



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15TH - 21ST APRIL 2018

EUCCHARISTIC COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
FRANCIS DE SALES AND MARY MAGDALENE
MASS AND CONFESSION TIMES



**CELEBRATING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF
ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH & YEAR OF PRAYER AND VOCATION**

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

	ST FRANCIS DE SALES Weekdays open 9am to 7pm	ST MARY MAGDALENE Weekdays open 9am to 7pm	MASS INTENTIONS
SATURDAY 14th April (White)	<i>6.00pm Rosary</i> 6.30pm Mass		PARISHIONERS
SUNDAY 15th April (White)	<i>08.00am Rosary</i> 08.30am Mass in Portuguese language	<i>08.45am Rosary</i> 09.15am Mass	THE KEARNS FAMILY
	<i>11.00am Rosary</i> 11.30am Mass <i>12.30pm Divine Mercy</i>		KATHLEEN SHEEHAN RIP
5.30-6.30pm Exposition & Benediction for Mission (FdS)			

EASTERTIDE WEEK 3

Psalter: Week 3

Monday 16th April (White)		<i>09.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass	GERVIS MAGORAN RIP
Tuesday 17th April (White)	<i>9.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass		WILLIAM FOOT RIP
Wednesday 18th April (White)	<i>9.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass	7am - 7pm Adoration	NELLIE WISE RIP
Thursday 19th April (White)	<i>09.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass		BRENNAN FAMILY DECEASED
Friday 20th April (White)		<i>09.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass <i>3.30pm: Divine Mercy</i>	1) DAWN CLARK 2) JOHN MAGORAN RIP
Saturday 21st April (White)		<i>09.30am Rosary</i> 10.00am Mass <i>Confessions 10.45-11.45am</i>	1) ANTHONY KELLY RIP 2) MARGARET WOODCOCK RIP 3) PATRICK MORAN RIP 4) NANCY & PA DRISCOLL 5) ROY STYLES RIP 6) ROSE SCOTT RIP

NEXT WEEKEND SECOND COLLECTION FOR PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND



Parish Website: www.saints-francis-and-mary.org.uk

Parish Intranet for Admin: www.dignet2.co.uk

Parish Priest email: bernard.barrett@dignet2.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: FR. BERNARD BARRETT



FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE FOR RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

We need to address the issue of historical evidence for both the *resurrection* and the *appearance* of the risen Jesus. There have been 4 theories that sought to explain away the appearance of the risen Jesus:

Ghost theory: is answered by the text of the Gospel accounts themselves where Jesus eats food and asks them to touch him and his wounds.

Hallucination theory: there are at least 14 arguments against this but the most obvious one is this. There were too many witnesses. Hallucinations are private, individual, subjective.

Swoon theory: there are 9 arguments against this but the most obvious one is this: Jesus could not have survived crucifixion. Roman procedures were very careful to eliminate that possibility. Roman law even laid the death penalty on any soldier who let a capital prisoner escape in any way, including bungling a crucifixion. It was never done.

Myth theory: The style of the Gospels is radically and clearly different from the style of all the myths. Any literary scholar who knows and appreciates myths can verify this. There are no overblown, spectacular, childish exaggerated events. Nothing is arbitrary. Everything fits in. Everything is meaningful. The hand of a master is at work here. *Psychological depth* is at a maximum in the Gospel accounts. In myth it is at a minimum. In myth, such spectacular external events happen that it would be distracting to add much internal depth of character. An incredible *economy of words* is evidenced in the Gospels but Myths are verbose whereas the Gospels are concise and to the point. There are also *tell-tale marks of eyewitness description*, like the little detail of Jesus writing in the sand when asked whether to stone the adulteress or not (Jn 8:6). No one knows why this is put in; nothing comes of it. The only explanation is that the writer saw it. If this detail and others like it throughout all four Gospels were invented, then a first-century tax collector (Matthew), a "young man" (Mark), a doctor (Luke), and a fisherman (John) all independently invented the new genre of realistic fantasy nineteen centuries before it was reinvented in the twentieth!

Historical evidence: many have tried to say that there is no historical evidence for saying the disciples experience of the appearance of Jesus was objective and physical. Historians speak of figures like Alexander the Great and Tiberius Caesar as historical because of historical evidence. Now the most certain and reliable historical evidence for Alexander the Great is 300 years after his death and for Tiberius it is 80 years after his death. We have, thus, no eye witness accounts!

