



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

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THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

12th – 18th May 2024

SUNDAY SEVENTH OF EASTER

12 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>Josie Lynch</i>
	6pm	Holy Mass	

Monday Our Lady of Fatima

13th May *No public Mass*

Tuesday S. MATTHIAS, Apostle

14th May 9am Holy Mass *S. V. Daughlish, RIP*

Wednesday *Easter Feria*

15th May 9am Holy Mass *William Weston, RIP*

Thursday *Easter Feria*

16th May 9am Holy Mass *Fanny Gorton, RIP*

Friday S. Dunstan, Bishop & Confessor

17th May 8.30am Holy Mass (Hendred House Chapel)

3pm-4pm Adoration (Hendred House Chapel)

Saturday *Easter Feria*

18th May 9am Holy Mass

10-11am Adoration & Confessions

5-6pm Adoration & Confessions

Priest: Fr. Matthew Topham, 01235 835038 or 07901634731
mtopham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Vas Spirituale/Honorabile | Spiritual Vessel/Vessel of Honour

A ‘vessel’ might not seem either terribly spiritual or honourable: a mere ‘container’, what’s so special about that? The imagery of vessels *is* used to remind us that Mary is only important because of Who she contains: Jesus Christ during His gestation, and the Holy Spirit throughout her life. Thus it is that we call her ‘*vas spirituale*’. She is ‘*vas honorabile*’ also, for we treat vessels differently depending on what they contain: we treat a coffin with more respect than a wooden box, because of the body it contains; we treat the human body with more respect than that of an animal, because of the *rational* soul with which it is united, and the body of an animal with more respect than that of a plant because of their *animal* souls, and so on. The *vessels* of the Temple were to be treated with great honour, and woe to him who dishonoured them (*cf. Dan. 5*). We treat a Mass-Chalice with infinitely more respect than a wine-glass, for it has contained, is set apart to contain, Jesus Christ, just as Mary was and is. “In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and earthenware, and some for noble use, some for ignoble.” (2 *Tim. 2:20*) Mary is the preeminent vessel of Honour, but we are called to be honourable like her, for we are Temples of the Holy Spirit (1 *Cor. 6:19*).

Vas Insigne Devotionis | Singular Vessel of Devotion

This is the title which always used to confuse me the most in the Litany of Loreto. ‘*Insigne*’ comes from *signum* (sign) and means literally ‘marked out’, ‘set apart’, which begins to unravel the mystery for us: Mary was set apart, specially marked by the fullness of grace in her to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word (*cf. Luke 1: 28*). Every chalice – if properly made – is marked out with a cross, part of whose job is to proclaim its sacred function, set apart for Christ. The same is true of the linens and other ‘*σκεῦη*’/‘*skeuei*’ (the Greek word translated as ‘vessels’, but also meaning ‘equipment’) of the altar. At our Baptisms, we were ‘marked out’ for Christ with the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, set apart for sacred purpose, becoming, all of us, vessels of honour, *devoted* to God. Amongst these *vasa devotionum*, Mary is pre-eminent because of her holiness, her sinlessness, and her unique role in salvation – ours and hers.

Rosa Mystica | Mystical Rose

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jhesu. Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space, Res
miranda.*

The familiar words of the C15th poem often sung at Christmas gives us an entry into this title: Mary is the rose of such *power*, as to bear the Word-made-Flesh, imagined here as heaven-and-earth packed into the tightly-furled bud of the rose. S. Bernard tells us that Mary is like a white rose for her purity, and a red rose for her suffering-with, her com-*passion* at the foot of the Cross. More-than-Martyr and Virgin Mother, ‘Mystic Rose’ is all about that paradox of God’s humility. Biblically, the rose recalls the *Song of Songs* 2:1-2, “I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the young women.” This rose bears no thorn, conceals no sin, and gives forth a sweet odour to God. ‘Mystic’ these days has very woolly connotations, but in Latin and Greek it means ‘secret’ or ‘hidden’. Mary is the rose blooming in the desert, hidden by her modesty from the eyes of men, hidden as the action of God in salvation is hidden: the “still, small voice” (*1 Kings 19:12*) which breathes forth the Word into the Virgin’s Womb, that God might take flesh in obscurity, to the humbling of the proud, and the fooling of the wise.

Turris Davidica/Eburnea | Tower of David/Ivory

From a nature-image to defensive building, the two ‘tower’-titles of Mary throw us again into the *Song of Songs*, which sings of the Beloved: “Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an arsenal, whereon hang a thousand bucklers.” (*4:4*) and “Your neck is like an ivory tower” (*7:4*). This juxtaposition of martial and romantic images captures something of the paradox of Mary: meek and mild, yet she crushes the serpent’s head (*cf. Gen. 3:15*), imagined as “fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army with banners” (*Song. 6:10*). Towers are strategically important, as Mary was in God’s plan; places of vantage, as Mary was from whom we look forward to the life to come; symbols of pride and dominion, as we take pride in her Queenship. The Tower of David was a real tower, the topmost-point of the citadel in Jerusalem, as Mary is the highest point of David’s line, and the whole Jewish race before Christ’s coming. Ivory in the *Song* is an image of beauty, of course, but it is also a metaphor for purity, the best ivory being flawless, spot-less, as Our Lady is: Immaculate.

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 the 11:15 Mass at S. Patrick's, East Ilsley.
- ✠ **ON FRIDAY** Bl. Hugh Faringdon's evening talks series continues with 'Mary in Islam' at 7:45pm. See posters in porch and noticeboard for more information.
- ✠ **ON SATURDAY** a 'Day with Mary' will; be held at the Bournemouth Oratory. See the poster in the porch for details.
- ✠ **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**: Alberta Dearlove, Angus McDonald Clark, Harold Davies, Frances Smith. **R·I·P·**