

Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 26/27 December 2020

These days we hear a great deal about ecology, and rightly so. We must take care of the created world in its beauty and resources.

Interestingly, the word 'ecology' comes from a Greek word meaning 'home' or 'place to live'. So, it is a word that can be applied not only to the natural world but also to our homes and to the Church. It is a good word to have in mind as we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family.

This year has been so difficult for many families. Homelife has been tested, and financial worries burden many. Separation from loved ones has been painful and many have lost loved ones in death, with little chance to grieve them fully. So, the Prayers of the Mass today are vital. In them, we seek God's blessing on our families and homes, that they may be places of kindness and joy. The reading from St Paul to the Colossians spelt out what that means in practice: compassion, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. Then he added, 'Over these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.'

But St Paul is applying these words first of all to the Church, to us, chosen by God to be a witness in the world to God's love and compassion. St Paul adds: 'And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful' (Colossians 3:15).

Today, then, we can think and pray not only about our own families but also about the family of the Church. We can ask for God's blessing on this family, this 'ecology' in which we live, the 'ecology' of the Church.

Over these last months, the life of the Church has been under strain. We have been unable to come together to express our faith as a full community. Often, we have not been able to enter into the mystery of Christ celebrated in the sacraments. We pray that slowly this will return as the threat of the COVID-19 virus is overcome.

Over these last months, the life of the Church has been stained by the emergence of the picture of the abuse inflicted on children and vulnerable people in the Church over the last fifty years. We know, with the benefit of hindsight, that bishops and leaders, including myself, have made mistakes. I deeply regret them. We are continually learning from them.

In this moment of strain and stain, we take our lead from the Gospel. Like Anna and Simeon, we fix our eyes on the Lord, on the child Jesus. With them, we say: 'My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see' (Luke 2:30). We know that the Lord never forsakes the Church, his own Body. He remains with us always. Our strength, our renewal, comes from him.

There is a quotation of which I am very fond:

'Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul' (Blessed Isaac of Stella).

This is our reassurance. In turning every day to him, in welcoming him into our lives with humility and love, we rise from our prayer refreshed and renewed, wanting to do his will and

to give him our thanks.

There is another figure on whom we can fix our eyes: St Joseph. He is there, in the background, protecting the child entrusted to his care. We turn to him as protector of the family of the Church, too.

Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St Joseph, from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. He says: 'Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble' (Patris Corde - With a Father's Love - Pope Francis). Let's do that. Let's ask St Joseph to keep a watchful eye on this family of the Church, to intercede on our behalf.

A tradition I treasure is that of always having a statue of St Joseph in the kitchen, so often the heart of the home. I recommend this to you. Bring St Joseph into your kitchen. Then he will be before your eyes each day, as protector and guide in these difficult times.

Pope Francis writes: "Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture".

As we come to the end of this year, a year of such pain and difficulty, try to see this 'bigger picture': that our lives are in the hands of God; that our Church is constantly consoled by the presence of the Holy Spirit; that our world is God's work of art. As we enter the New Year, we place all this before the Lord, knowing that He, who 'steers our course', will bring each one of us, and the whole of creation, to completion, in the fullness of time.

May God bless you all.

Yours devotedly,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

[4th Sunday of Advent Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday 20th December 2020

CHRISTMAS is almost here.....!

THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT is our final day of preparing the way for the Lord to celebrate the Nativity of Our Saviour. It is a time to renew our hope and expectation: God is always faithful to His promises. The fourth **CANDLE** on our Advent wreath is seen as the **MARY** candle because the Nativity is the consequence of Mary's YES to God — her **FIAT** (let it be done.....).

This week we should, together with Mary, ponder the wonderful thing God has done for us in the Incarnation.

How does it touch us, move us?

How do we want to respond to it?

How do I see my “YES” to God? Is it whole hearted? As we ponder this we shall be moved to confess our sins — all of which express our NO to God: every sin is a “no-no” to God.

A good confession is the best way to find a truly Happy Christmas, when we prepare the way for Our Lord to be born again in our heart , where we can treasure Him, adore Him, and love Him, like the shepherds.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the God-given means of making the way for Him to enter us—so do go to confession.

“Mary Immaculate, my Mother, keep me close to you, at one with you, so that I may imitate your wholehearted Yes to God.”

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

MASS INTENTIONS ARE USUALLY BOOKED AT LEAST ONE MONTH AHEAD. Please contact the Parish office or speak to a Steward well in advance to book a Mass.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS INTENTIONS 20th DECEMBER 2020

Saturday 19th December:

6:00pm Mass Aldo Capitelli RIP

Sunday 20th December:

10:00am Mass Stephen Graydon RIP

6:00pm MassPro Populo

Monday 21st December:

6:00pm Mass Majken Moller-Theron RIP

Tuesday 22nd December:

6:00pm Mass Jorn Ihde (Sick)

Wednesday 23rd December:

6:00pm Mass Desolina Costella RIP Anniv

Thursday 24th December:

4:00pm Mass Fr David Barnes Birthday

Christmas Eve 6:00pm Mass Clare Ford RIP

9:00pm Mass of the Night Private Intention's

Friday 25th December: Christmas Day

10:00am Mass ONLY Martina Cullen

Saturday 26th December:

10:00am Mass ONLY Danny Lewis RIP

St Stephen, the First Martyr

This will be the last bulletin of the year

MASS TIMES DURING THE OCTAVE

Saturday 26th December ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR: 10.00am ONLY

Sunday 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist: 10.00am ONLY

Monday 28th December (Bank Holiday) THE HOLY INNOCENTS: 10.00am ONLY

Tuesday 29th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH:
10.00am ONLY

Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st December: Mass 10.00am ONLY

Friday 1st January: (Bank Holiday) SOLEMNITY of MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF
GOD: Mass 10.00am ONLY

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY: (3rd January) Saturday Confessions 5.00 -
5.45pm, Vigil Mass (Saturday) 6.00pm, Mass 10.00am, Mass 6:00pm

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th January: Mass 10.00am ONLY

WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: 10.00AM Mass & 6pm
Mass

NORMAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES resume on Thursday 7th January (6pm Mass)

[3rd Sunday of Advent Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 13th December 2020

GAUDETE SUNDAY

“REJOICE” SUNDAY (from Latin “Gaudete”) is the name given to this Third Sunday of Advent. We rejoice because of the coming celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, born in the manger in Bethlehem.

We rejoice not only because He is “Emmanuel” (God with us), but because His coming (or advent) is the proof of God’s love for us: he has come to share His life completely with us. This is re-confirmed every time we receive Holy Communion.

Like Mary His Mother we have the privilege of holding Him and treasuring Him in our heart. Go to Mary, asking Her how we can hold and treasure Him better, more devotedly, more tenderly.

