

LOUGHTON PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME: Sincere thanks to all those parishioners who have collected their Gift Aid Boxes which came into effect on the 8th April. However, there are still a large number of boxes which have not been collected and I would ask those parishioners to collect them as soon as possible.

In addition, there are several small boxes for those parishioners who pay their Gift Aid by Standing Order. It is important to use these boxes as the Second Collections, e.g. Christmas & Easter Offerings, etc, lose quite a lot of money because the Special Envelopes are not used.

It is pleasing to note that the majority of parishioners now belong to the Gift Aid Scheme which produces last year, and extra amount of just under £22,000.00 (and costs absolutely nothing, other than your name and address), which helps considerably towards the upkeep of the Church, the Parish Hall, The Presbytery and all the grounds. Obviously, we still have to maintain the St. Thomas More Site until its disposal. The ongoing increasing expenses of utilities and general maintenance are a great drain of parish finances. Also the Diocesan Quota has been raised again this year to over £26,000.00.

Although there are spare envelopes at the back of the Church many parishioners forget to use their own envelopes. If you do use the spare envelopes please remember to put your Gift Aid number or your Name on it.

If you do not belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, and someone in the family pays Income Tax then please consider joining. It is very simple in that we only require you to complete the GA Form with your name and address and I will do the rest.

On behalf of Father John, thank you to all parishioners who belong to the Gift Aid Scheme.

Brian Carter – Parish Gift Aid Organiser, Tel No: 020 8508 4086

**A Happy & Holy Easter
The Lord is truly Risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



Dear Friends in Christ

Easter Sunday 2018

In ancient time, on Easter Sunday morning, Christians greeted their neighbours with the salutation ‘Christ is risen’, and their neighbours answered, ‘Christ is risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon.’ Perhaps this ancient custom should be resurrected today. Christ has risen indeed! The Easter Liturgy leads us in an exultant hymn of praise. The tomb is empty! Jesus is the Risen Lord, the Victor, the Lord of Life, the Living One who conquered sin and death.

Today we put our lives in a missionary key and take the message that Christ is risen into the world, courageously bearing witness to the truth that death is not the end but merely the door through which we enter into the fullness of eternal life, with God. The resurrection of Jesus is the central and crowning truth of our faith, handed down to us first from the apostles, who witnessed it with their own eyes, and then passed on to the apostolic fathers, and through them into the living tradition of the Church today. We are a resurrection people: ‘Alleluia Christ is risen!’ is our hymn of praise. But do you really believe this? Do you really believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Has this profound mystery of our faith taken root in you? Do you cry out, as Paul cried out, ‘I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection’?

Today of all days presents us with a God-given opportunity to reflect on what we understand by the statement that ‘Jesus Christ is risen today’. The following words from Pope Benedict provide us with food for thought: ‘We could regard the resurrection as something akin to a radical evolutionary leap, in which a new dimension of life emerges, a new dimension of human existence. Indeed, matter itself is remoulded into a new type of reality. The man Jesus, complete with his body, now belongs totally to the sphere of the divine and eternal.’ In Jesus of Nazareth, God-made-man, the God-man, a new humanity was revealed, a new creation. This message turned the world of the first century upside down, and it can do so again in the twenty-first century if we will take courage and proclaim it.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Easter Sunday 2018

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!



I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and all your loved ones a very Happy & Holy Easter! I extend a very warm welcome to any visitors who may be with us this Easter Day; we have celebrated a very beautiful Holy Week together. Of course, the high point of this

Blessed Week was our Easter Vigil. This year we received two new members into our Community. Warm congratulations to Lorraine Leith & Samantha Gell, who were received into full-communion, and both celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation & the Holy Eucharist. We wish them much happiness in the Catholic Church here in our Community!

I would like to thank everyone in the parish who helped to make the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies so beautiful! To our parish Sacristans, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers; Sue Farrow our Music Director, the Choir; our Master of Ceremonies David Knott & Altar Servers; the Altar Society who cleaned the Church; and the many ladies who helped to arrange the flowers. A BIG THANK YOU! Our Church is beautifully adorned with Easter Lilies and flowers. My thanks to all our parishioners who so generously donated in remembrance of deceased loved ones! The lists are in both Churches.



It has been a great honour and privilege once again to have shared this sixteenth Holy Week and Easter with you all! It certainly is the high-point of the liturgical year. Thank you for your continued support of the parish and for everything you do in helping to build up the Lord's vineyard here in Loughton. I feel very honoured & privileged to be your Parish Priest, and I look forward to sharing with you all throughout this coming year! Once again, if ever you need me, please don't hesitate to contact me!

May the peace and Joy of Our Risen Lord be with you and your loved ones! A Happy & Holy Easter!

With Love & Easter Peace!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. John".



YOUR EASTER OFFERTORY: Is your personal gift to Fr. John and goes to make up the major part of his income throughout the year. Please use your Gift Aid envelopes for your offerings; otherwise please use the gift offertory envelopes provided. Spare ones at back of the Church.

Special Offering

THANK YOU FROM FR. JOHN: on a personal note, I would like to thank all those parishioners who so kindly sent Easter cards and greetings at this special time of the year. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. It has been wonderful sharing this Holy Week & Easter with you all!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Programme will resume again on Sunday 22nd April, with the theme being the Last Supper. There will be three celebrations this year. Saturday 12th May at 12noon. Sunday 13th May at 1.00pm. Saturday 19th May at 12noon. And the Going forth Mass on Sunday 20th May at 11.00am. Please keep the children in your prayers.

WELCOME TO THE SEMINARIANS FROM THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE: As the seminarians had to celebrate Holy Week 'in-house' this year, they are now able to take a week's break and arrive on Easter Sunday about 1.00pm. Once again we extend them a warm welcome! If anyone would be willing to bake an apple pie or help to provide some desserts or sweet items, I would be most grateful! It's always nice to have the seminarians with us! Deacons Leo, Vince and Brandon will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in a few months, so please pray for them!

OLD PUPILS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL: Did you (or anyone) leave St. John Fisher School in the 1960's or earlier? Would you (or they) like to make contact with "old" classmates? If so, please contact: Mike Dewar – mike@mikedewar.plus.com or Jan Hatt – jan.hatt@uwclub.net or Ann McGuinn (was Muldoon) – annmcguinn@yahoo.co.uk

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of Peggy Davies who passed away recently. The requiem mass will be on Monday 9th April at St. Edmund's at 12.15pm. Our condolences to her family in this time of great loss.