



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



24.05.2020 - Seventh Sunday of Easter (World Communication Day)

Masses & Intentions

Sunday 24	Seventh Sunday of Easter People of the Parish
Monday 25	St. Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor Chris Burnell RIP
Tuesday 26	St. Philip Neri, Priest Nan & Bob McGowran RIP (Anniversary)
Wednesday 27	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop Laurence, Gareth & Alex Jones (Ints)
Thursday 28	Easter Feria George Manners RIP
Friday 29	Solemnity of Dedication Peter Hudson RIP (Ann) & Florance
Saturday 30	Easter feria People of the Parish
Sunday 31	Solemnity of Pentecost (Day of Prayer for the Church) Raja Mary RIP (19 th Anniversary)

The Spirit of Prayer and Praise

Christ prayed in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of the prayer and praise of the whole Church. He is resting on us as we offer this sacrifice of praise today.

World Communications Day 24.05.2020

As much of the world remains in lockdown and attempt to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, we celebrate World Communications. The way we communicate in situations of self-isolation and separation has shifted from hand shaking, hugging and close contact to encounters through phone, tablet and computer screens. The virtual has replaced the physical.

Coronavirus has had a profound impact on our prayer and worship. We are currently unable to pray in our churches. As lockdown eases we will return to kneel in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

It may be second best to worshipping in church, but over 400 parishes are streaming Catholic Mass live online. Many priests have met the communications challenges brought on by the pandemic restrictions.

The Pope has prayed for – and asked us to pray for – all “those who work in the media, who work to communicate today so that people are not isolated... who help us to bear this time of isolation.”

He recognises that given a growing digital culture throughout the world, the media must become a primary platform for spreading the Gospel.

He also said: “Studying new ways and means to communicate the Gospel of mercy to all people, in the heart of different cultures, through the media that the new digital cultural context makes available to our contemporaries is something that is very much in my heart.”

The Pope’s World Communications Day message focuses on storytelling, truth and who we are in God’s eyes. “**That you may tell your children and grandchildren**” (Ex 10:2) He looks to the Bible as “the great love story between God and humanity” with Jesus at its centre.

The following hymn by **David Haas** might help appreciate Pope’s message. (Watch / listen to: <https://youtu.be/Ep8G6nVjz04>)

We come to share our story. We come to break the bread.
We come to know our rising from the dead.

1. We come as your people. We come as your own.
United with each other, love finds a home.
2. We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor.
We are called to feed the hungry at our door.
3. Bread of life and cup of promise, In this meal we all are one.
In our dying and our rising, may your kingdom come.
4. You will lead and we shall follow. you will be the breath of life;
living water, we are thirsting for your light.
5. We will live and sing your praises. "Alleluia" is our song.
May we live in love and peace our whole life long.

In compliance with the Government regulation in response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic the churches still remain **CLOSED**.

We hope and pray things will get better as soon as possible. As social distancing and extra care such as using sanitizer, wearing face mask are likely to continue for a considerable length of time, parishes have been reminded to consider these measures in preparation. The Government and our dioceses will direct us in this regard as and when this happens.

Priests continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis, for your intentions and for any other specific intentions.

Parishioners are encouraged to continue taking part in online Masses and have ‘Spiritual Communion’.

Those who wish to celebrate the *Liturgy of the Hours*, or have access to the Readings at Mass, please visit: <https://universalis.com> for assistance.

www.wednesdayword.org offers reflections (Lectio Divina) as well as reflections / activities for children & family.

Thank you to our parishioners for the ongoing support to the parish by sending your offertory collections. This is very much appreciated. **Thank you** too for your generous response for the recent appeal. An update on this will be made available as soon as possible. – Fr. Arul

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

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 Church.

RIP: Please pray for **George Manners RIP** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Telephone support: Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email (shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

Rosary: The Parish Rosary group are continuing to pray the Rosary at 10am on Thursdays in their own homes, but connected spiritually. Please join if you would like to.

Appeal by Friends of the Holy Land: As the Covid-19 crisis deepens in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan

we have widened the scope of our Bethlehem Coronavirus Shutdown Appeal to include all areas of the Holy Land, to ensure the Charity continues our activities and provide resources for immediate relief to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters devastated by this crisis.

All donations received by 31 May 2020 will double your donation and the impact it will generate.

Friends of the Holy Land is the official charity of the Catholic Church and Church of England supporting communities in the land of Christ's birth, which is now facing a humanitarian catastrophe from Covid-19. Donations can be made on line at: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>

Can you help Little Sisters of the Poor (in Birmingham)?

