her life that biographers overlook asthma when writing about Bernadette’s other health issues which led to her death at the age of thirty-five?

Anybody who is familiar with asthma, either personally or through a family member, knows the limitations on activities – including allergenic foods – and freedoms which everybody else enjoys.

As we remember St Bernadette, perhaps it is also an opportunity to remember and pray for all those who suffer from asthma.



The power of touch

By Neil Foley

The power of human touch can never be underestimated. Think about the intimate caress between two lovers silently conveying their affection for one another; the gentle handhold of a nurse caring for a dying patient

communicating the ebbing physical connection of this world; the firm hand on the shoulder of the defeated sports player telling them that they will rise and compete again.

As a parent of small children, I think of the kiss that must be administered to the scuffed knee making everything better. “Touch me and see for yourselves” Jesus says. His resurrection is bodily and real, not some lofty idea or ghostly apparition.

His resurrection is rooted in our physical world, our world of touch and intimacy and pain. Our bodies will be part of the new heaven and new earth. Our touch matters. How do we extend that touch here and now so that it lasts in all eternity?

Neil Foley is a lay missionary with the Redemptorists in Ireland. He lives in Wexford with his wife, Helen, and twin girls, Zélie and Martha, where he also works fulltime as an environmental scientist.

Jesus, I want to see you. Open my eyes so that I can see you in everything that I say, think and do. Let me see you in everybody I meet. Amen.

Today:
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48

Monday:
Acts 6:8-15
John 6:22-29

Tuesday:
Acts 7:51 – 8:1
John 6:30-35

Wednesday:
Acts 8:1-8
John 6:35-40

Thursday:
Acts 8:26-40
John 6:44-51

Friday:
Acts 9:1-20
John 6:52-59

Saturday:
Acts 9:31-42
John 6:60-69

Next Sunday:
Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

THE *Wednesday* WORD



Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 14th April 2024

FISH FOR SUPPER

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, "This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled." He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

Taken from Luke 24:35-48 *The Third Sunday of Easter, Year B*

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

The two disciples had met Jesus on their way to Emmaus. There Jesus had used the Eucharistic meal to reveal himself to them, for the Eucharist is always an occasion for us to get to know the Risen Christ better. Now he meets the whole group of disciples in their refuge, the Upper Room. It is perhaps an account of the same incident that we heard last Sunday, but with different emphasis. Now the stress is on the meeting with a real person, and not with a ghost. That is why Jesus eats a piece of fish. The important lesson of this is that, in our resurrection to true life, it is the whole person that is raised, not just the soul. Christian teaching is that a person is an animated body. We work out our salvation with fingers and toes and other bodily members, and all will be raised to life. It is not just a matter of thoughts and intentions! The whole body is baptised into Christ and is the instrument of our salvation. The body will be changed, and St Paul reminds us that we should not get bogged down with worrying about what sort of body we will have at the resurrection, but rejoice that each of us will be raised as a whole person. **What do you imagine the risen life to be like? Is love, friendship and companionship part of this?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is BELIEVE!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Share the Prayer! Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends : wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 14th April 2024**



1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15. 17-19 **Peter's Speech to the People of Jerusalem**

Peter said to the people, "You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."

This reading is the final section of Peter's speech to the people of Jerusalem after Pentecost, when he is explaining to the crowds the significance of the first miracle worked by the apostles in the power of the Spirit. Like all the speeches in Acts, it is not a word-for-word, tape-recorded report, but is a sample of Peter's preaching to the people. He lays the blame for Jesus' rejection squarely on them, but shows that it was just as scripture had foretold. All of the speeches end with an invitation to repent. This does not mean simply to get all weepy about past sins, thinking 'how dreadful and wicked I have been'. It means that the listeners (and this includes us) must change our ways and adopt God's system of values (as fully revealed by the Risen Christ). To convert means that, whereas before I was going in one direction, now I turn round and go in another. Then the way I look at the world becomes different: I see things from a different angle – from God's, from Christ's angle. This sort of conversion does not so much look at the past with regret as look at the future with confidence. It is the new determination that allows God to wipe out our sins.

