



THE PARISHES OF S MARY THE VIRGIN, SUNDON & S SAVIOUR, LUTON. 905/436

SUNDAY February 14th 2021 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

DAILY MASS – LIVE STREAMED – ST MARY THE VIRGIN SUNDON FACEBOOK PAGE

Sun: VI Per Annum

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 9:15am | SOLEMN MASS | S MARY'S | PRO POPULO |
| 11:15am | SOLEMN MASS | S SAVIOUR'S | PRO POPULO |
| Mon: | S Sigfrid | 10:00am: Low Mass | S Mary's |
| Tue: | Feria | 10:00am: Low Mass | S Mary's |

ASH WEDNESDAY 12 NOON

| | SOLEMN MASS WITH ASHING | S SAVIOUR'S | PRO POPULO |
|------|---|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Thu: | After Ash W. 10:00am: Low Mass | S Mary's | Lenten Observances |
| | 4:00pm: Reception of Eileen Beal RIP. | | |
| Fri: | Of Requiem 12:15pm: Solemn Funeral Mass | S Mary's | RIP Eileen Beal |
| Sat: | After Ash W. 10:00am Low Mass | S Mary's | Those facing persecution |
| SUN | VI Per Annum 9:15 SOLEMN MASS | S MARY'S | PRO POPULO |
| | 11:15 SOLEMN MASS | S SAVIOUR'S | PRO POPULO |

THIS WEEK AT S MARY'S & S SAVIOUR'S

Welcome to S Mary's and S Saviour's We continue to be in a national lockdown, and so we welcome both those who are here in person and those who are worshipping at home online. Please continue to observe the necessary precautions – sanitise hands on entry and exit, observe social distancing, and all those who are not directly involved in the liturgy need to observe the wearing of face masks.

The congregation are still not permitted to sing, so Fr Yenda will continue to sing the Ordinary of the Mass, and Laurence will make the sung responses whilst the congregation make the responses quietly to themselves.

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17th Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday and is the beginning of Lent. Thank you to those who have brought back your Palm Crosses for the ash for Ash Wednesday. This year of course we will have a slightly more low key start to Lent as with everything else, but don't let it pass you by, none the less! Sadly we cannot have the annual Mardi Gras on Shrove Tuesday which has become our custom at Sundon over the past 16 years, so we will have to have an even bigger celebration for Shrove Tuesday in 2022! However do still prepare for Lent and think about what you may want to give up – or take on – for Lent 2021.

In view that folk from Sundon tend to be largely online, and S Saviour's folk tend to attend mass in person the Mass on Ash Wednesday will be Solemn with Ashing at S Saviour's at 12 noon. Those who usually attend S Mary's are warmly invited to drive just that little further over to S Saviour's for that mass.

Eileen Beal. RIP. Eileen will be received into S Mary's at 4pm on Thursday of this week. Her funeral Requiem will be at S Mary's at 12:15 on Friday and will be a non-communicating high mass in the extraordinary form.

On line Masses all weekday masses are live streamed on the St Mary the Virgin Sundon Facebook page. Please join us! On Sundays both masses are also live-streamed.

Mass sheets are copies of the ACS Order of Mass. The Additional Curates Society fund curates for poorer parishes up and down the country. If you are a regular worshipper, please leave the mass sheet in your seat for next week...but do of course take this sheet with you!

Inclement weather Please take especially great care if we have snow – it can be particularly dangerous if there is ice after a snowfall.

LENT 2021 SEASONAL REFLECTIONS.

My dear people of S Mary's and S Saviour's

I do hope that you are keeping well and continuing to take great care and stay safe as we continue lockdown no.3. Recently during the lockdown, I have discovered the wonders of Netflix and Amazon Prime films – no I haven't been sitting doing nothing (!) but have found some very interesting things to watch. Particularly interesting was a film about the Czech harpsichordist Zuzana Růžičková. During the late 1930s she experienced the nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, and as a Jewess was victim of the anti-semitic persecutions. She was sent to Terezienstadt concentration camp, then to Auschwitz, and then on to Bergen-Belsen. Miraculously, she survived not one, but three concentration camps – and certainly two of the very worst. After the war, her professor wept at the state of her hands. Yet she determinedly made a career as a pianist and later a harpsichordist. She married the composer Viktor Kalabis, who wrote a very charming piano concerto as a wedding gift for her (and there is a recording of her playing it). In 1948, Stalin and The Soviets took over Czechoslovakia, and a country which had hoped for freedom saw their hopes dashed. Under Krushchev things slightly improved, and when Dubček liberalised communism, there was great hope at the start of 1968; however, the Soviet tanks soon entered Prague, and communism became as strict as it was anywhere. Again, all hopes of freedom were dashed. Yet Zuzana and Viktor were adamant that they wouldn't join the communist party, which did them no favours.

Yet despite all this, she was the first person to record all Bach's keyboard works on the harpsichord – a mammoth undertaking which took ten years. Being as famous as she was, the state had to let her travel to the west – but as was custom, a 'hostage' had to be kept in the east to ensure that she would return home – hence her husband could not travel with her. After the 'velvet revolution' having taught at the Academy of Music since 1951, she was finally awarded her professorship. She lived to the great age of 90, and everything which had been thrown at her throughout her long life, seemed only to make her stronger, and give her the strength she needed to not be beaten; and to see better times. And clearly she did.

And so, we begin Lent. Not a season any of us look forward to, and not a season known for its sense of joy! This year it will even start differently; ashing cannot be administered as a cross on the forehead but rather the ash will simply be sprinkled onto our heads. We may even feel that we have sacrificed plenty enough over the past year without going to too much trouble during Lent! However, even though we are living in the most difficult times most of us will ever have known, doesn't mean that we can't still benefit from a little further sacrifice during Lent. It may be something which sounds simple – but isn't necessarily (!) such as giving up sugar or cakes or something like that – or equally good is taking on something we wouldn't normally do which may benefit us.

Being in the 3rd of the lockdowns has perhaps been the most tough of all for us – the cold winter months with the dark evenings, and the cold weather making it impossible to meet people in our gardens even if we were allowed to! Yet this lockdown has brought something more important than anything else we have seen so far – and that is HOPE! Hope brought about by the new vaccine – and as more and more of us receive the vaccine (I had my first vaccine last Monday!) – the sooner we can get back to some semblance of normalcy. When you are offered your vaccine, please have it! We all as a nation, and as a continent, depend on people having it. This vaccination is a gift; God has done His work through Scientists so that we have this precious vaccine which has been rolled out in record time.

In the Gospels we read about 'faith, hope and charity'. Yet in the vaccine we see all three. Faith in the determination of those doing the work and perseverance in achieving the ultimate goal. Hope in knowing the difference it will make to all of us not just here but worldwide. And charity – knowing that this work will free all of us from the awful fear of the coronavirus; will free us from the current isolation; and will lessen the fear we all have of the economic effects of the current situation: the scientists have worked for all of us, brought us the fruits of their labours – and with Faith, Hope and Charity.

With all good wishes for a blessed and holy Lent.

Fr Yenda.