

THE PARISHES OF S MARY THE VIRGIN, SUNDON & S SAVIOUR, LUTON. 911/442
SUNDAY MARCH 28TH 2021 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD.

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

9:15am	SOLEMN MASS	S MARY'S	PRO POPULO
11:15am	SOLEMN MASS	S SAVIOUR'S	PRO POPULO
Mon: Fig Monday	10:00am:	Low Mass	S Mary's Political Prisoners
Tue: Temple Tuesday	8:00pm:	Solemn Mass	S Mary's S Mary's Ladies' Club
Wed: Spy Wednesday	10:00am	Low Mass	S Mary's Covid Vaccinations

THE TRIDUUM 2021

Thu: MAUNDY THURSDAY	6:00PM	SOLEMN MASS	S SAVIOUR'S	The Bereaved
Fri: GOOD FRIDAY	1:00PM	LITURGY	S SAVIOUR'S	The Sick
Sat: HOLY SATURDAY	8:00PM	EASTER VIGIL	HOLY CROSS	Pro Populo
SUN EASTER SUNDAY	9:15	VIDI AQUAM & SOLEMN MASS	S MARY'S	PRO POPULO
	11:15	VIDI AQUAM & SOLEMN MASS	S SAVIOUR'S	PRO POPULO

This week at S Mary's and 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 on line. 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, Laurence making the sung responses, the congregation making responses quietly to themselves.

On line Masses All masses, both on Sundays and daily in the week are live streamed on St Mary the Virgin Sundon facebook page – this is for both parishes and for anyone who would like to join us. Those who wish to attend Mass in person are also welcome to do so.

FR JOHN BELITHER, R.I.P. It is with great sadness that we learned of Fr John's death on Thursday of last week. Fr John was vicar of Holy Cross Church, Marsh Farm from 1991 – 2006. He was an immensely gentle, caring and devoted priest, and his passing will be of great sadness to the people of his former parish. We keep his wife, Pat and the family in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Jesu mercy. Mary pray.

HOLY WEEK: This is Holy Week. The most important week in the church calendar – please do not let it pass you by! This year Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will take place at S Saviour's Church – I hope people from Sundon will also make the trip across for those services. The first part of Holy Week – Monday through Wednesday – will be at S Mary's – I hope some people from S Saviour's will be able to make the trip across for those masses. On Holy Saturday the Easter Vigil this year will again take place at Holy Cross Church, Marsh Farm, and the kind invitation of Fr Brown. I hope some of our folks will be able to pop across for that.

The Jab. Congratulations those who've had it – if you're still waiting, do take it when offered! Please!

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Holy Week and Easter 2021

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

This time of year we see the Church at its liturgically most powerful. We enter Holy Week on Palm Sunday, and we live with Our Lord through the whole of that week, until we come to Good Friday – the darkest day in the church calendar. Three days later, on Easter Sunday, we go from the darkness of Good Friday to the great joy and celebration of Easter. It is, in effect, a liturgical whirlwind!

Easter is a time of hope. It is the time when we think about the Resurrection – but it also reminds us that the Resurrection is celebrated at every Mass, both on Sundays and in the week. I remember our vicar when I was approaching my teen years saying that 'every Sunday is a little Easter'.

This year we have the 2nd Easter we will have had in lockdown. In a sense it is more of a challenge because we have had this now on and off for a year, and we are all of us sick and tired of it – yet we stick with it because we know it is for a reason, and that we need to continue to protect one another until at least the vaccine has been further rolled out.

There is, however, a very great difference in church terms with last year. Last year, despite the Government permitting us to live stream from our churches, the archbishop banned us from doing so. This year we are – quite rightly – able to live stream from our churches; and this makes a tremendous difference. Indeed, church is the place for divine worship to take place, our dining rooms are for lunch, dinner and entertaining, but not for the administration of the Church's Sacraments.

It was at this time last year, that Her Majesty the Queen spoke to the nation, and particularly about the message of Easter, to build our spirits, and boost our morale. I know clergy up and down the country will always be appreciative to her for those inspiring and wise words. This year, not only can we live-stream from our churches, and tune in on the facebook page – but we can, actually attend church in person; unless we are required to remain shielded.

We also have a sense of hope in the vaccine this year – that as more and more of us get our vaccination, the nearer we get to a return to a new normal. It is our anticipation of seeing our close relatives, our friends, our work colleagues; having holidays when we can relax in places we enjoy, and recharge our batteries.

This Easter we have perhaps the most challenging time we have ever known. Yet we also have hope. When Our Lord suffered on the Cross of Good Friday, it wasn't in vain; on Easter Sunday we have the Resurrection, where Our Lord rose from the dead, and misery turns to joy. Our lockdown will not be in vain either, it is tiresome, and I for one do not enjoy not seeing people – I love chatting with people, having cups of coffee, having a slice of cake, a laugh and a joke, or a serious conversation. This I have missed during this year as we all will have.

Yet just as Our Lord was victorious over the grave of Good Friday with the triumph of Easter, so we too will reach our new normal, and all our sacrifices will be fully worthwhile.

I wish you a very Happy and Holy Easter, and every happiness in the continuation of this year.

With all good wishes

Fr Yenda