

WELCOME TO SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

The fourth Sunday in Lent is commonly known as **Laetare Sunday**. The word "*laetare*" means rejoice in Latin, and this is taken from the entrance-antiphon for the Mass, which starts "*Rejoice, O Jerusalem...*". Falling roughly at the half-way point in the Lenten season, this is a Sunday when traditional Lenten austerity is relaxed, and we have a reminder of the joyous resurrection to come. The day's liturgical colour is rose, instead of the usual solemn purple of the Lenten season.

"Your brother here was dead and has come to life."

As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "New Creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the Promised Land of Canaan. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we re-turn. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences but rather of the New Creation God offers us, if we would but turn back to him and embrace him as our loving Father.

Rose Rogers' body will be received into church on Wednesday, March 9th at 4pm. Her funeral mass will take place the following morning, Thursday, March 10th, at 11am followed by cremation at Sandwell Valley Crematorium AND A RECEPTION IN THE Parish Centre. Donations in lieu of flowers are invited for the **John Taylor Hospice** for the Care at Home team.

- **LENT 2016: Stations of the Cross** with Mass on Friday 11th March at 12 noon.

- **Lent group:** meet in church this coming Wednesday, March 9th at 7:30pm. Continuing our theme of '*Way's to Pray*' we will be saying the holy Rosary.

Electoral Roll: Please check your own details on the Roll in the Narthex, and amend any errors, particularly any change of address or telephone number. If you would like your name to be added to the Roll, please fill in an application form, and give it to Jenny Orgill, the Electoral Roll Officer. The Roll will close on Sunday 20 March.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 17th after mass. Reports due by March 20th at the latest please.

SAINT MARK'S CHURCH & PARISH CENTRE

Bandywood Crescent
Kingstanding
Birmingham B44 9JX
Registered Charity Number 1126875



Follow us on Facebook!

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St Mark's Day Centre for the Elderly

Telephone 0121 360 4298

Please support St Mark's Church by helping us to fund-raise!

Join the Parish Giving Scheme

OR

From your mobile phone— text **STMK71** & the amount you wish to donate in £s to **70070**.

OR

You can raise funds for us whilst shopping online (and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!!)
Go to easyfundraising.org and search for *St Mark's Church, Kingstanding*.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES:

Fourth Sunday of Lent; weekday Mass readings Yr 2;
Divine Office - Psalter Week 4.

Sun. 6th.	10am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C (<i>Laetare Sunday</i>)
Mon. 7th		NO MASS
Tue. 8th		NO MASS
Wed. 9th	12 noon	WED. OF 4th WEEK OF LENT
	4pm	RECEPTION OF BODY
Thurs. 10th	11noon	FUNERAL MASS
Fri. 11h	12 noon	STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS.
Sat. 12th	10am	SAT. OF 4TH WEEK OF LENT
Sun. 6th.	10am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Confessions by appointment with Fr Philip.

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Hymns Old & New

INTROIT:	463	Rejoice! The Lord is King!
GRADUAL:	456	Praise to the Lord
OFFERTORY:	455	Praise to the Holiest in the height
COMMUNION:	337	Love divine, all loves excelling
RECESSIONAL	218	Holy Virgin, by God's decree
MASS SETTING:		'A Parish Mass'—Peter Jones (<i>In Lent the Gloria is omitted</i>)