



(Photograph taken by Kathy Thompson in April 2018 in Saint Patrick's Cathedral New York City)

## **Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

**Sunday 27 April 2025 –Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**Readings: Year C**

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### **Dear Parishioners**

The death of Pope Francis was not totally unexpected after his determined fight against serious illness, but it still came as a shock. One of the faithful told me at 9.05 am on Monday as I was preparing for Mass and we were able to change the Mass intention for the regular 9.15 am service and offer the Holy sacrifice for the repose of the Holy father's soul. So within two hours of death, our parishes had remembered this "Servant of the servants of God" at the altar. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in Peace.

There has been much written about Jorge Bergoglio, the first South American and first Jesuit successor to St Peter, and most has been overwhelmingly positive. What his long-term legacy will be, only time will tell. He will be remembered for perhaps three things:

- He travelled to the margins to encourage the Catholic people living in far-flung countries like Mongolia with small numbers of the faithful
- He instituted a world-wide and lengthy discussion of the Faith...the synodical pathway...to examine, challenge and re-evaluate the assumptions and mind-sets of contemporary believers
- Above all he stressed the Mercy of God our Father, perpetually forgiving and healing those who turn to him.

Some of his words and decisions were controversial, such as his writing on blessings for same-sex relationships, and he disappointed many on the "progressive" wing of the Church with his refusal to sanction the ordination of women to the diaconate or the priesthood. He was not a philosopher like St John Paul II or a theologian like Pope Benedict, but his gift was his preaching and his, often striking, turns of phrase. Perhaps the one that struck a deep chord was his insistence that in Confession we come to God like a child to its father not a criminal to the judge! As we wait, let us pray for the Conclave of Cardinals that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit in their deliberations on the next Supreme Pontiff.

I am very grateful for the generous Easter offering. Thank you to everyone. Holy Week was a wonderful time with full churches and packed Easter congregations. Again a big thank you for such support. Soon in May the pilgrimage to Fatima and in July our parishes' Mission, two ways to celebrate this Jubilee year. **God bless everyone Fr Clive**

## Parish Notices

### Masses this week:

**Holy Trinity** – 9:15am, Thursday. Holy Rosary for Peace 9:15am Friday. (Father Clive is enjoying an Easter break until Wednesday)

**St Teresa's** – 9:15am, Wednesday and Friday

**In April we remember Pope Francis' intention: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.**

**On Friday afternoon there will be First Confessions** for our St Teresa's group at Holy Trinity, usual class time.

**Next Sunday (4th May) will see First Communions at St Teresa's for our four catechumens** (Holy Trinity children following in June, with the primary school)

**Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.**

**In addition to your own daily prayers please remember:** All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

**The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Father Clive thought it would be appropriate to end with this delightful photograph of Claire and Declan when they were welcomed by the late Pope Francis in Rome, following their wedding last year.**



**The Papacy is currently sede vacante**