Pope Francis teaches us that the Church should be a “House of Joy”. Our parish and families will be “a House of Joy” in so far as we recognise that the infant in the crib is truly God fully among us. To help us ponder this please ensure that the **CRIB** has a central place in your home. Let us gather around the crib to pray as a family.

Our joy is the fruit of our faith, God's gift for our "Yes" to God.

REJOICE!

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

EVERYDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS DAY

Whilst there is still no obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, many people will want to celebrate the birth of Christ. Many people will come to church who are unfamiliar with our patterns of worship during the pandemic. One way in which more people can participate in the 'days of the Nativity of the Lord' is by attending Mass during the Christmas Octave: **this is anytime from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1 January.** Participation in the Octave will enable people to celebrate the rich liturgy of the Feasts that occur during the eight days. Thus allowing more people to attend Mass over the Christmas period.

[St Anselm and St Cæcilia 2020 Christmas Liturgies](#)

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA: This year, due to Covid-19, Sea Sunday has been re-arranged for the 20th December. In our Parish we did remember Sea Sunday in November during the 2nd lockdown. Should you want to donate to The Apostleship of the Sea, please collect an envelope on your way out and return next Sunday and place in the collection basket on your way out of church. For more information please visit: <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/what-we-do/sea-sunday/> Thank you.

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS INTENTIONS 12th - 19th DECEMBER 2020

Saturday 12th December:

6:00pm Mass Lila McCusker RIP

Sunday 13th December:

10:00am Mass Paddy Sullivan RIP

6:00pm Mass Honorato Gambon RIP

Monday 14th December:

6:00pm Mass Mgr F. Miles RIP

Tuesday 15th December:

6:00pm Mass Holy Souls

Wednesday 16th December:

6:00pm Mass Pio Costella RIP

Thursday 17th December:

6:00pm Mass Larry Regan RIP

Friday 18th December:

6:00pm Mass Thomas O'Sullivan RIP

Saturday 19th December:

6:00pm Mass Aldo Capitelli RIP

[2nd Sunday of Advent Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday 6th December 2020

BIBLE SUNDAY 2020

St Jerome lived during the 4th century of the Church. A man of brilliant mind, he lived as a hermit for years, in order to deal with his many sins. However, God needed his intellect and gift of language; thus St. Jerome is credited with translating the Scriptures into Latin, known as the Vulgate.

St. Jerome famously said, “*Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.*” That thought alone should send us all scurrying for our Bibles! So, why *should* Catholics make regular Scripture reading and study part of their daily lives?

1) It is the living Word of God. There are many ancient texts in the history of the world. Many of us, in high school and college, read *The Iliad*, *I Ching*, and the *Tao de Ching*. They are all worthy of study, but what sets the Bible apart? It is the living Word of God. It has no equal, and it is as relevant today as it was when Jerome laboured over its translation. Further, the Word of God is Christ: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.* (Jn. 1:1) Thus, every encounter with Scripture is an encounter with Christ.

2) Sunday isn't enough. Indeed, the Mass is full of Scripture. We hear the Word proclaimed from the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, and the Gospel. We hear the Word sung in our hymns. The prayers at Mass are full of Scriptural quotes and references. And yet ... it's not enough. It's easy to miss parts of the Word as it's proclaimed as Mass: we get distracted, the Word is not proclaimed well, we don't quite hear it. In order to prepare well for Mass, we should “read ahead:” [find the readings for Mass](#) and read them prior to Mass. How are they connected? What is God's message for His people today?

3) God's Word keeps us grounded. It is very easy, in the midst of our sloppy, busy, stress-filled days, to lose touch with who we are: God's children. Taking time to read Scripture every day keeps us grounded, reminds us of who we are. Reading Scripture helps us to recall, every day, that Christ is with us – even in the sloppiness, the busy-ness, the stress.

4) Scripture reminds us of God's covenant. God made a promise to our forefathers in faith, the Jews. He told them, “I will be your God, and you will be my people.” Even though the Jews (like us!) did many things that should have destroyed that covenant, God's promise is eternal. A covenant is unbreakable, because it is God's truth. Then, with the coming of Christ, we received a new covenant: “This is My Body and this is My Blood. Whoever eats and drinks of it shall have eternal life.” The Bible, from start to finish, is the story of God's unbreakable promise to us. That's pretty important.

5) Reading Scripture helps us to pray better. Every one of us needs to pray better. Prayer is our lifeline to God. Scripture can help us to pray better. We see ourselves reflected in the sorrow, pain and faithfulness of Job. We understand Jonah's reluctance to do the job God has set before him. We rejoice, laugh, cry and challenge God with the psalmist. We understand the

shame of the woman about to be stoned. We tremble with fear, abandoning Christ, just as most of the Apostles did when He most needed them. To enter into God's word helps us to see, hear, feel and understand basic human responses ... and then do better. We rise above our fears, our sorrows, our shame, because we know God is with us. Always. He never abandons us. Scripture is the story of God's eternal love and faithfulness.

St. Jerome knew all this. He spent his life carefully and faithfully translating God's word. He did it not because it was yet another text that smart people wanted to read in their own language. No, he understood that Scripture is the living word of God, as relevant to us as it was to the Jews in their many triumphs and struggles, as it was to the earliest Christians during St. Jerome's life, and now, in a world where we have so much information at our fingertips it would make St. Jerome's head spin. But there is no website, no book, no podcast, no Facebook post that equals God's word. Do not be ignorant of this word, lest you be ignorant of Christ.

THIS SUNDAY (ADVENT 2) is sometimes called **BIBLE SUNDAY**: We pray for a deeper love of the Sacred Scriptures.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

THE ADVENT WREATH: The Advent wreath helps us reflect on how God has come to us. The circle of the wreath is a symbol of both the eternity of God and our being called to eternal life. The evergreen foliage symbolises on-going life, while the holly and the red berries symbolise that the child in the manger is also the one who will suffer and die for us on the Cross. The five candles too have meanings. The outer candles are purple and one pink - the four weeks of Advent: purple is a sign that Advent is "little Lent", a time for prayer, fasting, repentance and conversion. The pink candle is for "Gaudete Sunday", the third Sunday in Advent, reminding us to rejoice in the coming of the Saviour. The white candle symbolises Christ, the Light of the World. The coming of the Light (Christ) into the darkness of the world is a constant theme in Advent, and the gradual lighting of the Advent candles reminds us of this. Various meanings are given to each specific candle -here is one set of meaning:

1st CANDLE- (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE**-We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE- (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION**- God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE- (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** - The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE- (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** - The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE- (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** -The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER. Mass at 6pm

Pope Pius IX instituted this celebration when he proclaimed the dogma on December 8, 1854. In that definition, he expressed the exact meaning of the truth of Mary's Immaculate Conception and affirmed the constant faith of the Church: that she was conceived free from the stain of original sin. This feast has been celebrated in the East since the eighth century and one century later also in many places in the West. This privilege of Mary is the most beautiful fruit of her Son's Redemption. Chosen as Mother of the Saviour, Mary received the benefits of salvation from the first instant of her conception. Christ came to take away the sin of mankind: he did not allow it to contaminate Mary. The sanctity of our Blessed Mother is a model for all Christians. We seek her intercession to get rid of our sins and achieve sanctity.

