

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Sunday's Gospel passage is very familiar. It comes from that collection of Jesus' teaching, following the supper he shared with his disciples before his passion. The form the Farewell Discourses – discourses because Jesus' teaching ranges over a whole variety of matters relating to our life in him and the expectation of life beyond this life. They are sometimes, as elsewhere in that gospel, punctuated by comments or questions from others.

To some extent we are being moved along in our Easter reflection as our Lord speaks of life in the presence of his heavenly Father. The familiarity we have with this passage is that it is so often the choice at Funeral Masses.

We are invited to trust in God and in the one, Jesus, he has sent. Christ, who came to share in life where we are, promises us that through him, there will be a place for us in the Father's house. The Easter message is for us all; he will return, either in glory, or to each of us at the conclusion of our lives to take us with him.

Again we have one of those 'I am' sayings in response to Thomas's question about the way to journey – '**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**' says our Blessed Lord. God is here and it is he who calls us to walk in his way, rejoice in his truth and to share in his risen life!

At this time of difficulty, distress and uncertainty for each one of us, these words have the potential to be both strengthening and reassuring.

In answer, next, to Philip's desire to see the Father, we have another 'I am' saying spoken twice: '**I am in the Father and the Father is in me**'. Our Lord who suffered and died, and rose to new life, **is** the human face of God. It is through our relationship with him that, in the Father's name we, like Jesus, will carry out the Father's will. May we, each of us be given the grace and determination to respond to our Lord's call. I hope that you and your family will have some blessed times together in spite of all the present difficulties.

ASCENSION DAY

On Thursday, 21 May we shall celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Traditionally observed forty days after Easter, in our country this Solemnity of Our Lord has recently been **restored to its proper date.**

Our celebration reminds us of the conclusion of our Lord's earthly ministry and the hope of heaven which is given to us all.

Mass will be at **St Francis' Church at 10.00 am on that day and will be celebrated for the People of our Parish.**

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

At the time of the Ascension, our Lord sent his disciples out to communicate the gospel to the nations As a result of that commission, **Sunday 24 May** will be kept as **World Communications Day.** We reflect on the many means through which Catholic Faith and life are transmitted throughout the world.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES and other donations may be posted through the Presbytery inside letter-box. Thank you for this sign of kindness and generosity.

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

RONALD (RON) WILLIAMS RIP

I was able to be with Ron, Chris and the family before and after Ron's death on Friday, 1 May. He had been ill for a little while and was being cared for at home. Originally from Cardiff, Ron, Chris and the family have been living here in Kenilworth for nearly fifty years. Ron was a past President of our parish Catenian Circle, and he and Chris shared fully in the spiritual and social life of the Catenians. Ron was recently a faithful and regular member of our 11.15 am Mass congregation. In management at Coventry City Council during his working life, Ron has enjoyed with his family, a full and active retirement.

We extend our love and sympathy to Chris, Pauline, Simon and Sophia and to all his family. May he rest in peace. Funeral details will be available later.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10TH – 17TH MAY, 2020

To support the Christian Aid Week collection this year, please donate online to the secure site, set up by Christian Aid (Kenilworth) and Churches Together (Kenilworth). For many people, in the present situation, the need for food, fresh water, medicines and shelter is more urgent than ever.

The site is <http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/Love-Kenilworth>
For more information, please see the Christian Aid press release on our parish website. (S. MacMahon Tel. 858 436).

A LAUNCH SERVICE, accessible on the internet, will be held at **6.30pm this Sunday.** 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

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