

LENT HYMNS: PART IV

This Sunday is *Laetare* Sunday, which means 'rejoice', and it gets its name from the beginning of the Introit of the Mass, *Laetare Jerusalem*... 'Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast' (see Isaiah 66:10-11). We are, spiritually speaking, on our way to Jerusalem: not just for the annual events of Holy Week, but continuing on our life-long pilgrimage, heading towards the New Jerusalem, the home of the blessed. Today is a pause on the ascent, a moment to look at how far we've come, even as we steel ourselves for what still remains. In Rome, Mass of Lent IV was offered at the church of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, constructed in about 325AD by St Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. It was built to house the relics of the Passion which she had brought back from the Holy Land, and some earth from Jerusalem was placed in the floor of the church during construction. So, in Rome, Lent IV was seen as being kept, as nearly as possible, in Jerusalem itself. Hence all the Jerusalem-themed parts of the day's liturgy.

Two Jerusalem hymns for today, then. The first is *Urbs beata*, or, in JM Neale's translation, 'Blessed city, heavenly Salem'. It dates from the 7th or 8th century:

Blessed city, heavenly Salem,	From celestial realms descending.
Vision dear of peace and love,	Bridal glory round thee shed,
Who of living stones art builded	Meet for him whose love espoused thee,
In the height of heaven above,	To thy Lord shalt thou be led;
And, with angel hosts encircled	All thy streets and all thy bulwarks
As a bride doth earthward move;	Of pure gold are fashioned.

You can see the scriptural references here: the whole thing is a verse meditation on Revelation 21: 'I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.' There's a bit of 1 Peter 2 in there as well: 'like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house' Look out (on youtube or similar) for Edward Bairstow's setting of these words. The hymn is rather long, and often split into two parts; Part II is what we know as 'Christ is made the sure foundation.'

The second hymn is a little later: Peter Abelard's *O quanta qualia*, 'O what their joy and their glory must be'. Abelard (1079-1142) was a great theologian, philosopher, and logician, but is most widely known for his affair with Héloïse (which, let's just say, did not end well). A fine hymn, with a cracking 17th century French tune, here it talks about heaven:

Truly, 'Jerusalem' name we that shore,
city of peace that brings joy evermore;
wish and fulfillment are not severed there,
nor do things prayed for come short of the prayer.

Now in the meantime, with hearts raised on high,
we for that country must yearn and must sigh,
seeking Jerusalem, dear native land,
through our long exile on Babylon's strand.

Think of the line from the *Salve Regina*: 'after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.' By God's and the prayers of the saints: in this Lenten journey, we're going home. Let us rejoice.

Fr Daniel



Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire
Thames Isis Pastoral Area

Hinksey Catholic Parish

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SUNDAY 26 March	LENT IV Laetare Sunday YEAR A <i>Divine Office Week 4</i> Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm Holy Rood (<i>Divine Worship</i>) <i>Pro populo</i> Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood <i>Portuguese</i> Sunday Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Gretta Gordon RIP</i> Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Maureen Kiely RIP</i>
Monday 27 March	<i>Lent Feria (Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent)</i> <u>No First Holy Communion Class this afternoon</u> <i>No Mass at Good Shepherd</i>
Tuesday 28 March	<i>Lent Feria</i> Mass 9.30am Our Lady of the Rosary Adoration 8.00pm Our Lady of the Rosary
Wednesday 29 March	<i>Lent Feria</i> Mass 9am Holy Rood
Thursday 30 March	<i>Lent Feria</i> <i>No Mass & Adoration 6.30pm</i>
Friday 31 March	<i>Lent Feria</i> <i>No Mass 8.30am</i> <i>No Mass 12.30pm</i>
Saturday 1 April	<i>Lent Feria</i> 9am Mass Holy Rood 9.30-10am Confessions
SUNDAY 2 April	LENT V (PASSION SUNDAY) YEAR A <i>Divine Office Week 1</i> Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm Holy Rood (<i>Divine Worship</i>) Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood <i>Portuguese</i> Sunday Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary (Teaching Mass) Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Pro populo</i> Music and Readings for Passiontide 6pm Holy Rood

Our Lady of the Rosary, Botley, OX2 9BD **Holy Rood**, Abingdon Road, OX1 4LD
Good Shepherd Kennington, OX1 5LY **St Thomas More**, Boars Hill, OX1 5HD

MASSES THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

I We warmly welcome and thank Fr Phil Carroll and Fr Christopher Krall who will be offering the sacrifice of the Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday morning. We are also very grateful to Fr Andrew Byrne for coming to Our Lady of the Rosary on Saturday evening.

MUSIC AND READINGS FOR PASSIONTIDE

| Devotional service with music sung by the Newman Consort. **Sunday 2 April, 6pm** at Holy Rood. All welcome; bring a friend.

CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

| Today there will be an obligatory second collection. Where Ordinariate clergy serve, the diocese has agreed that this goes to the newly-established fund for sick and retired Ordinariate clergy.