[1st Sunday of Advent Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday 29th November 2020

ADVENT

TODAY, Sunday, the great season of Advent begins. The word comes from the Latin verb "*advenire*" meaning "*to come to:*" so Advent calls us to ponder Our Lord's THREE "comings to us".

- the Incarnation when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" ie. Our Lord's Nativity in Bethlehem.
- Our Lord's *daily coming* to us in the Holy Mass.
- the Second Coming, when "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead".

ADVENT is sometimes called "Little Lent" because it is properly a time of prayer, fasting and good works, a time of repentance. This is why purple is the colour of Advent. Do your best to keep Advent in this way, even though secular society is making merry around us, the celebration of Christmas *begins* with the Vigil of Christmas, and is celebrated for the 12 days that lead up to the Epiphany on 6th January.

THE ADVENT WREATH, with the build-up of lighting the candles, reminds us of the coming of Our Lord into this world in His Nativity— He is "the Light of the World" who dispels the darkness of the world.

ADVENT is a time of **HOPE** as we come understand better that God is always faithful to His promises.

OUR LADY "believed that the promises made her by the Lord would be fulfilled:" We pray that we may have faith like hers, and invoke her powerful intercession.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

A few quotes from Pope Francis on Advent.

Pope Francis invites us to *feel* the beauty of hope. Hope can seem distant ... "out there"

somewhere. But the call to *feel* it is a call to bring it in close, and to warm yourself by that fire. This Advent let us warm ourselves by the fire of hope! (Comment by Christmas West)

“Advent has a special charm, it makes us experience deeply the meaning of history.”

“In Advent we rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey ... across the paths of time.”

“The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ... Let us think about and feel this beauty.”

“Let us allow ourselves to be guided by [Mary this Advent], she who is mother, a mamma and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness.”

A REFLECTION FROM BASIL HUME OSB

So here I am, a pilgrim through life, restless indeed, looking, searching all the time for that which will make me truly and fully myself. That is natural, and I discover that it is only when I can delight in that which is most beautiful, in that which is the fullness of goodness, and only when I am united to that which is most lovable that I am truly myself and so truly human. I am made to sing out with joy at that which is most beautiful and to love that which is most lovable. I am made for God, whom to see is to contemplate the most beautiful of all; whom to love is to love the most lovable. Yes, I am made for God, and I am foolish indeed if I do not understand that. It is my duty, and should with practice and perseverance become my joy, to praise Him and serve Him.

The way is often rough for a pilgrim and hard going, but pilgrims must keep going resolutely and courageously. They are lost if they stop looking for the right way to reach their destination. But there is one who is on the look-out to guide us: it is the Son of God who is the way, the truth and the life.

[Christ the King Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe

Sunday 22nd November 2020

CHRIST THE KING

TODAY is the Grand Finale of the Church’s year. On this final Sunday, our celebration focuses on Our Lord through whom the Kingdom of God comes. Our Lord taught constantly about the Kingdom of God: the Kingdom comes through the Church, founded by Christ and with which He is totally identified in every way apart from our sin. The Church is the sign and seed of the Kingdom, and through the Church we are called to let Christ reign in every area of our life. The more we co-operate with Him, the more the Kingdom comes.

TODAY is also the Feast of our co-patron St Cæcilia, who is of course the patron saint of music and musicians. As we celebrate her feast we also ask her prayers for our Parish and our

musicians.

TODAY we are also in this parish keeping Sea Sunday, praying for our seafarers and in particular for the Apostleship of the Sea. For more information please visit: stellamaris.org.uk/ There is also information about some lovely Christmas gifts that are available to buy in their Stella Maris online Shop. This includes the inspiring book by Fr. Colum Kelly “At Sea: Awaiting Orders” and prints of the beautiful painting “The Spring” by artist and Stella Maris supporter Brendan Berry.

Happy Feast! Next Sunday Advent begins!

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED #RED WEDNESDAY, 25th November 2020: Please pray for all those who suffer religious persecution. We pray, too, for the thousands of people who carry out the work of ACN around the world. We also ask God to bless all those who give their time, prayers and donations to ensure that struggling Christian communities the world over receive the spiritual and material gifts they need to believe that they, too, may hope for a bright future in which they can live out their faith without fear. For more information visit: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement on Safeguarding

Friday 20th November 2020

The account given in the IICSA Report of abuse known to be inflicted on children in the Catholic Church in England and Wales in the past 50 years is shocking and overwhelming. At our meeting this week, we Bishops have stood together in profound shame. We express our sorrow and contrition before God.

We have reflected on our need to reach out afresh to those who bear the wounds of permanent damage caused by this abuse. We commit ourselves to listen more intently to those who have been abused so as to learn from them and benefit from their wisdom. It is through learning from their testimony that hearts are changed.

We are grateful to those survivors who have come forward, not only to lay before us their experience of abuse, but to help us understand the depth of their pain. We invite anyone who has experienced abuse to come forward, no matter how long ago the abuse took place. We undertake to listen carefully to them with open heart and mind and support them on a journey of healing.

We have carefully considered the recommendations of the IICSA Report and formally accepted them. We have already begun work towards their implementation.

The IICSA’s generic hearings into the Church began last October. Around that time we commissioned an Independent Review of our Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This was carried out by Mr Ian Elliott, an experienced safeguarding professional who has worked across the world in this area.

This week, alongside the IICSA Report, we have also examined in depth the Final Report of the Elliott Review and fully accepted its recommendations. It is a searching analysis of our safeguarding work, in its weaknesses and strengths. It proposes a number of remedial and forward-looking recommendations, which accord with the IICSA Report's own recommendations. The work of implementation will begin immediately. It will be carried out in close cooperation with the Religious Orders who play such an important part in the life of the Church.

In all our activities, our desire and resolve is to be a Church in which every child and vulnerable person is not only safe but nurtured into human flourishing. These recommendations present us with steps towards this goal. Key to them is a standards-based approach to safeguarding together with a specially commissioned national body with powers of effective audit and oversight of safeguarding in both Dioceses and Religious Orders. Everyone in the Church will be required to work to clear, published standards of behaviour and action. Most significantly, the Elliott Report has been fashioned with the participation of survivors of abuse. Their insight and wisdom has been crucial. We thank them for their great courage and generosity in working with us and we look forward to continuing this growing collaboration.

