Following the Passion with Our Blessed Lady

“Let me mingle tears with thee
Mourning Him who mourned for me
All the days that I may live.”

The Stabat Mater, the Sequence for the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, is one of our greatest liturgical hymns; we also sing it by devout custom at the Stations of the Cross. In it, we accompany Our Lady on the way of the Cross.

Our Lord loved us from all eternity, but in His sacred Passion, He loved us “to the end” as St John put it, to the ultimate limit that any love could be expressed in human terms. Wounded by our own sins, He poured out His life blood to redeem us from them.

When we think prayerfully of the sufferings of Christ in His Passion, we should be moved, but our hardness of heart can allow us to become over-familiar with the events of the way of the Cross. Wisely, the tradition of the Church allows for Our Lady to help us as we consider also the sorrows that afflicted her Immaculate Heart. We call her “Mother of Mercy” and we know that even though she is aware that we have caused her son suffering by our sins, she pleads with Him for forgiveness.

Our Lady can also help us to grow in the spiritual life by doing more than the minimum that is required of us, or by being more generous in the extra things that we do. She also helps us to keep our focus on Jesus Christ, instead of making our participation in the life of the Church simply another consumer activity in which we seek entertainment. She helps us to know that we stand in need of God’s mercy.

Holy Week and Easter Programme of services

The programme of services for Holy Week and Easter at St Austin’s and St Anne’s, is available at the back of the Church. Please note the extra times for Confession at both Churches during Holy Week as well as the additional opportunities to assist at the Stations of the Cross.

Please take a copy of the programme of services for yourself. Please also take copies for any Catholics you know who have abandoned the practice of their faith. Holy Week and Easter is a powerful time of conversion when your invitation may be an occasion of grace.

Please note:
There is no 5pm Mass on Holy Saturday. Instead, we have the Easter Vigil at 8pm.

Good Friday children’s Stations
At the Stations of the Cross at St Austin’s on Good Friday, children are invited to bring a home-made cross to carry in procession. There is a list in the Hall for any children or young people who would like to sign up to read for one of the Stations.

Readers for Good Friday and Holy Saturday
Please sign up
If you would like to read at the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 3pm on Good Friday, or the Easter Vigil at 8pm on Holy Saturday, please sign up on the list available in the Hall.

Stations of the Cross
Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent
The Stations of the Cross are held in the parish during Lent as follows:
St Austin’s, Margate
Wednesday 11.30am; Friday 7pm
St Anne’s, Cliftonville
Friday 9.15am

This devotion is a powerful means of grace and conversion and is especially suited to Lent, though it may be prayed at any time of the year. Children are always welcome of course: they benefit from taking part in this meditation on the Passion of Christ.

Passiontide
Veiling of the crucifixes and statues

By ancient custom, the crucifixes and statues in the Church are veiled during Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent.

As with many of our ancient liturgical customs, this has various meanings. Before his Passion, Jesus hid himself and no longer went openly among the Jews. At his passion, the divinity of Jesus was hidden by his humiliation and sufferings for our sake. The statues of Our Lady and the saints are covered because it is not fitting for the servants to be honoured when their Master is hidden.

The veiling of the statues gives a striking austerity to the Church, reminding us of the solemn and mournful time of the suffering and death of the Lord as we approach the liturgical celebration of His Passion.

We adore Thee, O Christ and we praise Thee; because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.
**News and Events**

**Paul Connolly RIP**
The Requiem Mass will be at St Austin & St Gregory at 11.15am on Friday 18 March, followed by burial at Margate cemetery.

**Confirmation**
I am late this year in arranging for Confirmation preparation, but we can prepare young people in Year 8 who are already regularly coming to Mass every Sunday. Please see Fr Finigan or Fr Holdstock for a form after Mass. (Youngsters who are not yet practising their faith should start doing so, and then apply to join the Confirmation programme next year.)

**Mass Intentions for the Coming Week**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SS Austin &amp; Gregory, Margate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12 Mar</td>
<td>5.00 pm Private intention</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>9.30 am Margaret Kerin RIP</td>
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<td>11.30 am Pro populo</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>7.30 pm Hugo Robinson GE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>9.00 am Maureen &amp; John Wilks Golden Wedding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>12.00 pm Private intention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>9.00 pm Private intention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>11.15 am Funeral of Paul Connolly RIP</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6.30 pm Molly Jones &amp; family GE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>19 Mar</td>
<td>9.00 am Rosy Joseph RIP</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5.00 pm Private intention</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>20 Mar</td>
<td>9.30 am John Keating Anniv</td>
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<td>11.30 am Armando &amp; Julieta Opina</td>
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**Cliftonville**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>10.00 am John Roy RIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>10.00 am Jean Gardener RIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>10.00 am Holy souls</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>10.00 am Sharzade Rahman RIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>20 Mar</td>
<td>10.00 am Maureen Rossiter RIP</td>
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**Booking Mass Intentions**
Please use the envelopes provided, write the name(s) clearly and indicate whether the Mass is for someone who has died or for the welfare of someone who is living. The following standard abbreviations are used in the newsletter:

- **RIP**: for the repose of the soul of ... **Annv**: anniversary of death of ... **GE**: for the good estate (welfares) of ... **TG**: Thanksgiving for ...
- **FM**: Foundation Mass, **DRF**: Deceased relatives and friends.

**Prayer before a Crucifix**

**“Święconka”**

**Easter Blessing of Food**

**Holy Saturday 12noon**
An ancient custom in Catholic countries (preserved especially in Poland) is to prepare a basket of meat, eggs and bread to be blessed on Holy Saturday, marking the end of the Lenten fast. Children enjoy helping to prepare the basket and decorate it. If you look up “Święconka” on the internet, you will find some examples of baskets.

We will have this traditional blessing at St Austin’s at 12noon on Holy Saturday (26 March.)

**Collection for Flowers**

**This weekend**
There will be a collection after all Masses this week to help pay for flowers to decorate the Church at Easter.

During the year, if you can give a little extra for votive candles, this helps to pay for the flowers and candles that we use to decorate the altars.

**Catholic Church of St Austin & St Gregory, Margate, with St Anne, Cliftonville**

**St Austin & St Gregory: Victoria Road, Margate**

**St Anne:**

- **Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville (CT9 2JP)**
- **Parish Website**: margatecatholic.org
- **Parish Priest**: Fr Timothy Finigan MA STL 38 Charlotte Place Margate CT9 1LP. 01843 220825. info@margatecatholic.org
- **Assistant Priests**: Fr Godfrey Holdstock. 01843 862385. (St Anne’s & OL Star of the Sea); Fr Bernard McNally.
- **Parish Deacons**: Rev Neville Gascoigne; Rev Ambrose Tuckell
- **St Austin & St Gregory, Margate**
  - **Sunday Masses**: 5pm (Saturday) 9.30am, 11.30am (Latin)
  - **Weekday Masses**: Mon 7.30pm (Latin); Tue 9am; Wed 12noon, Thur 9am; Fri 6.30pm; Sat 9am

**Choir 9.30am Mass**

Mark de Pulford would welcome new members for the choir at 9.30am Mass on Sunday, especially to prepare the music for the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter. Please see Mark after Mass or let Fr Finigan have your details.