

**St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe**

24 May 2020

Seventh Sunday After Easter

Year A

Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese,
by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Tel: 01926 632214

mobile: 07751 444952

Email: fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Website: stanneswappenbury.wordpress.com

My personal *private email address* is fatherthed2017@hotmail.com

A Spiritual Communion during a Virtual Mass

There is a saying: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" and another saying: "out of sight, out of mind". We have been absent from each other for many weeks now and we have been absent, as well, from 'church' and from receiving 'Holy Communion'. As we move to a place of eased lock down, and possibly a return to 'church' and Holy Communion', I invite reflection: just how has the absence of Holy Communion impacted on our longing for the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ?

We have reflected at another time on 'Real Presence', a traditional way of describing the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. I have also suggested another 'real presence', the presence of each one of us to the other. Between many of us, that 'real presence' between us has been fractured by COVID-19 and, when we return to another 'normality', there may be need for some re-learning. In the meantime, our church encourages us to receive a 'spiritual communion', inviting Jesus into our hearts, at the time the priest consumes the Eucharist at live streamed Mass. And this has always seemed somewhat strange to me – inviting someone in who is already present in our hearts. I invite an awareness of Jesus in our lives during the priest's communion which I consider more honest.

I hope that the absence of sacramental communion does, indeed, make our hearts 'grow fonder' to receive Holy Communion when we are permitted to gather as 'church' again. And this may be longer than we would wish or even imagine.

This weekend The Madia and the Miller families had planned First Holy Communion for their children. This was planned early last year – it would have been a splendid parish and family event. Now it is a big disappointment for the children and their families and we, as parish community, as deprived of this very special occasion. Perhaps this deprivation will whet our appetites to share again sacramentally the huge gift that the Eucharist is to us and remind us of that day when we, as children, accompanied by our families, shared Holy Communion for the first time. There lies the hope that the 'not receiving' communion will become ever so unfulfilling so that a hunger is generated in our hearts for the "Real Presence".

A "Spiritual Communion" is good, but let's not settle for that as our way of receiving Jesus Christ.

"Out of sight" must never become "out of mind".

Mass streamed live from St Anne's every morning at 9.30am

Thank you to those of you who are able to join me in the weekly daily Mass. I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us.

Sunday 24 May – Sunday 31 May	9.30am	Wappenbury	Live streamed using fb.me/stanneswappenbury
Saturday 30 May	9.30am		Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Masses streamed throughout the Archdiocese and elsewhere

You can follow these on

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham>

Mass streamed live on weekdays and Sundays.

For other Masses

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/warwickshire>

Mass and Evening Prayer streamed live each day from Sacred Heart Church Cork

<https://www.mscmissions.ie/spirituality/sacred-heart-live-services/>

Music and Reflective Resources for reflection from the Emmaus Retreat Centre Dublin

<https://www.emmausproductions.com/special-feature/spiritual-comfort-for-troubled-times-holy-week-2020/>

Parish Community Evening Prayer

You can now join with me and other parishioners for a short evening prayer on Wednesday and Friday evenings in May at 7.00pm. This prayer will last about twenty minutes. A copy of the evening prayer will be sent out prior to the meeting.

To join in this prayer, you will need to be using **ZOOM**.

The ID for all meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays is **798 7539 5937** with the password **0(zero)YQRdf**

If you have not joined me up to now, please let me know. So that I can send you the prayer.

Sunday Collections

Since it is likely that our restrictions as regards gathering for Mass at either St Anne's or Princethorpe will remain in force for a considerable length of time, may I ask those who contribute weekly, through the collections at Mass, to review how they might contribute while we wait to return to attendance at Mass. Our current overdraft is just over £7000.00 as on 5 May 2020 and, as with all of you, regular expenses continue to be incurred, such as Community Charge, Lighting, Heating, Communication, Cemetery and grounds maintenance etc. DD and SO provide the advantage that you continue to contribute directly during these difficult times. For this, I remain grateful.

You can contribute to cheque if you still use cheques or through BACS if that is your preferred way. For BACS, the details are: National Westminster Bank **Sort Code 60-02-35 - Account number 67502784 – Please reference your surname/name of bank**

Details about Standing Orders, Direct Debits and Gift Aid can be found on the diocesan website -

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/FAQs/standing-order-gift-aid>

The Finance Committee are also investigating an on-line donation method – further details shortly.

Understandably, in these difficult financial times it is every family's concern to ensure that money can be found for their own budgets. That must remain your priority.

Recover Your Rosary

Our confinement is an opportunity to recover the Rosary, one of the oldest Catholic traditional prayers. Perhaps the month of May is a good time to begin this. The Rosary is judged as difficult because of the anticipated monotony of the Hail Marys. If that is so, perhaps beginning with one decade is a laudable way to start. Then moving to two and then to three and so on until we can pray five decades, perhaps over the five weekdays – five decades will take about ten minutes. Pope Francis has spoken eloquently about this recently.

During each decade, we are encouraged to reflect on one of the major events in the life of Jesus Christ and how that applies to our life at present.