What does repentance mean to you? What are God's values, those values revealed in Christ?



2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5 **Our Advocate with the Father**

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

This second reading advances a step further beyond the first. The first is about conversion, the second about blotting out former failures. Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father, 'standing at the right hand of the Father', because he takes our sins away. How does he do this? By his act of obedience on the Cross, Jesus wipes out the disobedience of Adam, that is, of all humanity. Adam (which is the Hebrew word meaning 'man') is the figure of all humanity, and Adam's sin is the symbol of all human sin, a sort of 'prequel' of all sin, an act of turning away from God, of independence and disobedience. On the Cross, Jesus was perfectly united to the Father, in an act of utter obedience in love, to which the Father in love responds, with a renewal of love for all humanity. For us, too, it is true that if we know God, if we have any appreciation of God and any personal bond to God, we cannot but obey him. God's commands are not arbitrary, but are the way of keeping close to him. By the command of love God reveals himself and invites us to be like him.

Obedience is often understood as doing as we are told, as limiting our freedom. What is Christian obedience about and how would you explain this to somebody else?

“ God's commands ... are a way of keeping close to him. ”

The Wednesday Word Encountering Christ: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God
The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

9-Day Pilgrimage to Poland & The Divine Mercy 2024

Led by Fr John Shewring



20th – 28th May '24

Departing London Luton

only **£1,197**

per person (twin sharing)

9 days & 8 nights

Half-board breakfast and dinner
in hotel Dusz Parsterski in Krakow

For details contact Fr John Shewring

Tel. 020 8804 2149 / All Saints Travel 01793 881166

PRICE INCLUDES

Twin room sharing; return flights from London Gatwick (easyJet); check-in luggage 23kg + hand carry; 8 nights in hotel Dusz Pastorski in Krakow or of similar standard; half-board (breakfast & dinner); touring coach including airport-hotel transfers; entrance fees as per itinerary; UK airport taxes; travel pack 2 weeks prior to departure; ATOL protection

NOT INCLUDED

Single room supplement £360 (limited availability); travel insurance (compulsory); lunches, in-flight meals. tips & gratuities of £20 will be added to your invoice automatically for our guide, driver and hotel staff.

HOW TO BOOK

Submit a booking form via our website by **15 Dec. '24** to get the best price possible. Then pay the non-refundable deposit of £300 to confirm your booking. final balance to be paid 2 months prior to travel.



All Saints Travel

50 Pure Offices, Kembrey Park, Swindon, Wilts. SN2 8BW

Tel. + 44 (0)1793 881166 / 020 37200450

Visit our website: www.allsaintstravel.co.uk



LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have some places in our Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 4 2023/2024 year groups.

Please contact the school if you wish to apply for a place for your child.



**THANK YOU PARENTS AND PARISHIONERS FOR
RECOMMENDING OUR SCHOOL AND HELPING TO BUILD
UP OUR PUPIL NUMBERS.**

Phone Number: 020 88042396

E-mail: office@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

'Pupils are eager to come to school each morning because their teachers do their best to help them learn...Pupils learn in a calm environment. This is because the school has high expectations for pupils...Pupils conduct themselves well because they know what is right and have been taught how to behave well. Pupils achieve well across a range of subjects. They are proud to talk about their work which is presented with pride...Warm, caring relationships permeate the school... Pupils are confident that adults will listen to their worries and help them. This means they feel happy and safe...The curriculum is ambitious and well structured...Adults have secure subject knowledge...Leaders have high expectations and are ambitious for pupils...Safeguarding is a priority here. '(OFSTED Inspection, November 2023).

LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.*
- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.*
- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.*

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.*
- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*
- *Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.*
- *Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.*
- *The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school'*

(OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).