The Elliott Report builds on all that has been achieved in our safeguarding ministry in the past 20 years, achievements also recognised in the IICSA Report. Therefore we thank profoundly all who contribute to the work of safeguarding in the Church today: the thousands of Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the professionals who work in our Safeguarding Offices in every Diocese, the Safeguarding Commissions who oversee this work and give objective and professional advice to guide our decisions, the staff of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and those who serve on the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission. These, and many others, have contributed greatly to the current work of safeguarding in the Church.

Today, however, we acknowledge without hesitation, our failings, our mistakes, our lack of adequate cooperation. We express our deep sorrow and ask forgiveness, especially from victims and survivors. We affirm our resolve to effect the next step in our work of safeguarding and care for survivors. In prayer we turn to Christ the Good Shepherd, the fount of healing and compassion, asking that this moment of painful truth becomes a time of grace as we strive to fulfil the ministry entrusted to us as bishops in an unshakeable unity of purpose.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

Cardinal's personal statement, 20 November 2020

On Tuesday 10 November I received the IICSA Report. It has brought together a picture of abuse inflicted in the Catholic Church over a period of 50 years, together with detailed accounts of that abuse. It is a terrible picture. I remain shocked and ashamed. It is a reality that hangs like a dark cloud over my heart and mind.

I know that the publication of the Report has renewed in so many the lasting pain and wounds they carry as a result of that abuse, no matter how long ago it happened. My first thoughts were and are for them. Indeed many have written to me in these last days. To each and every one, I express my profound sorrow and apologies.

Abuse is a terrible wickedness. It can destroy, or severely damage, a person's capacity for trust

and love. It can create of a life an empty shell. One letter I received from a survivor speaks eloquently of its deepest wickedness. She writes that, in the eyes of faith, these are wounds inflicted on the very Body of Jesus Christ, and inflicted by a person who claims to represent Christ and who uses faith, that most precious gift, as a means of controlling their victim. It is a very terrible evil.

I have spent many hours listening to survivors. I have sat and talked with them, shared meals with them and wept with them. Nothing removes from my soul the horror of what has happened to them. I will continue to listen to survivors: hearing them is a humbling and learning experience for me.

I say again: I am so sorry. I say this for many bishops who have gone before me over these 50 years. Many hearing this will feel that we let you down. Yes, we did let you down in many ways, in different times, in different places, for different reasons. I apologise again. I am so sorry for all that has happened over these years.

In these last few days, I have received many letters expressing anger and disgust at what has taken place. I have also received many more letters and messages of respect, support, esteem and encouragement for my continuing ministry. I cannot remove the damage that has been inflicted, but I can tell you that I hear clearly and feel keenly the content and impact of this Report, the messages from survivors, from the public and from so many of the faithful. I take them all to heart.

With profound feelings of both pain and support I came on Monday to our bishops' meeting. I came to be with my fellow bishops, united as we are, in a common life-long commitment, to a ministry we have been given, in a love for this Church of sinners. I came to continue as their President, to guide and lead our work, to press ahead with the work we have done and are to bring into action, including and beyond the IICSA Report.

Yes, now I look to the future, to the renewal of our work of safeguarding and our response to survivors. There is new work to tell you about, new recommendations for action, shaped by the survivors who work with us and guide us, who give us the fruit of their suffering and wisdom. I thank them, as I thank everyone who works in this important ministry in our parishes and dioceses. Our commitment is strong and refreshed.

And now I hand over the Archbishop Malcolm who will report to you on the work of our Bishops' Conference. He will outline the measures on which we are fully agreed in order to revitalise our work of safeguarding, in order to correct our failings and build something better and stronger for the future. We pray that implementing these measures will help to restore the faith of our people and ensure respect and dignity for every person.

+ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

[33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
15th November 2020

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The Richness of Many Years of Life

One of the wonderful signs of progress in our society is that people are on average living much longer. Older people uphold and enrich our families and communities, by their caring presence and gifts of time and skills.

But, while we all grow a little bit older every day, too often the signs of ageing are treated as something to be put off or hidden. Many people, Christians included, fear that growing older will bring sadness more than joy. 'Locked down' during the Covid-19 pandemic, we may have become more aware of the fragility of all life. Hopefully, we will have been able to share in the joy generated by acts of neighbourly kindness. For many, the lockdown has also brought a deeper encounter with isolation experienced every day by thousands of older people and carers.

As communities start to imagine life after lockdown, and learn from their experiences, it is a good time to reflect on the richness of many years of life. In a message for the Fourth World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis refers to the age-old wisdom found in the Old Testament Book of Sirach: 'Stretch forth your hand to the poor' (Sir. 7:32). The Pope reminds us that prayer to God and solidarity with the poor are inseparable. He writes:

'Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life.' 'The power of God's grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first.'

Not having time for the elderly, speaking badly of old age, and excluding older people from the life of communities: these make older people and our whole society the poorer. We should 'stretch forth' to neighbours in care homes, living in isolation, struggling to get about or who are bereaved.

Shortly before the pandemic struck, the bishops of England and Wales shared their hope that parishes would consider fresh opportunities for older people to experience more of the care and belonging that they want, and that we would hope to see for ourselves and our loved ones. *Reaching Out*, a practical guide for Catholic parishes and others, includes ten inspiring stories, telling how parishes have brought together people of all ages and added more joy in their local neighbourhoods.

Could you start what Pope Francis calls 'a revolution of tenderness' in your community? *Reaching Out* is available free at: www.csan.org.uk/embrace

CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS ASKS US TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: Today we pray especially for all who have suffered abuse, as children or as vulnerable adults, and carry its scars throughout their lives. Many of their stories are told in the IICSA Report. We pray for them in the pain they bear.

We pray too for courage and guidance for our bishops and religious leaders, and for those who work in Safeguarding, that the responses we give will be just and healing. We ask pardon for those past responses that now are seen to have been so inadequate.

We place before the Lord this brokenness which marks so many lives and the life of the

Church.’

These are certainly difficult days for us, but more so for all who have suffered this terrible abuse.

Please pray for us bishops as we consider these matters during our meeting next week. And pray for me too: I need those prayers. If these are difficult days for me, I know they are for you too. Please stay steady and be sure of my prayers for you.

33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR MASS INTENTIONS 15th OCTOBER 2020

Saturday 14th November:
6:00pm Mass Frank Moran RIP

Sunday 15th November:
6:00pm Mass Patrick Condon RIP

Monday 16th November:
6:00pm Mass Pio Costella RIP

Tuesday 17th November:
6:00pm Mass Kevin Kelly

Wednesday 18th November:
6:00pm Mass Hannah & Edward Byrne RIP

Thursday 19th November:
6:00pm Mass Aldo Capitelli RIP

Friday 20th November:
6:00pm Mass Leocadia Avila RIP
Seberina Ailva

Saturday 21st November:
6:00pm Mass Myra Saunders RIP

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8th November 2020

2nd NATIONAL LOCKDOWN – CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS’ LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As we enter this second ‘lockdown’ and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add

these few words.

