



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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10th May 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" Luke 14: 1-12

Lectionary Year A. Psalter week I Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Pope's Prayer intention for May: For Deacons. We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire the Church.

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| Sun 10 th May | Fifth Sunday of Easter Our Lady and St Benedict. Mass Live Stream https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8088751137 | Mass 10.00 am Divine Healing Walsh family |
| Mon 11 th May | Easter Ferria | Mass 9.00 am In Private |
| Tue 12 th May | <i>Easter Ferria</i> | Mass 9.15 am In Private |
| Wed 13 th May | Easter Ferria | No Mass |
| Thurs 14 th May | East of St Mathias Apostle | Mass 9.15 am In Private |
| Fri 15 th May | Easter Ferria | Mass 9.15 am In Private |
| Sat 16 th May | Easter Ferria | Mass 9.15 am In Private |
| Sun 17 th May | Sixth Sunday of Easter Our Lady and St Benedict. Mass Live Stream https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8088751137 | Mass 10.00 am Norah Burke (RIP) |

Prayer intentions

Please pray for the sick the elderly, the housebound, all who are self -isolating and all who care for them from our Parish.

Please remember in your prayers those on our parish sick list Ruth Harvey, Jan Wright, Margaret Keiley, Phil Hampton, Mary Glover, Vic and Vera Goodwin

We pray for John Anderson who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Norah Burke, Lesley Anderson and George O'Connor may they enter the gates of the kingdom with the Lord

Rosary

While we are all social distancing, The Pope has asked us pray the Rosary during this month of Mary Our blessed mother. We have reprinted at the end of this newsletter the Holy Father's special prayers which he has asked to use to spiritually join him while saying the rosary.

Message from Fr Damian Our Services at Our Lady and St Benedict's

Thank you once again to all who shared last weekend's mass, it is lovely to see you all and to talk to you. Last week we joined to listen to our own Archbishops Letter on Vocations, this week we will listen to the letter from the Catholic Archbishops of England and Wales "A People who live in hope" from the Archbishops' letter, we do look forward when we can again share in Church and in person our worship of the Lord.

Thank you to those who joined us for our simple funeral mass for John Anderson on Thursday. In these changed times it was lovely to share the mass in your homes with family, parishioners and friends of John and Rebecca our Chair. May he rest in Peace.

Our Parish Life.

These are difficult times with the Church Buildings closed and our continued social distancing. Fr Damian is continuing to offer mass for your intentions in private. It is a challenging and for some worrying period. Fr Damian is very keen to continue to support and pray with and for parishioners, with concerns, or who are self-isolating to give him a call him on 01564 792647 or drop him an email if they would like a chat. These modified times are bringing our faith closer to our homes, but we all look forward to reopening our churches.

We continue to pray for all those whose lives are affected and touched with the illness, those who are ill, those who are lonely or feel isolated on lockdown, those with no work or school. We thank the Lord for, the dedicated staff of our NHS, those workers who support us in our daily lives, If parishioners know anyone that may not be getting our online newsletter or anyone that would like to join us for our Online mass please send their details to our Parish email olandsb@gmail.com If any parishioners could offer practical help to our parishioners self-isolating please contact Fr Damian.

Financial support for your parish.

If you can please support your church at this difficult time although the first priority has to be for your families own finances.

The Gift Aid envelopes are ready are in the Church Porch if any parishioners are going past and would like to pick them up for family or friends living near them.

For those who can please consider a direct debit or standing order through your bank. If you contact Mary Mayo on mary.mayo1@btinternet.com. She will give you details of the parish's bank account number.

There is a donate button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website for donations by credit or debit card. www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk, there is a small charge by the credit card company for this service. If you are a gift aider your donation by card, direct debit or standing order can still be gift aided.

We can still take cash or cheque donations posted through the letter box from any of you passing. If you are a gift aider please put your name and address on the envelope

Thank you to those who have dropped off donations or signed up for any bank transfers to support your parish.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. — St. Alphonsus Liguori

Online Mass from Our Lady and St Benedict's <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8088751137>.
Zoom Account.

To join us in our own services you will need a zoom account. <https://zoom.us/download>. During the service please mute your own microphone as the system will pick up sounds from your house instead of the service. There is a password needed to protect online security. If you need the password please email me.

Follow the daily Readings at Mass <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>
<https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/daily-mass-readings/>

Warwick Deanery Website: www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk

Birmingham Archdiocese Link: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

Churches with live masses: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

CAFOD children's liturgy resources <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216

First Prayer

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

A People who Hope in Christ

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: 'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.' (27 March 2020)

The impact of Covid-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid-19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort.

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted.

None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing, touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and wellbeing.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling.

As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare.

We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise.

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ,

- ✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
- ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool
- ✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
- ✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff
- ✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark