



Parish of St John Vianney

FIFTH SUNDAY

OF LENT Yr A

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SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2020

Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent and we are still very much in a lock down situation with no public liturgies and churches locked! Pope Francis is right when he says that everything we hold dear 'seems to be crumbling'. And yet, in the Gospel today, we hear the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus. Jesus proclaims 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

ALTHOUGH ~ There are currently no public services in church, Fr Jim, Fr Ambrose & Fr Paul continue to celebrate daily Mass. These are offered for your intentions and also for the intentions listed here: Parishioners, Cosgrove Int., Eileen Carroll, Walter Benyon, Joe Rigby, John Reid, Michael O'Sullivan, Lorenzo, Maria & Rita Falzon, Larsowshi Int.,

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 ~ Ken Dewsbury, Sylvia Hughes, James Doherty

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION ~ In the absence of sacramental Communion, 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)

CAFOD ~ In our present situation, it is so easy to forget about our global brothers and sisters who are living in extreme poverty and are now facing the threat of coronavirus. How can we help? Take a look at: www.cafod.org.uk Cafod have also some excellent material to fill our present enforced 'free time'.

If you have any needs, especially if you are confined to your home, or would just like a little chat, then please ring one of the following numbers: parish 42440, Sister Phyllis 270209, or the SVP 854182 / 871605 / 75511. Please don't suffer alone or in silence. **THE HUT GROUP** ~ Have also very kindly offered food packages to those in need. For further details ring Grace on 07896 722620

“IN THIS UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION, in which everything seems to be crumbling, let us help each other hold fast to what really matters... The Rosary is the prayer of the humble and of the saints. In its mysteries, they contemplate, along with Mary, the life of Jesus, the merciful face of the Father. O, how much we all need to be truly comforted, to be wrapped in loving presence! We measure the truth of this experience through our relationship with others... Let us be close to one another, being the first to be charitable, understanding, patient and forgiving... Allow your hearts to expand so they may be available and welcoming to all.” Pope Francis (given on Feast of St Joseph)

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH ~ Protect, O Holy Guardian, our nation. Enlighten those responsible for the common good, so that they might know how to care for those entrusted to their responsibility. Sustain those who are spending themselves for those in need, even at the cost of their own safety: volunteers, nurses, doctors who are on the front lines in curing the sick. Bless, O St Joseph, the Church, make her the sign and instrument of your light and goodness. Accompany, O St Joseph, our families... Preserve the elderly from loneliness: grant that no one might be left in desperation from abandonment and discouragement. Comfort those who are most frail, encourage those who falter, intercede for the poor. With the Virgin Mother, beg the Lord to liberate the world from every form of pandemic.

VIRTUAL CHURCH ~ Don't forget, that even though we are unable to gather at the moment, we can, and should, come together in prayer. Try and prioritize the following times: Morning Prayer (8.00am); Angelus (12.00pm), Evening Prayer (6.00pm) Rosary (8.00pm) Night Prayer (9.30pm). *“For where two or three gather together in My name, there I am with them”* Matthew 18:20

SUNDAY MASS ~ When he recently announced that public Masses will not be held until further notice, Cardinal Nichols made the point that being deprived of the Mass is something with which too many Catholics are familiar throughout the world, not because of pandemics, but because of persecution or of distance. In this time of difficulty here, let us pray for those who cannot attend Mass at the best of times.

WEB SITES ~ www.shrewsburycathedral.org / www.universalis.com / www.magnificat.com/free / www.acnuk.org (resource - online-masses)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

“Communion of only one kind, no sign of peace, and, in the parish where I go, no hymn books - many Catholics will be familiar with these measures already - and now there is to be no public worship at all. This is the experience of worship in times of isolation, in the wilderness, perhaps. Through the absence of the sensory features we are so used to and perhaps have even taken for granted, I'm learning again what ordinarily makes Mass a celebration of communion.” Francis Stewart (Cafod)

“This week was supposed to have been our Lent Mission in the parish but we had to cancel it. The present circumstances mean that effectively as a parish we are all entering a Lenten Retreat together. I want us to come out of it spiritually renewed. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to lay a foundation of prayer for whatever we do once the crisis is over.”

Fr Stephen Langride (Divine Renovation)

THE RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY ~ Takes place today.
Our Lady of Walsingham ~ Pray For Us

A Saint for Today

Father Giuseppe Berardelli who was 72 years old, from Bergamo was suffering from coronavirus. Seeing a young man suffering from the same virus he asked that his ventilator to be given to a younger patient and has since died.