

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

For this year, the gospel for this Sunday tells the story of the walk with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. In these days of only essential journeys, self-isolation and social distancing, the imagery of today's gospel speaks of tantalising normality!

Cleopas and his friend are preoccupied on their journey home with the events around the Passover in Jerusalem. They, like Thomas in last week's gospel, had hoped for a situation other than now there seemed to be. These two still have in their minds the death of Jesus as one of a failed political leader.

So intent are they on life in their own cocoon of sadness that they fail to perceive who their fellow-traveller really is. He invites them to speak and we can hear the irony in the words 'you must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know the events that have been happening'. As they tell their story, Jesus moves the conversation on, to help them understand the scriptures relating to his life and ministry.

It is, however, only with their invitation for him to come into their own domestic situation, that they truly realise the reality that has been eluding him. 'They recognise him in the breaking of the bread', and then he is with them in his physical form no longer.

Our Road to Emmaus is along Warwick Road, or Leys Lane, or Priors field Road, or Beehive Hill, or the road to work or to school; wherever life takes us with our preoccupations of anxiety or grief or family or failure. On that journey, Christ yearns to communicate with us, to reveal himself to us, and above all, when we see him live-streamed or in our acts of spiritual communion at Mass, to share himself totally with us.

May we not be so blinkered or short sighted as to miss him drawing near to our own lives.

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Next Sunday, 3 May will be Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday, when we pray for a deeper sense of our personal vocation and for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life in Religious Community.

We pray for Seminaries at Oscott, Rome, Valladolid and elsewhere.

Normally there would be a Second Collection for the training and welfare of priests and deacons. If you wish to, you could send your donation to:

The Clergy Training Fund, Oscott College, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5AA. Thank you for your concern and kindness in this matter.

GIFT AID SCHEME AND ENVELOPES

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

MASSES FOR ALL INVOLVED IN HEALTH CARE

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will take place every Thursday at 7.00pm.

30th April Bishop Richard Moth, [Arundel Cathedral](#)

7th May Bishop Marcus Stock, [Leeds Cathedral](#)

14th May Bishop Robert Byrne CO, [Newcastle Cathedral](#)

21st May Bishop Mark Davies, [Shrewsbury Cathedral](#)

28th May Bishop Terence Drainey, [Middlesbrough Cathedral](#)

THANK YOU ALL

I wish to send a personal indication of thanks for your generosity to Fr David and to me, in these most challenging of times, personally and financially, through the Easter offering received, and through your personal gifts and Easter cards.

May God bless you all for your great kindness, **Father Kevin.**

PARISH A.G.M. 2020

Robert Hodges, Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, has written to me, confirming the postponement of the AGM from Sun 3 May until further notice.

MISSIO APPEAL

Thank you to all who support the Red Box Missio Appeal. In 2019 our parish raised £1872.04 which was 19% up on the amount we raised in 2018. Our parish contributed to the £2,868,404 that was raised in 2019 to support missionary work across the world. Please continue to support the work of the Red Box. Should anyone wish to join the appeal and would like a Red Box please contact J. Shipton on 07476 405 215.

HAROLD ROGERS RIP

Harold and his wife moved back into the parish a few years ago, living at Tannery Court, after some years living in Spain. He had been a Catenian and came with a friend to the 11.15 am Mass at St Francis' Church. May he rest in peace.

Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium 30 April at 2.00pm – Please pray for him

KEN WALCH RIP – more next week, may he rest in peace.

Ken died recently at Castle Brook Nursing Home. Funeral Service-Oaks Road **11 May**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IS FROM MAY 10

This year there will be a virtual Christian Aid Week from 10 May. A 'Love Kenilworth' Just Giving page has been set up for Christian Aid Week – putting an initial target of £5000. Please direct people to:

<http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/Love-Kenilworth>

Or the shorter version www.tiny.cc/ctkdcaid

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