|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| St Francis logo personal | Franciscan | |
| **Church of St. Francis of Assisi**  277 Sandygate Road, Sheffield S10 5SD  Telephone 0114 263 0383  Email: [stfrancisrcsheffield@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisrcsheffield@gmail.com)  [parishcouncil26@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil26@yahoo.co.uk)  Website: [www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk)  Registered Charity No. 512021  Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Thornton  Parish Deacon: Stephen Parker | **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  **Sunday 11th April 2021**  Year B - Psalter week 2  (People of the Parish) |

If you want to attend **MASS ON SUNDAY**, you must book by emailing [massatstfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:massatstfrancis@gmail.com) by 6pm on Wednesday stating how many places you would like. If space is available, you will receive the offer of a place by Thursday evening. You **MUST** reply to accept your places and confirm you are symptom free. Anyone without email, can call 07901 166218 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Wednesday.

There will be a box in the narthex for the **OFFERTORY COLLECTION**. Alternatively, you can make your offertory donation directly to:

* Account name: Diocese of Hallam St Francis Sheffield
* Sort Code: 40-41-07.
* Account Number: 21094343

If you are able to Gift Aid your offering and have not already signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please contact Edmund King at [e.king@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:e.king@sheffield.ac.uk).

**RULES FOR MASS ATTENDANCE**

* You must sanitise your hands when entering.
* Wait at the inner door to be directed to a seat.
* Face coverings must be worn throughout Mass.
* Communion will be brought to you in your seat and should be received in silence.
* Remain in your seat until told to leave via the hall.
* Please leave as quickly as possible afterwards.

**VURCH** (Virtual Church) will continue through Zoom on Sundays at 11am. Login details are as follows:

* Meeting ID: 700 601 109
* Password: StFrancis

Everyone is welcome.

You can join a **LIVE-STREAM OF THE MASS** from St Marie’s Cathedral at 11am on Sunday and 8am Monday to Saturday at <https://stmariecathedral.org/>. You can also join by telephone on 0203 9017895. The Meeting ID is 827 4685 3641.

**PLEASE PRAY** for Ann Bright, Jean Fahy, Pam Harris and JH, who are sick, for Christopher McGarry and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Thank you for your generous **EASTER** **OFFERINGS**.

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for April is Fundamental rights - we pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

The **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** preparation programme has started and we hope to have the First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 27th June. Please pray for the candidates that are preparing this year: Ruairi Allen, Lily Arslan, Michael Boulding, Lily Grace Buccieri, Isabella Cancello, William Crofton-Martin, Thomas Gaynord, Harriet Gould, Estee Lela, Daniel Loveridge, Eleanor O’Doherty, Eibhlin O’Riordan, Sarah Stanley and Ellen Wragg.

**ENVELOPE SETS** for the financial year 2021-2022 are now available. They can be collected from the stewards or delivered to your home. Please contact Edmund King on [e.king@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:e.king@sheffield.ac.uk) for delivery.

There is currently **NO WEEKDAY MASS AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH**. Alternative Masses in the area (no booking required) are:

* St Marie’s - Monday to Friday, 12.30pm & 5.30pm. Saturday 12.30pm
* St William of York - Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am
* St Vincent's - Wednesday 7pm, Friday 9:30am.

**ST FRANCIS** **LENTEN OFFERING TO CAFOD**. During Lent there was a Just Giving page to raise money to sponsor an outreach health clinic along with a set of PPE. The plan was to raise £427. We have managed the quite extraordinary total of £4176.50 (including gift aid) which will sponsor NINE clinics and provide ELEVEN sets of PPE. CAFOD would like to express its sincerest gratitude and admiration of our parish for such wonderful fund raising. Thank you.

All Saints Catholic High School are looking for a part-time **ART AND TEXTILES TECHNICIAN**. Visit [www.allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk/vacancies/](http://www.allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk/vacancies/) for more information. The closing date is Monday 19th April.

