



Parish of St John Vianney

FOURTH SUNDAY

OF LENT Yr A

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SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2020

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses, has agreed that the cessation of public liturgies should begin from Friday evening 20th March 2020. Because of the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.

This advice will be reviewed and developed as necessary weekly.

We are certainly living in unprecedented and extraordinary times resulting in much change, fear and anxiety. Let us remember the words of St Paul: *'With God on our side, who can be against us? For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

(Roman 8: 31, 38-39)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION ~ It is with great reluctance that our Bishops have made the decision to stop public Masses, however, even though you cannot receive 'sacramental' Communion, you are united in a special way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional idea of 'spiritual Communion' is an important one to remember. A deep spiritual Communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. Let us pray often:

'My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that

I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.' Amen

(based on prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori)

ALTHOUGH ~ There will be no public services in church, Fr Jim, Fr Ambrose & Fr Paul will continue to celebrate daily Mass. These will be offered for your intentions and also for the intentions listed below. Can I also remind you that **St Bede's & St Wilfrid's will remain open each day for personal prayer**, but please follow, with great care, public health guidelines to maintain hygiene and social distancing.

Mass Intentions For This Coming Week: Parishioners, Sheila Ridd, Eileen Bryawton, Ratumau, Richard Preece, Sr Pauline, Doreen Myerscough Int., Chris & Harold Brierley & Family, Joseph Brzezicki, Claire Walker, Cath & Paul Harris Int., Albert Williamson, Alex, Margaret & Patricia Morris, Ashley Benny Int., Cosgrove Family Int., Eileen Carroll

PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK, REMEMBERING ESPECIALLY ~ Baby Charlotte, Fr Jim McGrath, Rodney Brown, Angela Randall, Justine Walker, Maria Helena, Peter Roberts, Eamonn, Gabriel, Halina Jaworowski, Barbara Roberts, Jack, Carmel Barnes, Margaret Howman.

RECENTLY DECEASED ~ Brian O'Brien,

THANKS ~To the many parishioners who have offered their help to those who are in need at this time. This is certainly the time to be thinking of our neighbour. If you are confined to your home and have any needs, or just want to simply chat, then please ring the parish 42440, Sister Phyllis 270209, or the SVP 854182 / 871605. Please don't suffer alone or in silence.

ALSO, if you would like a weekly Newsletter & Prayer Sheet either emailed to you, or delivered to your door, then again, just let us know.

VIRTUAL CHURCH ~ Even though you are physically unable to attend Public Services at the moment, I invite you to be Church, to form the Body of Christ, by joining with other parishioners and the clergy, praying in your own homes each day. Below is a 'prayer timetable'; Try and join us - Morning Prayer (8.00am); Angelus (12.00pm), Evening Prayer (6.00pm) Rosary (8.00pm) Night Prayer (9.30pm). Let us spiritually come together to be nourished and strengthened by the Lord, especially in this time of Lent.

WEB SITES ~ If you have access to a computer there are many Prayer Sites enabling you to pray the Mass, the Prayer of the Church, the Rosary etc. Here are a few:

www.shrewsburycathedral.org / www.vaticannews.va / www.walsingham.org.uk / www.wednesdayword.org / Lourdes-France.org / knockshrine.ie / pray-as-go.org / www.universalis.com Can you recommend a good prayer Site?

OUR PARISH HALLS ~ Are now closed to all, and all regular social activities will be canceled until further notice.

OTHER PARISH NEWS ~

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ~ Will be celebrated on Friday 2nd October. Preparation will begin after Easter, God willing. All Young People in Year 8 or above, are invited to contact the Parish Office (42440) or info@stjohnvianney.co.uk

200 CLUB ~The forms for the new financial year 2020/21 are now available in each church. Please will you renew before the last week in March. The first draw is Sunday 5th April. Just £12 per year for 12 monthly draws.

CHRISTIAN EASTER CARDS ~ On sale at St Bede's – All proceeds to Aid to the Church in Need.

O God, our refuge and our shield, even when we walk in the shadow of death you are there at our side. Be with your people in this time of sickness: bring strength to the afflicted and protection to those untouched by disease. Give us love and courage, that we may trust in your power to save and reach out to all who are in need. Through Christ our Lord.

