



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED
ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY
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PENTECOST 19th – 25th May 2024

SUNDAY	PENTECOST		
19 th May	9.15am	Children's Liturgy	(Parish Rooms)
	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am	Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's) <i>Joyce Pereira, RIP</i>
	6pm	Holy Mass	
Monday	Mary, Mother of the Church		
20 th May		<i>No public Mass</i>	
Tuesday	Feria (Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit)		
21 st May	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Peter Pyplacz, RIP</i>
Wednesday	Feria (Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit)		
22 nd May	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Luca Chacín</i>
Thursday	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST		
23 rd May	9am	School Mass	<i>Margaret Evans, RIP</i>
Friday	Feria (Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit)		
24 th May	8.30am	Holy Mass	(Hendred House Chapel)
	3pm-4pm	Adoration	(Hendred House Chapel)
Saturday	S. Bede (Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit)		
25 th May	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>
	10-11am	Adoration & Confessions	
	5-6pm	Adoration & Confessions	

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Reflections on **The Litany of Loreto** continued.

Domus Aurea | House of Gold

One of the more obscure titles of the Litany. Gold is chosen because of its beauty, its rarity, and its quality of reflecting light, giving back glory, as Mary does indeed reflect the graces of God given her. In the Apocalypse S. John sees streets of the New Jerusalem as “pure gold, transparent as glass” (*Rev. 21:21*), which is to the point: Mary is like this glorified gold, transparent, both without spot (sinless), and leading the eye on beyond herself to Her Son, Jesus. And it is for Jesus’ sake that we hail her as *house*, for she was for a time the dwelling place of God-made-Flesh, and remained ever the dwelling place of His Spirit, the House of Gold, the House of God.

Foederis Arca | Ark of the Covenant

An Old Testament allusion, obviously, but one rich in theological content. The Ark of the Covenant contained, written by God on tablets of stone, the Law given to Moses on Sinai (*cf. Ex. 20*), and some of the Manna given in the desert (*Ex. 16*), and the Rod of Aaron, which blossomed (*Num. 17*). These are all ‘types’ of Christ, Who is the fulfilment of the Law (*Matt 5:17*), the Bread of Life (*John 6:48*), and Who fulfils the type of Aaron’s rod in two ways: first, by His more perfect priesthood, surpassing that of Aaron (*cf. Heb. 5:4-5*), and second, by fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” (*Is. 11:1*). Jesus is the bearer of a “better” covenant (*Heb. 8:6-7*), and Mary is the ‘Ark’ which bore Him. As the Ark was covered with gold (*Ex. 25:11*), so Mary is adorned with virtues, a ‘house of gold’ (*cf. supra*). As the Ark was enshrined in the Holy of Holies at the heart of the Temple in Jerusalem, so Mary is enshrined in heaven, in the bosom of the Father, having been taken up into heaven.

Janua Cæli | Gate of Heaven

The Roman ‘god’ Janus has two faces, looking in opposite directions, just as a gate, a *‘Janua’*, opens on two ways. This image works in two directions: Mary is the ‘Gate’ through which Jesus, our heaven, enters the world. She is also, by the salvation won for us by her Son, the ‘Gate’ whereby we enter into heaven. The phrase itself comes from *Gen. 29:17*, where Jacob dreams of the ladder to heaven, and exclaims “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

The idea of the ladder to heaven is involved in this title: through Mary we climb to her Son, Who is our heaven, and that in three ways: first, by her cooperation with God, which makes possible our salvation; second, by her example, which to follow is to abide in God; third, by her prayers, which obtain for us graces from God to ‘climb’ better. All these express Mary’s continuing role in salvation, which is sometimes expressed by the titles “Co-Redemptrix” and “Mediatrix of All Graces” – she is a gate whereby God’s favour has poured, and continues to pour, down upon us.

Stella Matutina | Star of the Morning

We are familiar with the idea of Mary as ‘Star’ from the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, which hails Mary as “*cæli porta [...], et stella maris*,” “gate of heaven and star of the *sea*.” Perhaps this explains the titles’ location next to each other in the Litany. But here we salute the Blessed Mother as “Star of the *Morning*,” a title which Jesus claims for Himself in Revelation: “I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star” (*Rev. 22:16*). It’s quite common to find attributes or titles properly predicated of Jesus to be used for His Mother, because of their unity in flesh and faith, and her complete identification with Him in her Will. The ‘Morning Star,’ in fact the planet Venus, is often thought of as the ‘herald’ of daybreak, because it often appears early in the morning, just before dawn: for this reason it is sometimes called the Daystar. Mary heralds the ‘dawning’ of the Sun of Justice (*Mal. 4:2*), and, like the lesser light of Venus (‘baptising,’ if you like, the pagan imagery) she goes before the greater light of the Sun, her Son.

Auxilium Christianorum | Help of Christians

Mary is the Help of Christians by her prayers. But this title has more specific historical connotations: it was inserted into the Litany by Pope S. Pius V in 1571, in thanksgiving for the victory of the Christian fleet over the Turk at Lepanto, which he attributed to the rosaries said in Rome and elsewhere begging the aid of Mary’s prayers for Christendom. There are traditionally five such ‘helps’ Mary has given to ‘Christians’ as a Body: The delivery of the rosary to S. Dominic, which helped to crush the Albigensian heresy; the victory at Lepanto; the defeat of the Turk at Vienna in 1683; the victory over the Turk in Hungary at Petrovaradin in 1715; and the restoration of the Pope’s temporal power in 1814, which he attributed to Our Lady’s intercession, after which the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians was added to the calendar on May 24th.

NOTICES

STANDING

- ✠ **WELCOME** to Mass, especially to those who are new or visiting.
- ✠ **CONFESSIONS** are heard in S. Mary's on Saturdays, 10-11am, 5-6pm. Confessions can be heard at S. Patrick's after the Sunday Mass.
- ✠ Spend some time with the Lord in **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**, in S. Mary's on Saturdays 10-11am, 5-6pm, concluding with **BENEDICTION**.
- ✠ **VOLUNTEERS** are also needed for the Flower Rota – no experience necessary – please speak to Jacqui if you can help.
- ✠ Diocesan **VACANCIES**:
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>
- ✠ **GIFT AID**: if you give online, by standing order, or via contactless, have you filled in a gift aid declaration? Please do: it's a significant part of our income.
- ✠ **GIVING TO THE PARISH** by standing order or online:
CDP East Hendred, St Mary
Acc. No. 00877183
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Or via the **DONA MACHINE** by the door.

NEWS

- ✠ **SAVE THE DATE! 23RD JUNE** will see the return of the popular **S. Patrick's Barbecue**, after 11:15 Mass at S. Patrick's, East Ilsley.
- ✠ **ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY** the second 'Parish Conversation' will take place in the Parish Rooms, starting at 7pm. The topic will be '**How can we better enter into the Liturgy?**' All welcome.
- ✠ **ST. AMAND'S SCHOOL** is looking for a part time teacher to take a mixed Yr. 3/4 class one day a week. For more information: st-amands.oxon.sch.uk/vacancies.
- ✠ **MAY IS MARY'S MONTH!** The Litany of Loreto is prayed after Mass during the week. Why not pray a daily rosary, or a decade of the rosary, in her honour?
- ✠ **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Annie Furlong, Gwenda, Martha, Helen Lewis, John Castle, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Mary McNichol, Des McNichol, Madeline Brand, Mary Dorothy Ruple, Graham Titchener, Roy Kemp, Agnes Hickey, Rose Millet.
- ✠ **YEAR'S MINDS:** John Joseph Wallington, Sybil Olive Foster, Nora McDonagh. **R·I·P·**