**SVP FURNITURE STORE** need volunteers to help in the office with administrative duties and also in the warehouse, dealing with furniture and food parcels. Please contact [michaelh@svp.org.uk](mailto:michaelh@svp.org.uk) if you can help.

**ST WILFRID’S CENTRE** needs donations of:

* food for client lunches and snacks.
* men's walking jackets, trousers and underwear.
* pencil sharpeners, rubbers and picture puzzles for adults (mazes, spot the difference, etc).

Please take your donations to St Wilfrid’s Centre, 524 Queens Road, S2 4DT.

Sheffield now has a **COMMUNITY GROCERY SHOP** selling surplus food from local supermarkets. Families can get up to £50 worth of food for as little as £3 per shop. They need volunteers to welcome and sign-up new members, help people with their weekly shop, stock shelves and work the tills. Visit [www.communitygrocery.org.uk/sheffield](http://www.communitygrocery.org.uk/sheffield) or email [sheffield@communitygrocery.org.uk](mailto:sheffield@communitygrocery.org.uk) if you can help.

A big thank you to everyone who sponsored Jayne Middlemas on the **CAFOD WALK FOR WATER** during Lent. She walked a total of 470,025 steps (about 214 miles) and raised £725.

**ALEX KRZYZ** thanks you for all your support and donations; all done and dusted - 538,000 steps, 385km. All numbers were rounded down (it looks better that way!!) It works both ways; I and you, through your donations have supported the work that CAFOD does to help Abdella get clean water (and I am leaner and fitter!!) With your help I have managed to raise £581.

Pope Francis has set aside this year to celebrate the life of **ST JOSEPH**. Bishop Ralph will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral at 12.30pm on Saturday 1st May, the Memorial of St Joseph the Worker.

Explore grace, joy and thanksgiving this Easter with St Marie’s Cathedral’s weekly **CHILDREN’S LITURGY** videos: They are designed to help children explore and develop their faith and to encourage families to discuss and learn together from the Gospel. A new video is available from <https://stmariecathedral.org/mass-worship/childrens-ministry/> every Saturday morning.

As part of the **YEAR OF ST JOSEPH** (which runs to 8th December), St Marie’s Cathedral has created a virtual tour which explores the tributes and memorials to St Joseph within the Cathedral. Visit <https://stmariecathedral.org/visit-us/virtual-tours/> to view the tour.

**THE FRANCISCAN** is currently only available electronically by email or from the website at <http://www.stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk/newsletter/>.

If you cannot attend Mass in person, visit [www.CatholicDirectory.org](http://www.CatholicDirectory.org) to find links to **ONLINE MASSES**.

The **MASS READINGS** for this week are:

* Acts 4: 32-35
* 1 John 5: 1-6
* John 20: 19-31

**SCRIPTURE NOTE:** Two aspects of this meeting of the disciples with Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix added later. At the end of this gospel, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God. Nowhere else is Jesus directly hailed as ‘God’, though there are other ways in which readers come to recognise Jesus as God. So, in a way, this acclamation of the Risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus’ final blessing is of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring peace and forgiveness to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants of forgiveness, each in turn broken by God’s chosen people: the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, finally the new covenant promised by Jeremiah when unfaithful Israel is exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for sinners. Forgiven sinners must bring forgiveness to all those around them.

How can you bring Jesus’ blessing of peace and forgiveness to the world around you?

**REFLECTION** The first Christians

Defending the Christians before the Emperor Hadrian, Aristides, a non-Christian, said of them: “These Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows. They save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the man who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take him into their homes and treat him as a brother. And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs. If it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn’t enough food to go around, they fast several days to give him the food he needs. We are dealing with a new kind of person. There is something divine in them."

**PARISH PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, pour down on our Church your Holy Spirit, the fire of your love. Give us the courage, the wisdom and the faith to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

Help us to build warm and welcoming communities of faith in our families, our neighbourhoods, our Parish. May we carry the Good News by word and action into all our environments, especially those which are hostile and hurting.

Together with Mary, the first evangeliser we entrust all our efforts into the care of the Divine Spirit, who fills and renews the face of the earth. Amen