This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action.

The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer.

Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis.

The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn. Let's do it.

These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world.

May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly,
+ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of Thy servants departed the remission of their sins, that, through pious supplications, they may obtain the pardon which they have always desired. Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Immortal God, holy Lord, Father and Protector of all You have created, we raise our hearts to You today for those who have passed out of this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father of all, be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company, and forgive the failings and faults they may have done from human frailty.

Your only Son, Christ, our Saviour, suffered so cruelly that He might deliver them from the second death. By his merits may they share in the glory of His victory over sin and death.

May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother, Mary, and those of all the Angels and Saints, speak for us and assist them now. This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

MISSIO (APF/MILL HILL) RED BOX COLLECTION: 12 boxes were handed in for counting over the past few weeks - the amount donated came to **£857-91**. Thank you very

much to all those who support the Mill Hill Missionaries in this way. The retiring collection last weekend also raised **£212.72** for Missio. Your prayers and contributions will help missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year, please go to missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: Please pick up a November Dead Envelope, if you would like a mass in memory of someone who has passed away, please place envelopes in the basket as you leave the church. Thank you.

[ALL SAINTS EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

1st November 2020

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Pope Francis on praying for the souls in purgatory:

“Even now we experience a communion between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven through our union with those who have died. The souls in heaven assist us with their prayers, while we assist the souls in purgatory through our good works, prayer and participation in the Eucharist. As members of the Church then, the distinction is not between who has died and who is living, but rather who is in Christ and who is not ...

There is a deep and indissoluble bond between those who are still pilgrims in this world — us — and those who have crossed the threshold of death and entered eternity. All baptized persons here on earth, the souls in Purgatory and all the blessed who are already in

Paradise make one great Family. This communion between earth and heaven is realized especially in intercessory prayer”.

See Also: <https://www.cathdal.org/home/ten-ways-to-pray-for-the-holy-souls-in-purgatory>

1. **1. Pray the [Novena to the Holy Souls](#)** by St. Alphonsus Liguori.
2. **2. Offer up your Holy Communion** for the souls in purgatory.
3. **3. Have Masses said** for your departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of his or her death.
4. 4. Pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** for the intention of the Holy Souls.
5. **5. Eucharistic Adoration:** visit the Blessed Sacrament to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on behalf of those in purgatory.
6. **6. Sacrifices:** practice small acts of self-denial throughout your day and offer these penances up for the poor souls.
7. **7. Give alms:** The giving of material assistance to the poor has always been considered a penance that can be offered for the Holy Souls. “*For almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin*” ([Tobit 12:9](#)).
8. **8. Ask for the intercession of saints** who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime to join you in prayer for the faithful departed: St. Nicholas of

Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others.

9. **9. When passing by a cemetery:** Pray the short Eternal Rest prayer: *“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”*
10. **10. Pray to earn indulgences for the holy souls:** On all the days from November 1 to November 8, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Poor Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed (standard requirements for indulgences apply*). Partial indulgences are granted to those who recite Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, and to those who recite the prayer, *“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace”*.

ETERNAL REST

Lord, this month we pray especially for the departed loved ones.

We ask you to give them the gift of a dwelling place in your eternal home.

We pray too for those who have no one to pray for them.

Through your infinite mercy may they share in the company of the saints to offer you eternal praise and glory. Amen

NOVEMBER, MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: November dead list envelopes will be available at the back of the church as you leave.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: There will be a retiring collection after all Masses **TODAY** for World Mission Sunday- Missio. **Please put in your donation into the basket on the table as you leave the church. Thank you.**

[30th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25th October 2020

MISSIO - WORLD MISSION NEXT SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2020

There will be a Second Collection here next weekend after all Masses.

In this time of International turmoil and uncertainty, World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for the global family of the Catholic Church to stand together in solidarity, prayer and faith.

Each parish throughout the world celebrates being part of a wide world Church, giving what they can for the benefit of those most in need. We offer the hand of friendship and encouragement to our sisters and brother in poorer countries, and to missionaries across the world who are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard it.

It is clear that the needs of the Church in Africa and Asia are greater than ever. I receive many requests from Bishops, Priests and Religious for help so that they can continue serving their

people. They ask for our prayers and support. Any help we can give them at the moment will make a huge difference to their lives and to the future of our Church.

Do visit website www.missio.org.uk and if possible, watch our uplifting video about the inspiring work of missionaries around the world “We are still here” <https://missio.org.uk/world-mission-sunday/world-mission-sunday-2020/>

Please take a look at our new children’s activity sheets for every Sunday in October, which are available on the World Mission Sunday page www.missio.org.uk/wms

Pope Francis encourages us to hope and trust in the Lord. In his message for World Mission Sunday <https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WMS2020-PopesMessage.pdf> , He reminds us that “In a context profoundly marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not be discouraged because mission is not the fruit of human capacity but belongs to God. He sent his Son Jesus Christ and today he sends every baptised person.” Fr Anthony Chantry (Missio National Director)

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Our parish raised a fantastic **£252.01** for CAFOD’s coronavirus appeal this Harvest Family Fast Day. Your support will help ensure our global family can survive, rebuild and heal. Thank you for your generosity, and please keep the world’s poorest communities in your prayers at this time.

MISSIO RED BOXES: If you have a **RED MISSIO BOX** at home, please hand it into either **Elizabeth or Martina**, when you are next at Mass. **Please ensure you put your name and address on the box.** Thank you.

[29th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18th October 2020

SURVIVE, REBUILD AND HEAL

TODAY our parish is marking CAFOD’s **Family Fast Day** to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We’ve all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let’s come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Donate online through the CAFOD website, <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>

Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or **hand in your envelopes into the basket on the table as you leave the church.** You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you’ll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you’d like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

“God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

God, you call us out of darkness. May we hear your voice in the cry of our brothers and sisters

in crisis.

As you walk alongside us always, may we walk beside one another listening and responding in love.

Shine the light of your compassion through us, dispelling chaos, fear and despair.

Breathe hope and courage into all our hearts as we work together to rebuild once more.

Strengthen us, Lord, and keep us steadfast. Bring healing and comfort to all and lead us renewed into your marvellous light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

MISSIO RED BOXES: In Our Parish we are keeping WORLD MISSION SUNDAY on the 1st November. If you have a **RED MISSIO BOX** at home, please hand it into either **Elizabeth or Martina**, when you are next at Mass. The money can then be sent off when we have the World Mission Sunday collection on 1st November 2020. **Please do ensure you put your name and address on the box.** Thank you.

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME EMMAUS MASS SHEET

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11th October 2020

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: NEXT WEEKEND our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes that are on the back table as you leave the church. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

MISSIO RED BOXES: If you have a RED MISSIO BOX at home, please hand it in to either **Elizabeth or Martina**, when you are next at Mass. The money can then be sent off when we have the World Mission Sunday collection on 1st November 2020. Thank you.

