

Holy Family RC Church Coventry

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 Registered as a Charity. Birmingham RC Diocese No: 234216



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY	21ST MAR	6 00PM	VIGIL
SUNDAY	22ND MAR	10 00 AM	
MONDAY	23RD MAR	9 00 AM	
TUESDAY	24TH MAR	9 00 AM	
WEDNESDAY	25TH MAR	9 00 AM	
THURSDAY	26TH MAR	9 00 AM	
FRIDAY	27TH MAR	9 00 AM	
SATURDAY	28TH MAR	6 00PM	VIGIL
SUNDAY	29TH MAR	10 00 AM	

MOTHERING SUNDAY

FR JEREMIAH SHEEHY RIP
MARY & HUGHIE O'HARA RIP A

KIM SIMMONS RIP A
JOSEPH McDERMOTT RIP A
PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MICHAEL McMAHON RIP
PETER EGAN RIP

PATRICK PHILIP O'DONNELL RIP A
PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Scripture

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a

Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is our shepherd.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

This is our new look newsletter which will be posted each week on the parish website and deanery website too.

<https://coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk/new/>

If you have no access to the internet copies will be left in church each week too. During the times when the church is open you may pop in and collect one. The church will have one Mass celebrated privately in the church each morning at 9.00 am and the church will then open from 9 30 am until 11 00 am each morning Monday-Friday **There can only be a limited number admitted to church at any one time.** At the weekends there will be Mass celebrated again privately at 6 00pm on Saturday and 10.00 am on Sunday's. There will be no access to the church at the weekends, please stay at home and if you are able watch the Mass or make a Spiritual Communion. The bishops have dispensed us from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the time being. (It is not a sin to miss Mass at this time)

This is a difficult time for all of us and the measures are to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

Over the weeks if there are those who need help or support please let me know at the presbytery.

We are a praying community and this time calls us to a deeper prayer and a trusting in God's goodness. Though not physically present to each other at Mass we are united in prayer. This will not last forever we will be back together celebrating Mass in the not too distant future. Please check the websites as news of when things return to normal will be posted there. ***Please read the Archbishops letter carefully overleaf***

Collections: Please continue to support the parish with your weekly offerings this is a vital aspect of parish life. Please put offering envelopes through the door of the presbytery or when you pop into church to pray, during the opening times, there will be a box provided for donations and offertory envelopes

Dear Fathers and Deacons Dear Parishioners

Each bishop has been asked to write to his own diocese and so I offer the following guidelines as a clarification of the national guidelines for the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The measures outlined may seem very drastic but they are a necessary and proportional temporary response to protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

O God, come to our aid; O Lord, make haste to help us!

Care for Priests and Deacons Those who are over 70, and those with significant underlying health issues, should take particular care at this time not to make themselves vulnerable to any risk.

Celebrations of Holy Mass

As of Friday 20th March, a major change is that **the celebration of Mass will not be public in any setting.**

Priests will celebrate Mass privately each day. As they do so, the church will remain closed to the public – which includes all parishioners. Mass intentions attached to these Masses will be honoured. As priests will only be required to celebrate one Mass each day, some Mass intentions will need to be postponed to a later date.

In line with the Bishops' Conference guidance, **only priests may be present for the celebration of Mass.** As even Deacons are not permitted to be present, I need to emphasise that nobody else may be present for the celebration of Mass. The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation is removed until further notice.

Since all of the faithful will be asked to make a **Spiritual Communion** (rather than receiving Holy Communion) during this time, those confined to home who normally receive Holy Communion from Sunday Mass will also be asked to make a Spiritual Communion. This will mean they will not receive Holy Communion regularly as at present. Clergy may make visits to sick parishioners in accordance with the guidelines already given. Care should be taken to ensure social distancing of the most vulnerable is maintained, including the welfare of those who visit. I draw priests' attention to specific guidance already given on the anointing of the sick.

Live-streaming of Masses is advertised on the Diocesan website (www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) and we expect the number of these live-streams to grow, including at St Chad's Cathedral in the near future. If clergy could inform the Communications team at Cathedral House if they can add to the facilities already listed, that would be appreciated.

At other times and wherever this is possible, **churches should remain open for private prayer.** This may include periods of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament but the emphasis must be on private prayer and not gathering the people. I ask that there is no Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament since this constitutes a public service.

Funerals

Regrettably, while public Funeral Masses must also cease, it is recommended that on the day of a Funeral, a Mass without the faithful may be offered by the priest for the intentions of the deceased and the family. This will be of some consolation to the family in the absence of a public Funeral Mass. I recommend that a later Mass with the faithful be celebrated when restrictions are lifted.

We live in difficult and unprecedented times. I, together with my brother Archbishops of England and Wales, will be reviewing these guidelines regularly and taking into account best advice. I shall update you on any changes that are necessary. In all we face, we know that the Lord never abandons his people.

In conclusion, as a Catholic community, we must treasure the power of prayer during these days: prayer for the world and its needs; prayer for our country at this time of uncertainty and sickness; prayer for the families and communities to which we belong, not only in terms of health but also for the many concerns of livelihoods affected; prayer for ourselves.

Merciful God,

come to the help of your people.

Be our shelter in this time of peril

and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease

and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assuring you all of my prayers for you at this time and asking for your prayers for me and those who work with me for the good of the Archdiocese.

Yours devotedly in Christ



✠Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

Please pray for the elderly, the housebound & sick especially; **Fr Savres, Julia Hughes, Mary Shirly, Jessica Graham, Gerry Burke, Louise Turley, Teresa Olivero, John Bratt, Imelda Cunningham, Peter Gordon, Bridie Cave, Theresa, Joanne Gilsean, Peggy Crean, Michael Moten, Lelia Kieran, Brian Burke, Cheryl Kenny, Sarah Higgins, and Julia O'Keefe** all in care homes, or hospital. May they know Jesus' healing touch. Recently deceased: **John Bratt, Annie Tunney, Annie McCarthy**