

## St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe, Feast day 29th April.

Catherine of Siena (25 March 1347 - 29 April 1380), a lay member of the Dominican Order, was a mystic, activist, and author who had a great influence on Italian literature and the Catholic Church. Canonized in 1461, she is also a Doctor of the Church.

She was born and raised in Siena, and at an early age wanted to devote herself to God, against the will of her parents. She joined the "mantellate," a group of pious women, primarily widows, informally devoted to Dominican spirituality. Her influence with Pope Gregory XI played a role in his decision to leave Avignon for Rome. She was then sent by him to negotiate peace with Florence. After Gregory XI's death and peace concluded, she returned to Siena. She dictated to secretaries her set of spiritual treatises *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*. The Great Schism of the West led Catherine of Siena to go to Rome with the pope. She sent numerous letters to princes and cardinals to promote obedience to Pope Urban VI and defend what she called the "vessel of the Church." She died on 29 April 1380, exhausted by her rigorous fasting. Urban VI celebrated her funeral and burial in the Basilica of Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome.

The devotion around Catherine of Siena developed rapidly after her death. She was canonized in 1461, declared patron saint of Rome in 1866, and of Italy (together with Francis of Assisi) in 1939. She was the first woman (along with Teresa of Avila) to be declared a "doctor of the Church," on 4 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI. She was also proclaimed patron saint of Europe in 1999 by Pope John Paul II. Catherine of Siena is one of the outstanding figures of medieval Catholicism, by the strong influence she has had in the history of the papacy and her extensive authorship. She was behind the return of the Pope from Avignon to Rome, and then carried out many missions entrusted by the pope, something quite rare for a woman in the Middle Ages. Her *Dialogue*, hundreds of letters, and dozens of prayers, also give her a prominent place in the history of Italian literature.

St Catherine of Siena, pray for us.



## Catholic Parishes of St Mary, Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**25TH APRIL 2021**

### **PSALM RESPONSE**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia, alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The good shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his sheep, alleluia.

**Today is world day of prayer for Vocations** "Lord Jesus, send labourers into Your harvest. Inspire in the hearts of your people, vocations to the Priesthood and consecrated life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity. May those whom You call to the Priesthood and consecrated life have the courage to give themselves to your church as co-operators of your work. St John Vianney, pray for us". (*Diocesan prayer for Vocations*)

Easter (B1)	Psalter week 4	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 24th /25th 4th Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH</b>	People of the Parish Sr Roberta FSM Tom Murphy
Monday 26th	<b>1.30pm Funeral OH</b>	Tom Murphy
Tuesday 27th	<b>10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH</b>	Tom Murphy Adoration
Wednesday 28th	<b>10am Mass BH 10.30am-12noon BH</b>	St Bonaventure FSM Adoration
Thursday 29th St Catherine of Siena		
Friday 30th	<b>10.30am-11am KF 11am Mass KF</b>	Adoration Joseph Phap
Saturday 1st		
<b>Sunday 1st /2nd 5th Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH</b>	Geoff Smart People of the Parish Theresa Nguyen Anh

Please pray for all those whose have died, especially Tom Murphy, those on our April deceased list and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Collections: BH GA £, Loose £, Hall hire £, KF GA £, Loose £,

Please pray for all those who are sick including Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Anne Peters, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

**FOODBANKS - both our foodbanks have now reopened to help those in need. If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations - the need is growing and donations are much needed at this difficult time for so many people**

## Prayer for Vocations

On Wednesday 28th April the Sisters are having their annual day of prayer for vocations. Adoration will take place from 10.30 to 12 noon you allow as many people as possible to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and religious life before the Blessed Sacrament. There is information at the back of Church about Vocations and especially the Clergy Training Fund. Please speak to your Parish representative if you want more information or contact the office.

**Walk for water - sponsorship** A huge thank you to all those who sponsored Lilli for her CAFOD walk for water challenge and to those who collected the money on her behalf. A total of £565.00 was raised which has been paid to CAFOD.

### Thank you from CAFOD

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

**Gift Aid Envelopes** - Envelopes for Kingswinford and Brierley Hill are now available at the back of Church. If you have any questions or want to Gift Aid at Brierley Hill please contact Sheila Jelf on 07753 106343. Thank you.

**APF boxes -OH** - These need emptying again. Please return your box to Fr Shanju at Church as soon as possible for counting. Any problems please contact Tabitha on 0345 0700 707. Thank you.

### Pope's prayer intention for May:

*Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers. Amen.*