MASS SHEET: [27th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
4th October 2020

OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE ROSARY.

ROSARY WHIRLWIND BRITISH ISLES – OCTOBER 2020 FOR FAITH, LIFE & PEACE: We are on the MAP! <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1rYwsRgWyRDRf2nWIXTWDwYA43ATajpOo&ll=54.39756968766114%2C-5.07842855468751&z=6>

Nations around the world are hosting their great Rosary Crusades and we join them, especially Ireland in a great union of prayer.

Once again Catholic's across England, Wales, Scotland and the Isles are invited to take up their rosaries for an intensive Rosary Whirlwind Mission for the spiritual well-being of the British Isles and for its preservation from degeneration, disaster, sickness and war.

Daily we are witnessing increasing levels of violence, rebellion and lawlessness. The Church is under great attack, the faith is being undermined, the sanctity of life is not honoured and peace is lacking everywhere. The covid-19 global pandemic threatens a second wave – people are fearful of what the future may hold. More than ever we need to intercede for our Isles and for the conversion to Christ of our peoples and that they be protected from all danger, from all sickness and from all evil.

Our refuges are the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the mantle of protection of St. Michael & the Angels, St. Joseph, and our Saints & Martyrs.

Rosary Whirlwind will invoke the mighty intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary inviting a WHIRLWIND of Heavenly Grace to blow where it wills across our Nations.

For more information visit: <https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/>

PETER'S PENCE collection: Second Collection today for Peter's Pence after all Masses. Place your donations in the basket on the way out. For more information visit: <http://www.peterspence.va/>

MASS SHEET: [26th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

**26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27th September 2020**

PETER'S PENCE collection: There will be a second Collection next weekend for Peter's Pence. Please generously as usual, Thank you. This collection started here in England at the end of the 8th century, when the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity. They wanted to help the Bishop of Rome, as successor of St Peter, in his universal ministry. The money collected is for the Pope to give to those suffering from natural disasters, such as famine or flooding, or those in great need, such as those suffering the consequences of war. The Pope gives money in the name of the whole Church. This annual collection expresses well our love for the Successor of Peter in his universal ministry.

Please do give generously, and do pray for Pope Francis.

May the love and prayers of Ss Peter and Paul sustain the Church, increase our love for the Church as the "Mystical Body of Christ" as also our love for the Pope, and our love for the

mission of the Church. For more information visit: <http://www.peterspence.va/> .

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Please remember our children & their families in your prayers. As they will be making their First Holy Communion's here in this Saturday 26th September & for the next two Saturdays.

NHS TRACK AND TRACE APP: Please use the NHS Track & Trace app if you have a smart phone to check in when you attend Mass. This will save you time on your way in. Please download in the app store of Google Play Store. The QR posters are around the church. Thank you.

MASS SHEET: [25th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

+25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20th September 2020

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Thursday 24th September is the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, in North Norfolk, was established in 1061 when, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad (c 1485), Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Although we have very little historical material from this period, we know that with papal approval the Augustinian Canons built a Priory (c 1150). Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom.

In 1538, the Reformation caused the Priory property to be handed over to the King's Commissioners and the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burnt. Nothing remains today of the original shrine, but its site is marked on the lawn in "The Abbey Grounds" in the village.

After the destruction of the Shrine, Walsingham ceased to be a place of pilgrimage. Devotion was necessarily in secret until after Catholic Emancipation (1829) when public expressions of faith were allowed. In 1896 Charlotte Pearson Boyd purchased the 14th century Slipper Chapel, the last of the wayside chapels en-route to Walsingham, and restored it for Catholic use.

In 1897 by rescript of Pope Leo XIII, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Walsingham was restored with the building of a Holy House as the Lady Chapel of the Catholic Church of the Annunciation,

King's Lynn. The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom brought the first public pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20th August 1897. Visits to the Slipper Chapel became more frequent, and as the years passed devotion and the number of pilgrimages increased.

SLIPPER CHAPEL

In the Middle Ages Walsingham was one of the four great shrines of Christendom with pilgrims coming from all parts of the known world. There were wayside chapels along the pilgrim route and the Slipper Chapel was the last and most important of these. Pilgrims stopped here to go to Mass and to confess their sins before walking the last mile to the Holy House in

Walsingham. The name of the chapel may come from the fact that pilgrims removed their shoes to walk the last mile or it may come from the word "slype" meaning a way through or "something in between", the slype or slip chapel standing as it did between the Holy land of Walsingham and the rest of England.

In 1538 the Shrine and Priory were destroyed and the Slipper Chapel, although not damaged, passed into disuse. It was used successively as a poor house, a forge a barn and even a cow byre. Stories of older residents suggest that even during this time of neglect occasional pilgrims would still come and pray there. In 1896 it was brought by Charlotte Boyd and restoration started the following year. For thirty years the Slipper Chapel remained restored but little used, as devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham was centred on Kings Lynn. On August 19th 1934, Bishop Youens of Northampton celebrated the first public Mass in the Slipper Chapel for four hundred years, and two days later Cardinal Bourne led a national pilgrimage of more than 10,000 people to the Shrine. At this pilgrimage, the Slipper Chapel was declared to be the National Shrine of Our Lady for Roman Catholics in England.

Holy places collection: The Collection last weekend for Holy Places raised £70.43. Thank you for your generosity as usual.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Please remember our children & their families in your prayers. As they will be making their First Holy Communion's here in this Saturday 19th September & for the next three Saturdays.

Walsingham National Shrine of Our Lady
THE PRAYER FOR ENGLAND

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England your "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in you. By you it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and He has given you to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us your children, whom you did receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold, they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of your Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with you, in our heavenly home. Amen.

MASS SHEET: [24th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

**+24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
13th September 2020**

**Holy places collection: There will be (a retiring collection THIS WEEKEND.
Please place any donations in the Basket marked Holy Places. Please give generously as usual. Thank You.**

Confirmations: Please remember our young adults and their families in your prayers, having made their Confirmation's here on Saturday 12th September & last Saturday 5th September.

**MASS SHEET: [23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
6th September 2020**

SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for "our common home."

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork entrusted to our care, and to implore God's help for the protection of creation, as well as pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

This World Day of Prayer begins the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

Key messages from Pope Francis include the following:

- We are called to protect creation and we are missing the mark. "Something good in the eyes of God has become something exploitable in human hands."

- The Season of Creation is a time for prayer in nature. "This is the time to re-acquaint ourselves with praying immersed in nature, where our gratitude to the creator God arises spontaneously."

- The Season of Creation is a time to grow in sustainability. "This is the time to reflect on our lifestyles. Let's change and adopt simpler and more respectful lifestyles!"

