

# SUNDAY *Plus*

2nd Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week II** Year A

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

## The quality of mercy

The man advanced three paces and approached the lamp which was on the table. "Stop," he resumed, as though he had not quite understood. "That's not it. Did you hear? I am a galley-slave, a convict. I come from the galleys." He drew from his pocket a large sheet of yellow paper, which he unfolded. "Here's my passport. Yellow, as you see. This serves to expel me from every place where I go. Will you read it? I know how to read. I learned in the galleys. There is a school there for those who choose to learn. Hold, this is what they put on this passport: 'Jean Valjean, discharged convict, native of' – that is nothing to you – has been nineteen years in the galleys: five years for house-breaking and burglary.

Fourteen years for having attempted to escape on four occasions. He is a very dangerous man! There! Everyone has cast me out. Are you willing to receive me? Is this an inn? Will you give me something to eat and a bed? Have you a stable?"


"Madame Magloire," said the bishop, "you will put white sheets on the bed in the alcove." ...

The bishop turned to the man. "Sit down, sir, and warm yourself. We are going to sup in a few moments and your bed will be prepared while you are supping"...

At this point the man suddenly comprehended. He began stammering like a crazy man. "Really? What! You will keep me? You do not drive me forth?"

Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*



Lord of love, help me to look for happiness in the right places. Help me to be realistic in my hopes and dreams. May I find my happiness in loving you.  Amen.

### Give of your best

Often, we simply don't notice that our response to a hurt is an over-reaction. Someone says or does something that hurts or offends us and we let a sense of grievance take root in our heart, creating a wound that is out of all proportion to the event that inflicted it. It's hard to detect such moments in one's own life: after all, my over-reaction usually seems entirely reasonable to me, at least at the time!...

Meet what is worst in your enemy with what is best in you. Let his wrongdoing bring out the best in you. What is best in you is not born of retaliation or hate, but of compassion and forgiveness. What is best in you is that which preserves your humanity. This is the new twist we can give to the old idea of "getting our own back" on an enemy: getting back the best and not being reduced to the worst.

Stephanie Thornton,  
*Finding Forgiveness*

Peace be with you! It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally.

Pope Leo XIV



Feast of the week  
Thursday 16 April

### St Bernadette of Lourdes (1844-1879)

St Bernadette had asthma. Interestingly, her biographers mention that she suffered from the condition before meeting Our Lady at the rock of Massabielle in Lourdes – and are silent about any adult asthma attacks. Did she "grow out" of it? Did Bernadette herself receive the first cure when obeyed Our Lady's instructions to bathe her face in the muddy pool which became the miraculous spring and future pilgrimage destination of millions of people? Was it such a "normal" part of her life that biographers overlook asthma when writing about Bernadette's other health issues which led to her death at the age of thirty-five?

Anybody who is familiar with asthma, either personally or through a family member, knows the limitations on activities – including food allergies – and freedoms which everybody else enjoys.

As we remember St Bernadette, perhaps it is also an opportunity to remember and pray for all those who suffer from asthma.

### READINGS

Today:  
Acts 2:42-47  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

Monday:  
Acts 4:23-31  
John 3:1-8

Tuesday:  
Acts 4:32-37  
John 3:7-15

Wednesday:  
Acts 5:17-26  
John 3:16-21

Thursday:  
Acts 5:27-33  
John 3:31-36

Friday:  
Acts 5:34-42  
John 6:1-15

Saturday:  
Acts 6:1-7  
John 6:16-21

Next Sunday:  
Acts 2:14, 22-33  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-35



## Parish Life

**Thank you to the Gardening Club for all your hard work again this weekend. There is much to do in the church gardens and grounds all year round and we are in need of more volunteers to get involved.**



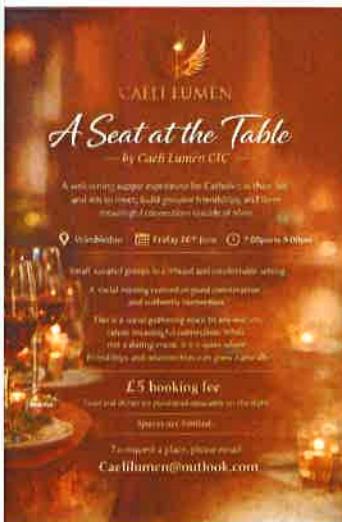
**The Thursday Club are still looking for a mini bus driver, to drive a hire bus for five club outings a year. Please speak to Mary Newman on 07587 146 441**

**IT Workshop** the next IT workshop is arranged for Saturday morning, on the 18th April. If you have an IT problem come along to the Canon Beausang at 10am for help and support.

### THE PARISH HALL

Available for Hire

For all enquiries send an email to [stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com](mailto:stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com)



**A Seat at the Table (by Caeli Lumen CIC)** is an independently organised monthly supper gathering for Catholics in their 30s and 40s to meet, build friendships, and form meaningful connections outside of Mass. Open to Catholics across London.

Wimbledon  
Friday 27th June  
7:00pm to 9:00pm  
£5 booking fee (food purchased separately)  
Look out for the posters in church. To reserve your

place: [Caelilumen@outlook.com](mailto:Caelilumen@outlook.com)

**Evangelisation Expo** entitled *Radiate: an Evangelisation Expo* join on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at Amigo Hall, 11am:4:30pm. In this the year of St Francis of Assisi, we welcome Fr Casey Cole OFM as the keynote speaker and his Franciscan brothers Frs Tito Serrano OFM and Jason Damon OFM. The keynote talk will be on *God Evangelises Through Ordinary People – We Need to Go and Get Them*. Details and Registration are available at - [Expo — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis](http://Expo — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis) ([www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/expo](http://www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/expo))

### RADIATE Evangelisation Expo



**Westminster Cathedral Choristers** Ordinary boys doing extraordinary things. Interested in finding out more? Join the next Chorister Zoom Information Session on **Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 6:30pm**. Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/2zsf92j8> Alternatively, contact Rachel Bonnet at 020 7798 908, or [RBonnet@choirschool.com](mailto:RBonnet@choirschool.com)

## YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. If interested? Contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk) or [www.castleriggmanor.com](http://www.castleriggmanor.com) >> join the team

**CTSL Big Gathering: Being Visible** Wednesday 20th May 7-8.45pm, with an informal buffet offered from 6pm onwards at Trinity House, Chapel Court, SE1 1HW (off Borough High Street near London Bridge). We will be supporting and resourcing churches to be more visible as Christians in South London, united by God's love and the call to love our neighbours. With the far-right and nationalists distorting Jesus' teaching for political ends and waging war, how can we help churches be more visible as we act and witness together to God's love, welcoming the stranger, and following the Prince of Peace?

### Pilgrimages with A Day with Mary

Pilgrimage to Fatima (8 July to 15 July 2026) Closing date 28 April 2026

Pilgrimage to Italy (1 September to 10 September 2026) Closing date 23 June 2026

Further information is available at <https://www.adaywithmary.org/>

Vocations Weekend for Women (in their 20s and 30s) organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus on **Discerning God's Call in your life**

**15th - 17th May, Liverpool. For more information contact Sr Lynne [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit their website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org) To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>**

### Our Safeguarding Team

Your parish Safe Guarding Reps can be contacted at

[northcheamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) for

**Annaley Humphrey**

[northcheamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) for

**Linda Mamedy**

[northcheamsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**Lorna Gallagher**

***The Safeguarding representatives have special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk.***

**The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-Ordinator can be contacted on 020 761 1606**

Find out more at [www.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk)  
[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**Safeguarding Sunday is on the 3rd of May.**