With the Gospel accounts we do have *eye witness accounts*, plus very early creedal statements, plus the writings of Paul that are earlier than the Gospels accounts themselves (written at least 40 years after the risen Jesus). The Earliest form of an historical text is what is called a *creedal statement* because it is designed to have a rhythm to be remembered by people who did not read. Such is the creedal text of **1 Corinthians 15** where it states that: *Jesus appeared firstly to Peter and then to the Twelve, then to over 500 disciples, then he appeared to James and the other apostles and lastly to Paul*. Now this evidence starts with St Paul who wrote it in **51AD**. He is recognised by all as certainly the best historically attested figure of all the apostles and concerning texts he is certainly the writer of at least 7 of the 13 letters attributed to him. In Galatians 1:18 Paul speaks of his *interview* with Peter which was three years after his conversion, taking us back to 35 AD. Furthermore, he speaks of the fact in 1 Cor 15:3 that *he hands on what he has received* from not just Peter but James and John too, who were also eyewitnesses. Now with this testimony of three eye witnesses, it takes us back to 30AD. No other kind of ancient Greco-Roman historical account is as close in time, place and eye witnesses to events as do the Gospels.

The vast majority of scholars in this field, therefore, say that at a minimum the historical evidence tells us that: *Jesus existed, he died on the cross, the tomb was empty and that Jesus appeared to his disciples in an objective and physical body to eye witnesses who were known personally by a man who himself was a convert from being a persecutor of Christians, who was also a scholar and a historically reliable source; that man is St Paul*.

PARISH / EXTERNAL EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

MAINTENANCE CO-ORDINATOR	Alvah is the Parish Maintenance Co-Ordinator. Any maintenance issues, please email alvah.hottinger@dignet2.co.uk or tel. 07961 500350
SVP CONTACT	Tel: 07803 369371
GOING INTO MK HOSPITAL?	Chaplaincy: 01908 996061. The Catholic Chaplain visits during the week & a lay team brings Communion Sundays. Call the Chaplaincy for Holy Communion.
MASS INTENTIONS Mass cards cost 60p - please include money for a 2 nd class stamp (now 56p) if you need it posted to you	To have Mass offered, fill out a request form and hand it, with your money for the stipend, to the office at St Mary's, or put it in an envelope, clearly marked, in the collection basket & it will be taken to the office. Your Mass will be listed on page 1 of the newsletter on the week it will be said, showing which Church, it will be said at. PLEASE NOTE: Mass intention slots are full until June. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU NEED TO USE THE <u>NEW</u> MASS INTENTION FORMS which comply with the new GDPR Data Protection Act 2018.
SACRAMENT OF THE SICK	If you are going into hospital, please do think about receiving the Sacrament of the Sick. Contact the parish office to arrange this.
NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM	Sunday, 22nd April 2018, 10.30am-5.30pm at Walsingham. Meet, talk and share the faith with other men; listen to speakers, celebrate confession and Mass, pray for families and for the country; process to the old Abbey grounds for Benediction. All men welcome. " <i>When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England</i> " (Pope Leo XIII, 1887). More information at www.catholicman.co.uk
29TH APRIL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY- PARISH MASS & ROSARY AT THE COAST	As some of you will already be aware The 'Rosary on the Coast' events will mark 50 years since the Abortion Act came into effect. We are planning a trip to Wells-next-the-Sea, in Norfolk. After similar events in Poland and Ireland, Catholics plan to pray the rosary around the coast of Great Britain on 29 th April this year. The day will include Sunday Mass. We have booked a coach – it will cost £15 per seat (with a reduction if we get more than 36 people). Contact the office with your money to book a place.
QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE:	The shorter, 8 week course continues at St Francis de Sales presbytery on 18 th and 25 th April from 7.30-9pm.
FAITH & PIZZA SESSIONS	St Francis, 7.30pm - 9.00pm on 5 th May, 2 nd June & 7 th July for young people who have been confirmed including those who went through RCIA Youth.
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM	Saturday, 9 th June. We need a minimum of 30 people, to be able to book a coach and keep the cost to £20 per seat. Contact the parish office with a £10 deposit before 15th April when we will make a decision whether to go ahead. If we don't get sufficient numbers to book a coach, deposits will be returned.
FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY after 9.15am & 11.30am Masses	Tea and coffee after the 9.15am Mass in the parish hall. After 11.30am Mass join us in the Braai Shack, next door to the Old Queen Victoria Pub. Please do come and join us.
ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER	The copy deadline for the newsletter is 12 noon on Tuesday. To have entry put into the newsletter please e-mail: newsletter@dignet2.co.uk
SILENCE IN CHURCH	
To encourage silence and prayerful thanksgiving after Mass, Fr Bernard & Fr Richard invite you to pray St Thomas Aquinas's "Prayer of thanksgiving after Mass." Copies are available at the back of church.	
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: for those unable to receive Holy Communion at Mass.	
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things: I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least into my heart. I embrace You, and I unite myself entirely, to You as if You had already come. Do not permit me to be ever separated from you.	
PARISH DETAILS: WEBSITE & INTRANET PARISH PRIEST E-MAIL	Parish Website: www.saints-francis-and-mary.org.uk Parish Intranet for Admin: www.dignet2.co.uk Parish Priest email: bernard.barrett@dignet2.co.uk PARISH PRIEST: FR. BERNARD BARRETT

