



St Etheldreda's

WEEK BEGINNING 27 APRIL 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

DIVINE MERCY

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am (English)

11 am (Sung Latin)

Monday-Friday: 1 pm



The Rector Writes...

BY FR TOM THOMAS IC

Second Sunday of Easter. We mourn the passing away of Pope Francis. He had been leading the Church for past 12 years. I like to share with you a reflection of his pontificate I read a few days ago. I hope that you make some sense who our Pope was:

“Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday. The timing felt too tender to be coincidence—like he held on just long enough to hear the Alleluia one last time. To witness the Church rejoice in the Resurrection before quietly letting go. As if he needed to see the stone rolled away before stepping into the promise he had spent his life proclaiming. He carried so much. The wounds of a divided Church. The ache of the poor and the forgotten. The weight of hope—for a world more merciful, more human, more like Christ. He walked with a limp, both in body and in spirit, but never without grace. He wasn't perfect. But he was present. And he kept showing up. And he was different. He chose the simple path when grandeur was expected. He rode the bus. Paid his own hotel bill. Lived in a guesthouse instead of the papal palace. His first act as Pope was to bow and ask for our prayers. From the beginning, he showed us that true authority kneels. That greatness can look like humility. He disrupted systems and comforted outcasts. He spoke boldly on justice, embraced the disabled, welcomed migrants, washed the feet of prisoners. He didn't just talk about mercy—he embodied it.

He made the Church feel like a place where the last could be first, and the forgotten, finally seen. He taught us that holiness isn't perfection—it's presence. That the Gospel is clearest when it sounds like compassion. That faith, at its best, looks like love with skin on. And now, just after Easter, he's gone. But maybe that was his final homily. Not delivered from a pulpit, but through the quiet timing of his death—a soft Amen to a life spent preaching hope. It brings to mind these words: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7. And he did. He fought—not with anger, but with mercy. He ran—not to be praised, but to make space for others. And he kept the faith—not flawlessly, but fiercely. So yes, we grieve. But we also remember. We remember how he made us believe again—in a Church that walks with the wounded, in a Gospel wide enough for the doubting, in a God whose love meets us right where we are. He reminded me that faith isn't something we hold onto for ourselves. It's something we hand off—with open hands and open hearts. Pope Francis has finished his race. And what he leaves behind isn't just a memory—It's the echo of a life poured out. The kind of life that makes you want to live differently. More gently. More boldly. More like him. More like Christ. He waited for Easter—because he believed in the promise. And now, that promise is his. Light has found him. And Love has brought him home.”

Blessed Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday.

Thought for the week

If we are tried and even overwhelmed by evils, this brings our thoughts down from the clouds, and forces us willy-nilly to recognise what we really are, without illusions. So the sense of our own wretchedness is by grace made the means of leading us to God. For when we find nothing in ourselves but wretchedness, and nothing in the world outside us but tribulation, then our hearts, which cannot do without goodness and love, at last turn to God, out of a sort of happy necessity (of which grace makes use), and we abandon ourselves to Him. We then come to acknowledge Him as our only good, and feel profoundly the truth of those words of Christ, “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavily burdened, and I will give you rest”.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini.

Support Us



Prayer for Francis

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,
whom you made successor of Peter
and shepherd of your Church,
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and
compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace.
Amen.



Today's Readings

Acts 5: 12–16; [9 am Mass only: Psalm 117. **Response: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end."**]; Apocalypse 1: 9–13, 17–19; John 20: 19–31.

'Divine Mercy Sunday'

This name was given to the Sunday after Easter by Pope John Paul on 30 April 2000, the day on which he canonized the Polish nun Sister Faustina Kowalska (1905–1938). It was Saint Faustina's passionate message about the limitless mercy of God that inspired Pope John Paul to devote his own ministry to the theme of God's mercy and to make of the second Sunday of Easter a feast to be observed by the whole Church in contemplation of God's mercy as demonstrated in the mystery of Easter. Let's meditate on God's mercy with special intensity as we listen to the *Kyrie eleison* today.

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be next Sunday (4 May) after the 11 am Mass. All welcome. Also, please join us to welcome our new parish priest, Fr Anthony Furlong IC, in the crypt next Sunday. Refreshments provided.

Collections

Easter collections and contactless donations for the Institute of Charity (The Rosminians) came to **£1281.15**.
Holy Places. The Good Friday collection for the Holy Places raised **£278.17**.
Many thanks for your generosity.

Donations made by standing order, calculated weekly, amount to **£414.42**

Sunday's Music (11am)

Kitson Mass in D
Elgar Ave Maria
Elgar Ave Maris Stella
Credo III, Regina caeli, Domine salvam fac
Organ Voluntary: Elgar Vesper Voluntary in D
Director of Music: Robert Patterson

Fr Denis Labartette IC

Fr. Denis Labartette is transferred to our Community House in Wonersh, Guildford. You might see him time to time. We wish him all the best in his future ministry.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony

This year, it will take place on Saturday 17th May at 2:30 pm at Westminster Cathedral. The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. All are welcome. Please email the parish office these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email).

Sponsoring the Choir

For those parishioners attending the 11am Mass, please consider sponsoring the choir by taking a Choir Sponsorship Form from the cloister table, fill in your details and drop it though the Presbytery letter-box. A monthly or annual standing order would be the optimal way of your contributing to this scheme.

Mass Intentions

Sun 27th April 2025
Second Sunday of Easter
9.00 am
Frederick Reutter & Family
11.00 am
For the people of the parish

Mon 28th April 2025
St George
10.00 am
Deceased Members of Fernandes Family

Tue 29th April 2025
St Catherine of Siena
1.00 pm
Annette Cremin RIP

Wed 30th April 2025
Easter Feria
1.00 pm
Pope Francis

Thu 1st May 2025
Easter Feria
1.00 pm
Elizabeth Hennessy & Family

Fri 2nd May 2025
St Athanasius
1.00 pm
May, Jock & David Bryan RIP

Confessions

Monday–Friday after
1pm Mass; and at call.

Contact

Rector: Fr Tom Thomas IC
Apostolic Administrator of the
Prefecture of the Falkland Islands
Tel. 020 7405 1061
email: elyplace@rcdow.org.uk
www.stetheldreda.com

Parish Office:
Mon–Fri (9.00am–5.00pm)
St Etheldreda's Church,
14 Ely Place,
London EC1N 6RY.

Institute of Charity ([Rosminians](#)).