



**Saint Francis of Assisi Church and Parish**  
 Coronation Road Ascot SL5 9HG.  
**Friary & Parish Office 01344 620591 (Tues –Thurs 9am -12.30pm)**  
 Email: [stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
 Webpage: [www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk) Facebook: [@stfrancisascot](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisascot).  
**Confession after 10am Saturday Mass or by appointment.**  
**Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Bidgood**  
 Parish Secretary: Mrs. Wendy Cullen Safeguarding: Jaycie Warren 07961800804  
 Charity Number: PRCDTR 264876  
 St. Francis School - Head Teacher : Mrs. Rhona Miccoli

DAY	DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL CELEBRATION	MASS INTENTION
SATURDAY	28th March	-	VIGIL MASS: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	✠ Dolores McAllister RIP
SUNDAY	29th March	-	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	✠ Alan Tomlinson RIP
MONDAY	30th March	-	NO MASS AT ST.FRANCIS	-
TUESDAY	31st March	-	Of the 5th Week of Lent	All health professionals
WEDNESDAY	1st April	-	Of the 5th Week of Lent	✠ Bogdan Czarnechi RIP
THURSDAY	2nd April	-	Of the 5th Week of Lent	The NHS
FRIDAY	3rd April	-	Of the 5th Week of Lent	✠ Brian Shuchsmith RIP
SATURDAY	4th April	-	Of the 5th Week of Lent	For the help of Our Lady
		-	VIGIL MASS: PALM SUNDAY	✠ Joseph Stynes RIP

**Fr Kevin writes ...**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

We enter into ‘Passion-tide’ the most solemn yet wonderful fortnight of the Church’s year. Under normal circumstances we would come into St Francis and see all the statues and crosses veiled – the building prepared for Christ’s passion and death. As it is, with the present restrictions, we can still ‘spiritually’ enter into Passion-tide. This is the beginning of the Lord’s final battle against death and evil – the battle that removes from us, the fear of death and opens for us the gates to eternal life. In this challenging and difficult time for us all, may Christ’s passion and Easter victory give us strength and hope now and always.

- The Opening Prayer asks God our Father to help us “ ... walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death”.
- The Old Testament reading from the prophet Ezekiel celebrates the wonderful promise of the Lord that he will give new life to his people: “ ... and you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you ...”.

- In St Paul’s letter to the Romans, the apostle tells his readers that: “ ... if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he ... will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you”.
- In the Gospel reading from St John. We hear the account of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The Lord tells the grieving Martha that he is: “... the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die ...”. The Lord, then asks Martha and us today: “Do you believe this”?

**The Holy Father’s Prayer for use at this time:**

**We seek refuge under your protection,  
 O Holy Mother of God.  
 Do not despise our pleas - we who are  
 put to the test - and deliver us from  
 every danger, O glorious and blessed  
 Virgin. Amen.**

**WE PRAY** for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them: Frances Wilde, David McCann, Simon Saint, Bridget Barrott Chambers, Eileen Berkeley, Ethna Bunnemeyer, Eileen Mackintosh, Peter Hermon, Korbin Gabb, Alexis, Ernesto and Napoleon Mannois, Jane Thomas, Alex, Marie Hall, Geraldine McAllister, Wyn Vickers, Georgia Mackinlay, Nina Rose Mullins, Ines Merlo, Paul Worthington, Eileen Hoare.

*If you would like to add a name to this list, **with consent**, or if you would like a name removed, please email or phone the Parish Office.*



**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Please pray for the repose for the soul of **Ian Cuthill R.I.P.** who has died recently.

**OFFERINGS** for the week ending **23rd February** amounted to **£1,233.50**. Please **ensure** cheques are made payable to: 'PRCDTR ASCOT St. Francis'.



**UGANDA CHILDREN EASTER/LENT** collections to date **£532.22**. Thank you so much from The Knights of St. Columba!



**EASY LINK TO ONLINE MASS STREAMING** and the Stations of the Cross are now available on line on our Webpage **[www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk)**.

### **THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP :**

- The Church porch is open, during day light hours, for private prayer. (Unless advised to close by lawful authority).
- Special prayers are posted on the glass inner door of the porch for use at this time.
- Icons of Christ and of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour have been placed by the inner porch.
- The Bishop encourages the faithful to say the Stations of the Cross and recitation of the Holy Rosary at home.
- Fr Kevin says Mass every day (except Monday) but without the faithful being present. All Mass intentions that have been submitted will be offered on the allocated days.
- Fr. Kevin is on call for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for those in danger of death.