

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE DOORS OF ALL CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FROM 24 /3 / 2020

THIS SUNDAY

We rejoice in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After our disciplines of Lent and the solemnity of the Passion, we now celebrate the victory of our blessed Lord over sin and death. We witness the empty tomb and we give thanks that life is stronger than death, that love is stronger than hatred and that Jesus Christ is alive and with us for evermore!

HAVE A HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER, EVERYONE.

As usual, there are small Easter eggs for all of our parish children. These will be safely stored, until we are all able to meet again for our Masses in happier times.

Cardinal Nichols will be **on BBC local radio** on Easter Sunday at 8 am **not** on Radio 4 **EASTER AND THE OCTAVE**

The words I have written above, about our celebration of Easter in 2020 are as true as they have ever been, but for us all this year in the strangest of contexts.

The Jewish Passover, so closely linked to our own Easter celebration, marks the last of that series of plagues visited upon the Egyptian people, when their Pharaoh was unwilling to release the children of Israel from slavery.

The rising of Jesus from the tomb is linked to that pivotal moment in the exodus story when the children of Egypt pass through the Red Sea and their persecutors are drowned. Similarly, we through the waters of Baptism are released from slavery to sin so that we may live the new life of God's grace.

That sense of our new life in Christ which is at the heart of the Easter message is tempered at present, by the fact that we feel surrounded by an unseen pestilence, spreading throughout the world. The closeness of death, and the seemingly relentless news about the number who die may cause us anxiety, even fear, and none of us is protected from these feelings.

In the midst of all this we perceive the image of the light of Christ's rising; seen as the Paschal Candle is lit and the words are spoken, '**May the light of Christ, rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds**'.

During the Octave and the Easter season, light a candle in your home and allow that light, spiritually to inspire, gladden and warm you, and all those who share your life.

I hope that you and your family will have some blessed times together in spite of all the present difficulties.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: Dispensation from Easter Duties

Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the **Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.**

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions, in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He always shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

An Act of Contrition – there are others that you may know.

O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do what is good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ZENA GRINDLAY RIP

We offer our love and sympathy to Lynne Long, and all her family after the death on Thursday of Lynne's Mother, Zena Grindlay. Zena had been part of our parish, together with her late husband William, for many years. May she rest in peace.

Oaks Road Graveside Service 17 April 10.30am – Please pray for her

MARY BOWIE RIP

We offer our love and sympathy to Mary's nine children and to all her family members, after her death on Thursday 2 April in Stratford- Upon- Avon Hospital. Mary has been part of our parish, together with her late husband Peter for many years. More recently she was assisted to Mass by her children. May she rest in peace.

Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium 22 April 11.00am – Please pray for her

GIFT AID SCHEME AND ENVELOPES

The new tax year began on Monday 6 April, so please use your new envelopes.

It is always good to welcome new contributors. If you would like to sign up for the Gift Aid Scheme by envelope or Standing Order, please contact Mr Tony Stokes (857866). Thanks go to Tony for all his hard work.

Sincere gratitude is offered to all supporters for your kind generosity over last year.

Over the period during which there are no public masses, please post your collection envelopes, Easter Offering, or any other donations, through the inside letter box at the Priest's House, thank you. God bless you for this generosity.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS YOU ALL DURING THESE DIFFICLT AND CHALLENGING DAYS, FATHER KEVIN