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**The Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer  
and St. Thomas More  
Cheyne Row, Chelsea**



**The Annunciation of the Lord**

**Newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
(The Bible readings at Mass are available at [Universalis.com](http://Universalis.com))

**THE ANNUNCIATION**

Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord,”* she says, *“be it done to me according to your word.”*

(St Bernard of Clairvaux: Homily 4, 8-9)

**Normal (nonCOVID 19) Mass Times**

Saturday evening (Vigil Mass): 6.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm

Monday to Friday 8.00am, Saturday 10.00am

**Confession:** Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am, 5.30pm - 6.00pm

**Newcomers:** Please introduce yourselves and complete and return to the Rectory a parish registration form, available in the church porch or on our **website**.

**Mobile Phones :** Please turn off all phones before entering the church.

Donations to the Parish can be made via: HSBC, Sort code: 40-05-20,

Account no: 91094386 Account name: Holy Redeemer Church, Chelsea.

Text donation: Text ‘PARISH CHELS’ to 70800 to donate £5 to this parish.

Thank you.

**Parish Priest** - Canon Paschal Ryan

Tel: 020 7352 0777 Email: [paschalryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:paschalryan@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** - Rosslyn Okumu

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Tel: 020 7352 0777 Email: [chelsea2@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:chelsea2@rcdow.org.uk)

**The Rectory** - 7 Cheyne Row, London SW3 5HS

## CORONAVIRUS COVID 19

Last week, in his announcement on behalf of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols stated: "It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, until further notice."

For us this means there will be no congregational worship in our church as long as the COVID 19 crisis continues. In his statement the Cardinal goes on to make clear that in the current situation there is no obligation to attend church on Sunday. Nevertheless, many people will still wish to visit the church to pray. For this reason our church will be open more or less as normal, from 8.00am to 6.00pm. At all times we are all asked to remember the advice we have received to maintain a certain distance from one another.

I would be grateful if you would pass this message on to anyone you know who attends Holy Redeemer. This message is also available on the parish website, under the heading "Newsletters", In addition, there is a list of churches from which Mass is streamed live. Alternatively, one can access Vatican Media or EWTN TV.

Let us all pray for one another, for those who are ill and the people caring for them. Furthermore, we should pray for the doctors and scientists working to find a cure, and we must not forget the men and women trying to keep everything running in these difficult days. Let us hope for an end to the crisis and look forward to being able to meet again giving thanks to God for all his blessings.

Canon Paschal Ryan

**"Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ?....No; we come through all these things triumphantly victorious, by the power of him who loved us."**

*St Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8, verses 35-37 (NJB)*

## CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

This appeal supports three areas of mission: Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, Service in Society. Among other projects, the Cardinal has launched a new programme to alleviate food poverty. Envelopes for Gift Aid donations are available in the porch.

## GLASS DOOR

With the approval of the Parish Council, the balance of the Poor Box collection was donated to Glass Door Homeless Charity. This is a local charity which provides night shelters and casework support for homeless people in this area.

## DAY OF PRAYER

The Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse will be marked this year on Friday, 3 April. This is a day when we think about and pray for all those impacted directly by abuse – for the victims themselves at the heart of our prayer, their families, friends, and communities. The traumatic effects of sexual abuse cause a person to experience in mind, body and spirit all sorts of long-lasting conflicts and struggles – it can be like a battlefield in the body. Very clearly in the Gospel, Jesus stands with all victims, and calls us to co-responsibility in responding to their pain. When one part of the 'Body of Christ', the Church, is hurting, everyone is aware and affected. Everyone can do something towards alleviating that pain. Pope Francis says the Church must be like a field hospital in battle, ready to respond, ready to heal the wounds.

## LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Given the COVID 19 crisis, difficulties in travel and the closure of the baths in Lourdes, the Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes will not go ahead this year.

## SAINT ANTHONY COMMUNICATIONS

For a good selection of books, DVDs and CDs

on Catholic topics such as Prayer, Theology and the Sacraments see: [saintant.com](http://saintant.com).

## DOWRY OF MARY

We will celebrate the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The focus of this devotion is Walsingham, a beautiful little village in Norfolk, is the home of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady. The Shrine was originally established in 1061. Visit [walsingham.org.uk](http://walsingham.org.uk) for further information.

## YOUNG CITY CATHOLICS

Young City Catholics@ St. Mary Moorfields (YCC), a group of Catholic young professionals in their twenties and thirties working in the City of London and Canary Wharf. For more details: [ycc-london.co.uk](http://ycc-london.co.uk) or email to [info@ycc-london.co.uk](mailto:info@ycc-london.co.uk).

## THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 crisis, the annual Mass in Thanksgiving for Matrimony has had to be cancelled. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who normally presides at this Mass, regrets not being able to meet all the married couples celebrating their significant anniversaries. Let us at this time pray for all families, but especially those struggling with illness or some other problem. While we give thanks for the blessings of family life, let us not forget the challenges we face as well.

## VISITING

A warm welcome to all our visitors. We hope you enjoy your stay. Please tell your friends where we are and encourage them to be sure to visit this lovely church, one of the hidden gems of Chelsea, when they come on a trip to London. For more information about our parish, have a look at our parish website: [holyredeemerchelsea.com](http://holyredeemerchelsea.com).