Homilies and Weekly Newsletters

If you have mislaid the weekly newsletters and homilies and you wish to read them again, you can find them on the parish website: <https://stanneswappenbury.wordpress.com>

There is also the weekly Childrens' Liturgy Support sheets available on the website

Continue with Sensible Precautions and No Panic

Stay at home/Stay Alert – in either case, please continue to behave in a manner that keeps you and others safe.

Wash hands thoroughly and regularly.

Avoid close contact and avoid shaking hands – you can be ‘Thai like’.

Think thoughts of peace instead of wishing peace through handshake at any time anywhere.

Receive Jesus in spirit – seek a greater awareness of God’s presence with you each moment.

Use tissues – do not leave used tissues lying about: bin them or burn them!

Even though there are changes ‘freeing’ us up, we must prepare mentally and emotionally to endure, for some considerable time, on-going limitations to our freedom.

Always remember that the ‘limitations’ on health care workers on the front line are there to stay.

Please remember especially in your prayers this week – let us not tire of praying

All those people who put the lives of others before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.

Julie, a nurse at Warwick hospital, who died recently.

Tom who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

Bill who is anxiously awaiting further treatment.

Di, awaiting tests.

Janet and Jim’s family

The Vallance family as they had to postpone the baptism of their daughter Lourdes.

The Madia and Miller families as they had to postpone the First Holy Communion celebration today.

Peter who is recovering from a bout of coronavirus.

Education staff, children and their parents as there are moves to open schools once again.

Anastasia as she is cared for at home.

Eileen who is unwell in a rest home.

Wolfgang, Chrissie’s father, who died recently.

Norman, close friend of Paul. Norman is unwell in hospital.

Alice whose Lupus has returned.

Bishop Leo McCartie RIP, who died recently.

Maura Bennett RIP, mother to Fr John Bennett MSC. Maura died unexpectedly recently.

Liz’s mum who is unwell.

Kate Mernagh, aunt of Peter Power, who is seriously ill with coronavirus in Dublin.

Catherine, niece to Una Power, who gave birth to a baby recently.

Alice, sister to Jimmy Murray, who has been ill and is now in isolation at home.

Dr Ed, colleague to Matilda, who is improving from a serious bout of coronavirus.

Inspector Phil, colleague to Allison, who is improving from a serious bout of coronavirus..

Members of the medical profession who have died while ministering to those ill with coronavirus.

Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

MSC Priests from the Belgian Province of the MSCs who have died because of coronavirus.

Continue praying for

Parishioners with underlying medical problems of varying kinds and for whom this present viral situation induces increased anxiety.

Our medical staff – some members of this parish are actively engaged on the front line in our hospitals.

John whose family has asked for prayers.

Domonkos Kordas (14) who has lost sight in one eye. Pray for him and family and friends. His parents work on the front line.

Steve, who continues to receive treatment.

Peter Lamb, recovering from a stroke

Elizabeth and Neville Compton, sister and brother-in-law of Margaret Simmons.

Lawrence who has completed the three years of maintenance chemotherapy. The family gives thanks for your love and prayers.

John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Liz Griffin's parents as they settle in to their new home.

Elizabeth who has been diagnosed with a long term illness and is improving. She has had some good news recently.

Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore, seriously ill in University Hospital, Coventry.

Marc, who is seriously ill.

Maria, sister of Janet, who is improving.

Keren and her husband. Keren is a member of Princethorpe College staff.

Karen, waiting results of an exploratory investigation.

Linda, Stretton on Dunsmore, who is recovering at home. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Adrian, a friend of Loretta, who is continuing to receive treatment. Adrian has had some good news.

Carolyn whose daughter is experiencing on-going mental health difficulties.

Roisin and Niamh, as they cope with difficult health problems. Their health problems are on-going.

Claire, who is going through a tough time right now.

Linda, who is recovering from the effects of her treatment for cancer.

Michael, who is awaiting further tests.

Louise, suffering from various cancers.

Zavier, a young child who is ill.

Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.

Jade (28), who is receiving chemotherapy.

Liam (44), who is undergoing chemotherapy for bowel cancer.

Eileen, friend of Mary Hewitt who is suffering from cancer.

Harry (23), who has undergone serious heart surgery and is returning to work.

Sue, who is enduring further chemotherapy for her cancer.

Seamus, who suffers from prostate cancer. Hold Seamus' family and friends in your prayers.

Michele, who has some serious health issues.

Kathy, who is recuperating after her successful operation.

Lola (29), who has been ill for most of her life and is again very ill.

Rose, who has severe mental health problems.

Frank

Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.

Mildred (87) RIP (Ryton on Dunsmore)

Betty Lucas RIP

Kay RIP, aunt to Yvonne.

Peter Morgan RIP, father of Helen Morgan, a member of staff at Princethorpe College.

Antonio (80) RIP who died recently.

Betty Kaminski RIP

Thomas Duffy RIP

Pauline RIP.

Chris Smart (77) RIP

Con McCorrison (88) RIP

Darren RIP

Joan (91) RIP

Myrtle Forster (64) RIP

Joan and Sister RIP

Bob RIP

Maria Ramsay (76) RIP

Mont RIP/John RIP