The sisters write, "We know this is a tough time for everyone right now. Here at St Joseph's Home in Harborne we too are feeling the strain and are appealing for your help.

Having been in Birmingham for over 150 years, caring for the elderly of modest means, this current pandemic has brought the Little Sisters of the Poor challenges never before experienced.

All our usual means of fundraising – store/Church collections, raffles, fetes - which would normally be open to the Little Sisters have completely stopped.

We rely heavily on this source of income to supplement the running costs of the home and at the moment the funds are not there.

We also need to buy vital pieces of medical equipment as well as extra PPE - so any help at all would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made online at:

<https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/cause/birmingham>

The Little Sisters of the Poor also ask you to spread the word to encourage everyone to join the quest to get one million families around the world to pray the Rosary with the Little Sisters each day for an end to this pandemic. THANK YOU

The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus (John 17:1-11): The discourse of Jesus given by John after the Last Supper is of a special literary genre. It was a convention that the final instructions of a great leader for his future community should be gathered together in the context of a final meal. Jesus' life and purpose is summed up in this great prayer. The discourse is shot through with the warmth of the relationship of Jesus to his Father and with the fact that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. But most striking of all is the stress on the glorification of Jesus. The earliest kerygma about the Resurrection, as we have it in Paul's writings, is not about the empty tomb, but is about the glory of the risen Christ, that Christ is lifted up to his full participation in the divine glory of the Father. The hymn in Colossians puts him as first-born in creation and now first-born from the dead, so that he can be first in every way. Philippians declares that he must receive the homage of bending the knee in the worship due only to God. This is not blasphemy, for it is 'to the glory of the Father' that the Risen Christ should share in this glory. In a way this gospel reading is a meditation on the effects of the culmination of the Ascension for the Risen Christ.

What do we mean by 'the Glory of Christ'?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Pentecost Novena: A *novena* (from Latin: *novem*, "nine") is an ancient tradition of devotional praying, in Christianity consisting of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks. **The nine days between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost, when the disciples gathered in the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer, is often considered to be the first novena.** (Courtesy: Wikipedia)

St John Vianney once preached to the parishioners and pilgrims of Ars: "Without the Holy Spirit all is cold; therefore,

when we feel we are losing our fervour, we must instantly make a novena to the Holy Spirit to ask for faith and love... See, when we have made a retreat how we are full of good desires: these good desires are the breath of the Holy Ghost, which has passed over our souls, and has renewed everything like the warm wind which melts the ice and brings back the spring... When we have the Holy Spirit, the heart expands and bathes itself in divine love. And so we should say every morning, 'O God, send my Thy Spirit to teach me what I am and what Thou art.'"

In encouraging us to make a novena in honour of the Holy Spirit, St John Vianney is leading us to the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to "join together with one heart in constant prayer" (Acts 1:14), in imitation of Mary and the disciples in those nine days in the Upper Room between Ascension and Pentecost. With them, we ask Jesus to send afresh his Holy Spirit upon us so that our individual lives, the lives of our families and communities, and the life of the Church may be renewed. (www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations)

Laudato Si' and healing our fractured world: The urgency of the pope's 2015 encyclical on Care for Our Common Home.

"If life's events, with all their bitterness, sometimes risk choking the gift of prayer that is within us, it is enough to contemplate a starry sky, a sunset, a flower... in order to rekindle a spark of thanksgiving."

Pope Francis pronounced those words at his general audience this past Wednesday (on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the encyclical), which was once again video-streamed from the papal study inside the Apostolic Palace because of the ongoing coronavirus lockdown.

"The beauty and mystery of Creation create in the human heart the first impulse that evokes prayer," he said, quoting the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. For full text, visit: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200520_udienza-generale.html

PRAYER DURING CORONA-VIRUS PANDEMIC

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the Corona virus that has claimed lives and has affected so many people.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with the studying the nature and cause of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of doctors, nurses, medical staff, experts and all health care workers – that they may minister to the sick with love, compassion, and skill.

We pray for all those who have died with Covid - 19 and for their families and friends.
May the Lord bring them to the glory of heaven.

We pray for all who are ill from the virus that the Lord may heal them soon through the ministry of others.

We pray for all who work in any way at this time to keep our society functioning – those who are involved with producing, selling and delivering food, those who keep our transport system and utilities going and all those in other frontline jobs.

We pray for all who are struggling with isolation, loneliness, depression and financial problems.

Give us all the grace to deepen our faith and trust in you O Lord, and so support each other in every way we can.

Our Lady, health of the sick.

Pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel,

Pray for us.

All holy men and women,

Pray for us.