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FELLOWSHIP AND IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

HOLY MATRIMONY	'Thinking of marriage?' Do get in touch. Next course begins in September 2018. Email matrimony@dignet2.co.uk . One year's notice required.
BAPTISM COURSE	The next course runs on 12 th , 19 th , 26 th May, 2 nd & 9 th June. It is too late to register for this course now. Summer baptisms take place on 15 th July. You also need to do an Anchor Course. Email baptism@dignet2.co.uk to register for the autumn course.
RCIA ADULTS – APOLOGETICS	The RCIA runs on Mondays 7.00-8.30pm in the presbytery at Wolverton – next session 14th May. Contact Fr. Bernard or email rcia@dignet2.co.uk .
RCIA YOUTH COURSE	Spiritual Training, 21 st April, 3–5pm. Mystagogia dates to follows.
ANCHOR COURSE	Runs on 16 th , 23 rd and 30 th June, 7 th , 14 th & 21 st July, for all those with children for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Email anchor@dignet2.co.uk to register.
FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN: 2019	Induction: 21st April, 10am - 12.30pm at the parish hall in Stony, for those who have registered for the new course. It is too late to register now. There will be books for you to purchase at the Induction day, to help you with preparing your child for the Sacraments.
"9-12" CLUB EASTER SESSIONS	Sessions run on 20 th , 27 th April, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th May, at St Mary's, 7-8.30pm for youngsters who are between 1 st Communion & Confirmation
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Sunday, 22 nd April, from 3-4.30pm at St Francis de Sales.
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION	The course starts with an induction on Saturday, 28 th April from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Parish Hall at Stony Stratford, for those who have registered for the course.
MESSAGE FROM CAFOD:	Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it, hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to cafod.org.uk/lent or call 0303 303 303
CROWNING OUR LADY IN THE GROTTTO:	To mark Fr Bernard's 28 th Anniversary of Ordination on Saturday, 5 th May, there will be a special Mass for Our Lady at 12 noon at St Mary Magdalene Church, followed by the Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady in the Garden Grotto.
DIVINE MERCY FRIDAY DEVOTION:	Starts up again on 20th April, at 3.30pm at St Mary Magdalene Church.
ENROLMENTS: GUILDS OF ST STEPHEN & ST CATHERINE	New members of the Guilds of St Stephen and St Catherine will be enrolled at their usual Sunday Mass (including the Vigil Mass) on the weekend of 12 th /13 th May 2018.
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:	24th - 31st August 2018. For full details, see the posters/flyers. Booking forms are also in the porch, giving prices, hotel choices, insurance/travel options etc.
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	If anyone is still in need of a new box of offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office and either collect a box (Mon-Fri, 9am to 12 noon) or let us know which Sunday Mass you attend and we will arrange for a box of envelopes to be left at the Church for you on Sunday.
PARISH OFFICE CONTACT: office@dignet2.co.uk	To contact the office, ring 01908 564363 normally Monday – Friday, 0900 to 12 noon. Or email office@dignet2.co.uk at any time ... or text 07761 583307 PLEASE <u>ONLY</u> USE THE EMERGENCY CONTACTS BELOW TO CALL A PRIEST TO THE DYING. Do not <u>ring</u> the mobile for routine matters at weekends!

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**St Francis de Sales,
Radcliffe Street, Wolverton.
Tel: 01908 313162**

**St Mary Magdalene,
High Street, Stony Stratford.
Tel: 01908 564363**

**EMERGENCY
CONTACTS**

Need a priest urgently? Call: Dawn (07761 583307), Derick (07484 162623) or Janet (07821 698419). These numbers are for **emergency use only** if you need to call a priest to the dying. For other matters, please contact the parish office, weekday mornings between 9am and 12 noon (01908 564363).

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