



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

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THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

28th April – 4th May 2024

SUNDAY	FIFTH OF EASTER		
28 th Apr.	9.15am	Children's Liturgy	(Parish Rooms)
	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am	Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's)
	6pm	Holy Mass	
Monday	S. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin & Doctor		
29 th Apr.	<i>No public Mass</i>		
Tuesday	S. Pius V, Pope & Confessor		
30 th Apr.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Pope Francis</i>
Wednesday	S. Joseph the Worker		
1 st May	<i>No public Mass</i>		
Thursday	S. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor		
2 nd May	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>
Friday	SS. PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles <i>Mary Jane Eyston, RIP</i>		
3 rd May	8.30am	Holy Mass	(Hendred House Chapel)
	3pm-4pm	Adoration	(Hendred House Chapel)
Saturday	SS. THE ENGLISH MARTYRS (1535-1680)		
4 th May	9am	Holy Mass	<i>The Conversion of England</i>
	10-11am	Adoration & Confessions	
	5-6pm	Adoration & Confessions	

Priest: Fr. Matthew Topham, 01235 835038 or 07901634731
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The Litany of Loreto

The Litany of Our Lady (known as the Litany ‘of Loreto’ after the shrine in Italy where it is first recorded in the 16th Century) is a catena, or chain, of beautiful titles for Mary, God’s Mother and ours. There are 53 titles under which she is petitioned in the Litany, so reflections are provided in the five weeks of May on only some of them.

Sancta Dei Genitrix | Holy Mother of God

This is the first of Mary’s titles in the Litany, and the most important: only if this is true are we really saved. But the phrase is shocking in its boldness – how can *anyone* be the Mother of God? In the early Church, heretics wished to say instead “Mother of Christ,” thus dividing Jesus the man from the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. To do this, however, is to deny the reality of the Incarnation, the completeness with which Jesus “emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (*Phil 2:7*). Of course, we do not believe Mary to be the Mother of Creator of Jesus’ divinity; that would be blasphemous. But to say only “Mother of Christ” is to imply that Christ’s humanity was something casually taken up, to be (perhaps) laid aside again later, and moreover, that the being Who suffered on the Cross was the *man* Jesus, rather than the God-man Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We should murmur this phrase with holy awe at the great paradox, that God has so completely and permanently entered into His own creation as to allow us to call Mary, in perfect truth, “Mother of God.”

Mater Christi | Mother of Christ

And yet it is perfectly true to say that Mary is the Mother of Christ, the “Anointed One,” for that is Who Jesus is: the Messiah, the anointed prophet, priest, and king of Israel. This title situates Mary as the great flower of Israel, the culmination of God’s loving shepherding of His chosen race, the Jews. As prophets (*cf. Ps. 105:15*), priests (*Ex. 40:15*), and kings (*1 Sam. 16:13*) were anointed with oil in the Old Testament, so Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit in His baptism, to be our prophet, our great High Priest, and our king.

Mater Divinæ Gratiae | Mother of Divine Grace

When the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will “conceive, and bear a son” (*Luke 1:31*) he hails her as “full of grace.” Grace, from the Latin *gratia*, translating the Greek *charis*, means, literally, ‘gift’, something freely given, unmerited, a favour. Mary was full of gifts from God in the sense of being preserved from original sin, from committing actual sins, and adorned with virtues to fit her for her God-bearing place in the economy of salvation. But she was about to become even more ‘full of grace’ in that she was to contain the Lord of the Universe, to hold the Son of God in her womb – “heaven and earth in a little space” as the famous mediæval lyric puts it. Jesus Christ in the Incarnation gives Mary – and all mankind – the greatest ‘gift’ of all: Himself. ‘Mother of the divine gift’ then, we hail her, and ask her for yet one more gift, her prayers, which will be heard on account of that great gift once given, her son Jesus Christ.

Mater Boni Consilii | Mother of Good Counsel

In the Augustinian church at Genazzano, near Rome, there is a small fresco of the Virgin and Child which is known as ‘Mother of Good Counsel’, devotion to which was widespread on account of its reportedly miraculous appearance. Even today, you will find reproductions or renderings of it in many places. The origins of the title are only slightly less obscure than the origins of the miraculous image, but we might find a clue in the Wedding at Cana, when Our Lady gives perhaps the best counsel ever given by one human to another: “do whatever He tells you” (*John 2:5*). Under this title invoke the Blessed Virgin’s prayers when making difficult decisions or discerning God’s call – *what it is* that God is telling you to do.

Mater Creatoris | Mother of the Creator

There is a wonderful paradox contained in these two words which contains the whole marvel of the Incarnation: Mother of the Maker, Maker of the Maker. Such is the humility of God, to allow His own Creation to be called His Mother, and that – as we have seen – truly. How blessed is human childbearing now that God Himself has deigned to be born of a woman. He Who fashions us in the womb (*139:13*), was Himself fashioned in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, and was made man.

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 needed for Children's Liturgy. Speak to Veronica or Libby if you can help.
- ✠ **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

- ✠ **PLEASE PRAY** for our candidates for Confirmation: **Beatrice, Eleanor, and Ethan**, due to receive the Holy Spirit this afternoon, at the hands of Bishop Philip in his cathedral church.
- ✠ **NEXT THURSDAY (9TH MAY)** is the **Feast of the Ascension**, which is a **Holy Day of Obligation:** Catholics must go to Mass. Masses at S. Mary's at 9am and 7.30pm. Mass at 12noon in the Eyston Chantry in St. Augustine's, East Hendred.
- ✠ **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:** Matthew Lineham, Pauline Ann O'Rourke, Phil Smith, Lilian Smith, Peter Frearson, James Caven, John Lineham, Kathleen Eunice Wells, Nicholas Hardisty. **R·I·P·**