- The Season of Creation is a time to urge governments to enact better climate policies. "This is the time to take prophetic actions" and governments have the task of "demonstrating political will to drastically hasten their measures to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible . . . in line with the Paris Agreement goals."

There are many resources available to help celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Creation Time and to respond individually and in parishes or groups. We have a responsibility to care for creation and to encourage others.

Resources are available at: www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/creation-season/
Confirmations: Confirmation take place here in this Saturday 5th September & next Saturday 12th September. Please remember our young adults and their families in your prayers.

**MASS SHEET: [22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
30th August 2020**

**MASS SHEET: [+21st Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
23rd August 2020**

**MASS SHEET: [The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
16th August 2020**

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The feast of the Assumption is a day of joy. God has won. Love has won. It has won life. Love has shown that it is stronger than death, that God possesses the true strength and that his strength is goodness and love.

Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven: There is even room in God for the body.

Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us.

We have a Mother in heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: "Behold, your Mother!" We have a Mother in heaven. Heaven is open, heaven has a heart ...

Let us make God great in public and in private life. This means making room for God in our lives every day, starting in the morning with prayers, and then dedicating time to God, giving Sundays to God. We do not waste our free time if we offer it to God. If God enters into our time, all time becomes greater, roomier, richer.

POPE BENEDICT XVI
HOMILY FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION, 2005

FUNERAL NOTICE: Jim Wolfe's funeral mass will be here on Thursday 20th August at 10am. Please pray for his family and friends at this time. May Jim rest in peace.

**MASS SHEET: [19th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
9th August 2020**

**MASS SHEET: [18th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
2nd August 2020**

**+ 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
26th July 2020
THIS IS THE LAST BULLETIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER**



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS — YEAR OF THE WORD 2020

IF GOD were to grant us three wishes, what would we ask for? Our answers would reveal to us what we really treasure in our hearts.

In today's first reading, God asks Solomon "What would you like me to give you?" Solomon responds "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil". Solomon is seeking the true good, which is to seek God: **DO WE SEEK THE TRUE GOOD?**

OUR LORD JESUS in today's Gospel speaks about selling everything in order to have the Kingdom of Heaven. This Kingdom is discovered when we want God to reign in our life. God's reign enables us to find justice, joy and peace, the true good in our life.

DO WE STRIVE TO LET GOD REIGN IN OUR DAILY LIFE?

ST PAUL in today's second reading teaches us that everything in our daily life, if we really want the true good, can lead us to God. In these difficult days of COVID-19, examine again what we are asking of God, and how far our thoughts and feelings are enabling us to desire God's reign in our daily life.

OUR DEGREE of CONCERN for the poor, the oppressed, for those on the margins of society is an indication that our desire for God's reign is authentic.

As always, if you know someone or a family, is really in great need, or if it is you personally, please do let me know. With the help of the Parish SVP, we will do everything possible to be of help and support.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: PLEASE EXIT TO THE RIGHT OF THE SANCTUARY AND PROCEED STRAIGHT TO THE EXIT (HOLY DOOR),

DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR SEAT. Thank you.

MASS SHEET: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

+ 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19th July 2020

GOD gives us every opportunity to find the happiness we all long for. Today's parable of the good seed and the dandelion helps us know this.

Pope Emeritus Benedict explains how the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to the man who sowed the good seed: "*Jesus Himself is what we call "heaven". Heaven is not a place but a person, the person of him in whom God and man are forever and inseparable one. And we go to heaven and enter into heaven to the extent that we go Jesus Christ and enter into him*". *The Church is "the sign and seed of the Kingdom" (Vatican II), through whom we receive the Word of God, the teaching of Christ in faith and morals, and the sacraments – so sharing His life even now. Evil is present, sown by the Evil One (the Devil), whom we must learn to reject. The teaching of Our Lord in today's Gospel is crystal clear that in the Day of Judgement there is heaven and hell. Our destiny is in our hands – choose good and not evil.*

LET'S THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX! We know that many people with Red Boxes waiting to be collected are concerned about how to ensure their money reaches our sisters and brothers in great need of our support.

Due to Covid-19 Red Boxes cannot be brought to the church at present, but until then please consider other ways of supporting Missio:

- You can now **donate online** using the simple process at missio.org.uk/RedBox
- You can make a **bank transfer**
Account name: **Missio**; Sort code: **16-00-16**; Account number: **10824230** Please give the reference: **RB+your post code**

- You can **give via Text** by texting **REDBOX5** to donate £5 or **REDBOX10** to donate £10 to 70085. This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message

Missio will make sure that your Red Box donations go towards your parish's Red Box total for the year if they can match you and your parish in our records.

If you prefer to donate over the **phone**, please call [020 7821 9755](tel:02078219755) during office hours.

Credit/debit card donations can be made to Missio by phone: 020 7821 9755. Please tell Missio the name of your parish.

If you prefer to donate by **cheque**, please make payable to Missio and send to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU. Please include your name, address and parish.

Thank you to all our supporters.

MASS SHEET: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mass Sheet

+ 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th July 2020

FOR A TRIAL PERIOD AS FROM 4TH JULY, THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AS FOLLOWS:

SATURDAY church opens 4-7pm

4:00pm Adoration

5:20pm Rosary

6pm MASS

SUNDAY church opens 9:30am

10:00am MASS

11:00am church closes

5:30pm church opens

6pm MASS

WEEKDAYS (Monday-Friday)

5:00pm Adoration & Rosary

6pm MASS

I want to thank all those who have made the opening of the church possible, by volunteering as stewards - without them, opening for Mass would not be possible.

If you would like to volunteer as a steward, please do phone the Parish office (0207 405 0376) or email on lif@rcdow.org.uk.

JULY: MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to

a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.

I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen Excerpted from [*The Precious Blood of Christ*](#), Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

+ 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
5th July 2020

“FILL YOUR FAITHFUL WITH HOLY JOY”

WE PRAY in today’s Collect at Mass that God will fill us with holy joy – that we find joy in God our Saviour, especially as He comes to us in the gift of the Eucharist.

THIS WEEKEND, (in England) our churches re open for public worship – we can go to Mass again. “See now, your king comes humbly to you,” we hear in the First Reading, and this is fulfilled in the Mass. In the Gospel, Our Lord says “Come to me..... for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls”.

WE BEGIN AGAIN to gather for Holy Mass, the crown of which is to receive Him in Holy Communion. May these last few weeks of deprivation increase our hunger for the Bread of Life.

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER” at present includes social distancing in the church **AT ALL TIMES**. We can only seat 53 people at present because of social distancing. Holy Communion will be given at the end of Mass so as to minimise the circulation of people, and you then leave the church directly, following the designated signs.

The Masses will be short, as directed by our Bishops’ Conference, and no singing is permitted.

This is the “new normal” for the time being. It may seem daunting, but I am sure we shall all get used to it over time. The measures are all aimed at ensuring we can maximise our openness to all God wants to give and share with us in the Mass, and to minimise anything endangering keeping one another safe and well.

