

Coloma Catholic Life.



Liturgical Year

4th Week in Lent, Laetare Sunday. Liturgical colour – Rose

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

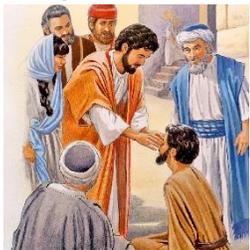
Video link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-francis-prayer-intention-march-2020.html>

Pope Francis Tweet

"In Jesus' presence, the true sentiments of the heart come forth. Let us read the Gospel of today (John 9:1 – 41) to understand what happens when Jesus passes by."

Upcoming Events

Gospel reflection for Sunday 22nd March: John 9: 1 - 41



The Gospel of today Jesus heals the man born blind and corrects the idea that he or his parents were sinners, a concept deeply rooted in Jewish society at the time. As a result of Jesus' actions, making a paste, rubbing it on his eyes and sending him to wash at the pool of Siloam which means 'sent'. The man is brought into the light and can see the world around him with clarity. The man witnesses to the Lord, to those most opposed to his ministry. In so doing he becomes a disciple. We, too, are sent to be lights in the Lord, goodness, truth, right living. The man's dawning realisation of who Jesus actually is. Is a reflection of how we in turn come to know the Lord and how we are to be the light to others.

Funeral Arrangements for The Most Reverend Peter Smith Emeritus Archbishop of Southwark

Message on the Diocesan website:

"With great sadness the Archdiocese of Southwark must announce that the Funeral Liturgies of the late Archbishop Emeritus Peter Smith, which are due to take place on 29th and 30th March, will no longer be open to the public due to current public health concerns.

It is hoped that it will be possible to hold a Mass In Memoriam later this year. Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of our much loved Archbishop Emeritus: may he rest in peace."

Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary



England will be re-dedicated as the Dowry of Mary on Sunday March 29th. It is a personal promise of the people of our country and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in 1381. It was in Westminster Abbey that King Richard II sought the protection of Our Lady. England received the title 'Mary's Dowry' which means that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. By this re-dedication we are invited to give ourselves to Mary. By making a personal promise and a communal entrustment.

Our personal promise brings us closer to Mary, the first disciple of Christ. In this we unite in her joy by following her openness to God's call. Our personal promise is expressed through the Angelus. This is a prayer of commitment in which we proclaim our own 'Yes' to the will of God in union with Mary. The following link takes you to the Angelus Promise:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd26c39e4888e54689c5a3f/t/5e1681cf89782e64aa50fed6/1578533328341/Angelus+Promise.pdf>

Our communal entrustment unites us together as the people of our country in prayer, by renewing the vows of dedication made by Mary to our ancestors. This Act of Entrustment of England to the Virgin Mary is a prayer of profoundly historic and spiritual nature. It brings together the prayers of surrender and dedication that have echoed throughout our history. The following links takes you to the Act of Entrustment:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd26c39e4888e54689c5a3f/t/5e1681de41d1895d960a582e/1578533343593/Act+of+Entrustment.pdf>

In preparation for this we are called to pray a Novena of prayer every day:

<https://www.behold2020.com/prayer>

The timeline leading up to the 29th March:

On Wednesday 25th March the Feast of the Annunciation all are invited to consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary.

From Thursday 26th March to Saturday 28th March there is a three-day triduum of prayer in which all are invited to recite the litany of Saints and Martyrs of England, pray the Rosary and go to Confession in preparation for the rededication.

On Sunday 29th March: a personal rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary will take place in every Catholic Cathedral and parish and in as many homes as possible in England. It is a personal rededication.

Spiritual Communion

Until further notice it is no longer possible to celebrate publicly. The Holy Father is strongly encouraging us to make a spiritual communion. Here is a link to an excellent prayer sheet produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, including prayer for spiritual communion.

<http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/media/No-Mass-A4.pdf>

Here is a link to various liturgical services and live streaming of mass. It is updated regularly.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/>

Alternatively, you can log on to the diocesan website for parishes providing streamed liturgical services.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/mass-at-home/>

This link can be found on Our Lady's website also:

<http://www.addiscombecatholicchurch.com/live-web-cam>

Pope Francis offers this spiritual communion during the coronavirus pandemic:

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/pope-francis-offers-this-spiritual-communion-prayer-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Urbi et Orbi Blessing 27th March, 2020



In response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis said he will give an extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) at 6 p.m. Rome time March 27.

The formal blessing — usually given only immediately after a new pope's election and on Christmas and Easter — carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, recite a few prescribed prayers and promise to go to confession and to receive the Eucharist as soon as possible.

After reciting the Angelus prayer March 22 from the library of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis announced his plans for the special blessing, which, he said, would be given in an “empty” St. Peter's Square because all of Italy is on lockdown to prevent further spread of the virus.

With the public joining him only by television, internet or radio, “we will listen to the word of God, raise our prayer (and) adore the Blessed Sacrament,” he said. “At the end, I will give the benediction ‘urbi et orbi,’ to which will be connected the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence.”

An indulgence is an ancient practice of prayer and penance for the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. In Catholic teaching, a person can draw on the merits of Jesus and the saints to claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

In addition to announcing the special blessing, Pope Francis said that at a time “when humanity trembles” because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was asking Christians of every

denomination to join together at noon March 25 to recite the Lord's Prayer. The Catholic Church and many others mark March 25 as the feast of the Annunciation.

"To the pandemic of the virus we want to respond with the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness," he said. "Let's stay united. Let us make those who are alone and tested feel our closeness," as well as doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers and volunteers.

Pope Francis also expressed concern for "authorities who have to take strong measures for our good" and the police and soldiers maintaining public order and enforcing the lockdown.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The new system worked very well with those year groups who had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It may still be possible to receive this sacrament in local parishes; refer to individual parish websites for further information

Laetare Sunday - 22nd March

The word comes from the Latin **laetare**, the singular imperative of *laetari*: "to rejoice". This Sunday is currently also known as Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday because the use of rose-coloured, rather than violet vestments was permitted on this day.

In churches flowers may appear on the high altar and the organ may be played as a solo instrument. Priests are given the option to wear rose-coloured vestments at Mass held on this day in place of the violet vestments normally worn during Lent. The term "rose" is used to describe this lighter shade of the colour violet in the Roman Rite.

The Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigours; a day of hope with Easter at last within sight. Traditionally, weddings (otherwise banned during Lent) could be performed on this day, and servants were released from service for the day to visit their mothers (hence 'Mothering Sunday'). Laetare Sunday is exactly 21 days before Easter Sunday

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March, beginning of the Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Walsingham

The Annunciation – the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she has been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, that he will be called Son of the Most High and whose reign will have no end. Mary is also told that her cousin, Elizabeth, who is beyond child-bearing age, has also conceived – for nothing is impossible to God Luke 1:26-38.