MEN'S GROUP

I No meeting on Tuesday 28 March. **Next meeting Tuesday 28 April at 8:30pm** at the Rosary Room next to OLOR Church. There will be short prayer time followed by an open discussion on current affairs. All men welcome and refreshments provided. Contact Chris on 07747 467729.

OFFICE CLOSED

I The parish office will be closed this Friday 31 March.

ROTAS THIS WEEK

Counting Wednesday 29 March
Julie and Maria

PARISH COLLECTION TOTALS

Week ending 19 March 2017
Main collection plate: £420.15
Standing orders: £533.75

NEWSLETTER

| Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to the **Parish Office** by **Thursday 10 am** email hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CHILDREN'S DIARY

Children's activities take place during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.

Wednesday 12 April, 3-4.30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN followed by Confessions and LENT WORKSHOP

16 April EASTER SUNDAY

No children liturgy today. Easter egg hunt after Mass.

Children's liturgy runs every Sunday unless stated otherwise. Please contact Blanka at mccarthybb22@hotmail.com

MOTHERING SUNDAY BRUNCH AND CELEBRATION

| **Our Lady of the Rosary** After Adoration in the Rosary Room following the 9.15am Mass.

FIRST COMMUNION

| No class this week. **Sunday 2 April** is the **Teaching Mass: 9.15am** at **Our Lady's**; those at other Masses that weekend will be given material to make sure they don't miss out.

NORTH HINKSEY YOUTH GROUP

I Our Lady of the Rosary Church - **Sunday 2 April** - 11-15 yr olds 2:30 - 4pm. Youth Mass 4:15pm followed by refreshments in the Rosary Room. Please contact Melanie at tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

EASTER EGGStravaganza

in Wallingford for young people aged 8 and over, at St John the Evangelist R.C. Church's parish rooms (at the back of the church) on **Friday 31 March** from 7-9pm. Contact Melanie at tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or Andy Robins at a.robins@talktalk.net.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

| Each month the Holy Father asks us to pray for a particular intention. March's is: **Support for Persecuted Christians**. That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

IN OUR PRAYERS**THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED**

| *Andres Barranco, Anderson Barranco, Jim & Joan Chatting, Sean Hodgkins, Vanessa Clark, John Finch, Michelle Roche, Maurice McAvoy, Peggy Duhig, Anne Lansberry, Ted Renshaw, Catherine Harker, Brian Hodgkins, Clifford Broome, Moira Fryer, Michael Towner*

BOOK AND CAKE SALE

I Many thanks to everyone for making the Cafod sale such a success. We raised £185.27. Special thanks goes to Monica White and Bernie Cowley for helping with the set up and to all those who made cakes and donated books. CAFOD are currently raising money with the Disasters Emergency Committee so if you go onto the website the government will match fund your donation.

CHRISM MASS, ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH - TUESDAY

11 APRIL 2017 ✕ The Pastoral Area is once again running a bus to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass this year. The bus will leave Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon at 7.45am and English Martyrs, Didcot at 8.15am, returning at around 3pm. The cost of a seat is £12, payment required on booking. Please call Didcot parish office to book a place on 01235 812338, or email didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. All bookings must be received by **Friday 31 March**.

ADVANCE NOTICE

✕ The Carmelite day pilgrimage to Walsingham is on **24 June 2017**. Pick-ups: 06:30am at Redbridge park and ride; 07:00am at Peartree park and ride. Firm commitment and payment by 1 June. Cost depends on numbers- £27 up to £40 per person. All welcome! Contact Armelle Belcher via English Martyrs, Didcot Parish Office for more details on 01235812338.

ORDINARIATE

| Sung Mass, Saturdays at 5pm (for the Sunday obligation); Said Mass, 6.30pm on Thursdays, both at Holy Rood. Masses using the Ordinariate Missal, which anyone is welcome to attend, are indicated by *Divine Worship* in the newsletter. Said Mass on Saturday 2 April at 5pm.

OLOR SPRING CLEAN

I The time has come round again for the Annual OLOR Spring Clean. It will take place on Saturday 8 April from 9.30 to 12 noon. If any one feels able to add some elbow grease to make our church 'spick and span' in readiness for Easter then please come along between those times. You don't have to commit to a particular time slot, even half an hour would be welcome. All materials will be provided and a list of tasks will be at the back of the church this weekend to sign up for, or just turn up on the day and no doubt a duster will be handed to you! Please speak to Monica White if you have any questions on 01865 452205 or email m.white14@ntlworld.com Thank you!

DAY OF REFLECTION

✕ Fr Phil Carroll is organising a day of reflection on Saturday 27 May for Eucharistic ministers which is open to the pastoral area for those interested. The venue will be at Stonehill House OX14 4AA (off Drayton rd) from 10am till 4pm. For those who might be interested please confirm your attendance by email to pccarroll@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PILGRIMAGES

| ✕ **LOURDES** ✕ Diocesan Pilgrimage with Bishop Philip **Friday 18-25 August 2017**. Please email parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk