

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, 3 May is 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 Seminarians 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.

At various times during the year we are encouraged to think about and pray for Vocations. Earlier in the year we had our time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for that intention and received Benediction. Last year Father Michael Dolman, the Vocations' Director, spent a Sunday with us preaching about the need for vocations in the Archdiocese, and he told us about those in formation.

On this Sunday of Eastertide we keep Vocations Sunday and think of our Lord, the Good Shepherd. The second reading at Mass reminds us that Christ is the 'shepherd and guardian' of our souls.

Pastoral Care, the expression is derived from the imagery of the shepherd, is seen in a whole variety of ways in the life of the church; in our homes and our schools, at work and in hospital, in prisons and on the streets. We are **all called** in our various ways, to share in the work of Christ the Good Shepherd.

This Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, however, reminds us of the distinctive apostolic ministry of St Peter, calling to repentance and commitment and seeing the infant church grow. That apostolic ministry is shared particularly by bishops, priests and deacons in the Catholic Church.

It is that particular vocation we focus on today.

The Gospel for today uses one of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. This way of presenting Jesus' identity in St John's gospel is linked to the name of God, 'I am who am', in the Old Testament. If you have been following the mass last week, for instance, you will have heard the 'I am' sayings about Jesus, the living bread, the bread of life.

'I am the gate of the sheepfold' Jesus says, and he invites us to find safety and fullness of life through him. We can respond to that invitation by faithfully fulfilling our own vocation, and by praying for an increase in vocations throughout the whole Church. I hope that you and your family will have some blessed times together in spite of all the present difficulties.

FRIDAY 8 MAY IS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY

The 10.00am Mass on that day will be offered for peace for the continent of Europe.

It is also a Bank Holiday.

PARISH A.G.M. 2020

Robert Hodges, Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, has written to me, confirming the **postponement of the AGM from this Sunday until further notice.**

MASSES FOR ALL INVOLVED IN HEALTH CARE

A Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in his Cathedral **every Thursday at 7.00pm.**

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 Draine, [Middlesbrough Cathedral](#)

KEN WALCH RIP

Ken died recently at Castle Brook Nursing Home. He, and his late wife Rita, have been with their children, part of the life of the parish for many years. Ken was involved in the newspaper industry in Lancashire and then in Coventry. Rita supported him and was known to many of you through her love of bridge. Ken was regular at Mass until the deterioration of his health. It was good to be able to visit him, and I am grateful to Sheila MacMahon and others in the parish visited him as well.

We offer our sympathy to his children and all the family. May he rest in peace.

Service at Oaks Road Cemetery 11 May at 10.00 am – please pray for him.

BOB HENRY RIP

I was able to visit Bob at home before he died last Sunday. He worked in management at Courtaulds for many years. Often seen out walking his collie dog, and both showing and judging collies at the highest of canine events, Bob has been part of our parish for many years. Reading the scriptures to us at the Saturday Vigil Mass, Bob was well-known to many. He had been unwell last year, but his deterioration this year was very sudden. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Barbara, their children and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium 18 May at 10.30am – please pray for him
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10 – 17 MAY 2020

We are unable to undertake a house-to-house collection for Christian Aid Week this year. However, around the world the need for food, fresh water, medicines and shelter is becoming more urgent than ever. We are, therefore, asking for donations online. Churches Together (Kenilworth) and Christian Aid (Kenilworth) have set up a secure, Love Kenilworth, Just Giving website to raise money for Christian Aid Week. The site address is <http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/Love-Kenilworth> Please consider supporting this appeal – your donation will help those who are in a desperate situation.

If you require more information, phone S. MacMahon on 858 436.

A LAUNCH SERVICE, accessible on the internet, will be held at **6.30pm on Sunday 10 May**. Local church members and Christian Aid supporters will lead and participate. Please join Zoom Meeting – www.tiny.cc/ctkdservice or via ZOOM CLOUD MEETING – please contact the Parish for Meeting ID and Password:

communication@catholic-kenilworth.org

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.

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