

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Fourth Sunday of Lent 2021

Dear People of St Mary's

Rose Smiles will be 100 on Tuesday this week, 16<sup>th</sup> March. I've been in touch with her family from time to time since her famous road accident and was no longer able to come to church. I've got a card ready to send her tomorrow Monday to arrive first class. If anybody would like to send any short message to her in the card please email it to me before end of today Sunday and I'll try and get them included in the card before I send it off.

I keep changing the Mass time on Fridays don't I? Confirmation classes were Friday evenings until last month. However, Friday evening is also when I finalise the bulletin and this weekly message and publish them on the website along with any other website updates. So after a brief flirt with 7pm mass time (as it was before the pandemic) I'm reverting to 9am on Fridays for Mass for now. Friday this week happens to be the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. You may have noticed at the top of the weekly bulletin since January that Pope Francis has declared 2021 to be a year of St Joseph. Enid has sent in an act of consecration to St Joseph. I've put it on the website.

Our school returned to full reopening last Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March along with schools up and down the country. Pupils are in bubbles for classes and breaks and lunchtime and throughout the day. Classroom layout and corridors are adapted for covid security. Start and end to the day is staggered. A rigorous system of enhanced cleaning is in place before, during and after each day. Staff, pupils and visitors are exercising full hygiene measures. The full broad curriculum is being maintained. Online teaching is being fully utilised where appropriate across classrooms eg for full school assemblies. There is a high focus on mental health for all our pupils, as well as identifying any gaps in learning. Covid testing and quarantine measures will be followed to maximise the safety of all. All this is under the superb leadership of Helen Tomlinson as Head, and the professionalism of the entire staff. We continue to keep them in our prayers.

And as we did in the run up to September, let us do what we can to maximise the probability that this full reopening of our schools will be sustained, and to keep the national R value below 1. We can continue to do our bit to reduce viral transmission by our adherence to the current covid restrictions, and any additional and voluntary measures we might want to undertake as we continue to work together to control the spread of the virus.

Wishing you all a Happy Sunday and a holy Lent



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021