May God bless you all, and fill you with holy joy.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

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5:20pm Rosary

6pm MASS

SUNDAY church opens 9:30am

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11:00am church closes

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6pm MASS

WEEKDAYS (Monday-Friday)

5:00pm Adoration & Rosary

6pm MASS

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If you would like to volunteer as a steward, please do phone the Parish office (0207 405 0376) or email on lif@rcdow.org.uk.

JULY IS DEDICATED TO THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the

gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

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Excerpted from [*The Precious Blood of Christ*](#), Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

LITANY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, hear us. Jesus, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, Save us.

Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God, Save us.

Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament, Save us.

Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony, Save us.

Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging, Save us.

Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns, Save us.

Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross, Save us.

Blood of Christ, price of our salvation, Save us.

Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness. Save us.

Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls, Save us.

Blood of Christ, stream of mercy, Save us.

Blood of Christ, victor over demons, Save us.

Blood of Christ, courage of Martyrs, Save us.

Blood of Christ, strength of Confessors, Save us.

Blood of Christ, bringing forth Virgins, Save us.

Blood of Christ, help of those in peril, Save us.

Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened, Save us.

Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow, Save us.

Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent, Save us.

Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying, Save us.

Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts, Save us.

Blood of Christ, pledge of eternal life, Save us.

Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory, Save us.

Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor, Save us.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world. Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us, O Lord.

You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your Blood. And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

Let us pray, - Almighty and eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world, and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of the present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ SAINTS PETER AND ST PAUL

28th June 2020

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER and PAUL

The Church founded by Christ has Ss Peter and Paul as its principal pillars. **PETER** was chosen by Christ to be His first Vicar on earth, endowed with powers of the keys of the

Kingdom of Heaven (Mt 16:13-19) and charged with the role of Shepherd of Christ's flock (Jn 21:15-17). In Peter and his successors, the visible sign of unity and communion in faith and charity has been given. Divine grace led Peter to profess Christ's divinity. St Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67. He was buried at the hill of the Vatican, where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St Peter's.

PAUL was chosen to form part of the apostolic college by Christ himself on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16). An instrument selected to bring Christ's name to all the peoples

(Acts 9:15), he is the greatest missionary of all time, the advocate of pagans, the Apostle of the Gentiles. St Paul was beheaded in the Tre Fontane along the Via Ostiense and buried nearby, on the spot where the basilica bearing his name now stands.

From the "Daily Roman Missal" (Scepter 1981)

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCHES.

A video message from Cardinal Vincent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLsyL5yggVI&feature=youtu.be>

Here at St Anselm and St Cecæila's our church has been open again since 18th June, but only from 1pm-3pm, and for personal prayer only.

As from **4th July**, our churches can be open for Mass.

We can rejoice that this is now possible. There are strict regulations surrounding it (e.g. social distancing, sanitising etc.) and it is not too clear how it will work out.

I propose we have 3 Sunday Masses 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass, Sunday 10am & 6pm

No singing is permitted, and for greater safety and protection the masses will be short.

FOR A TRIAL PERIOD AS FROM 4TH JULY, THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AS FOLLOWS:

SATURDAY church opens 4-7pm

4:00pm Adoration

5:20pm Rosary

6pm MASS

SUNDAY church opens 9:30am

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11:00am church closes

5:30pm church opens

6pm MASS

WEEKDAYS (Monday-Friday)

5:00pm Adoration & Rosary

6pm MASS

I want to thank all those who have made the opening of the church possible, by volunteering as

stewards - without them, opening would not be possible.

If you would like to volunteer as a steward, please do phone the Parish office (0207 405 0376).

We are in a fluid situation, and the above may be subject to change, but the basic principle is that the more volunteers we have, the more the church can be open.

In the meantime, let's pray for one another.

Keep well and safe, and keep close to the Lord.

Every Blessing, Fr David Barnes, Parish Priest

A MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to "*do this in memory of me.*" We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the

requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal.'

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

“As I have loved you,” said the Lord Jesus, *“so you must love each other.”* (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ

✠ Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

This letter is addressed to the Catholic Community in England; the opening of the Catholic Churches in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly who are still evaluating their position on opening Places of Worship.

SURVIVE, REBUILD AND HEAL: Coronavirus is a crisis that affects us all. Help families in poor communities survive. Give now to save lives. Donate at:

www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

+ 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
21st June 2020

DAY FOR LIFE 2020

THE PURPOSE of celebrating the annual **DAY FOR LIFE** is to keep raising awareness of the meaning and absolute value of every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death. In our present society, where abortion is widely practised and there is continual pressure to make euthanasia legal, it is literally vital that as Catholics we promote the absolute value of every human life, and that none of us has the right to take the life of another person – whether in the womb or in older age.

BLACK LIVES MATTER is an important contribution to examine again our attitudes to every human life, and, if found, to root out and repent of any racism present. As Catholics, we belong to a universal family of over 1.3 billion people, from “every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (St Paul). Through our common baptism, we are made not only sons and daughters of God, but also brothers and sisters of one another. Racism is a very serious sin, and if we find anything of it in ourselves, we should profoundly repent of it. The Catholic Church, and so our Catholic communities, should be models of harmony between people of all colours and backgrounds.

Let us continue to ensure that is the reality.

THE PRESENT PANDEMIC has severely disrupted our sense of community life. The livestreamed Mass have proved popular (<https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>) and now our church is open for 2 hours every day **1:00pm-3:00pm**.

This is only possible because of volunteers acting as stewards, which is an essential government requirement. If you are able to help as a volunteer, please do let me know. Meanwhile let us pray for one another, and be devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Keep safe and every blessing,

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

JUNE: MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

To be utterly devoted to the love of Jesus, and therefore to God our Father, that is our aim. This too is the reason for an ever greater devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

June, always dedicated to the Sacred Heart, is our opportunity to grow in our love for the Sacred Heart.

SURVIVE, REBUILD AND HEAL: Coronavirus is a crisis that affects us all. Help families in poor communities survive. Give now to save lives. Donate at:

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+THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
14th June 2020

CORPUS CHRISTI

Our Lord Jesus is present as Perfect God and Perfect Man, body, soul and divinity in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. This is the wonderful fact we celebrate in today's Feast. Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament leads us to see with the eyes of faith the mystery of God's Love made real and present for us.

This weekend should have been a wonderful celebration: on Saturday our children were to receive their First Holy Communion, and on Sunday itself we would have had our annual Corpus Christi Procession. Like so much else, Corona virus has changed all that. It is still not possible to say when the First Holy Communion Mass can take place, nor when our Comfirmandee can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Meanwhile, please pray for our young people preparing for these Sacraments.

Our churches can open "for private prayer only" from this Monday (15th June). The stringent conditions to be met means that our parish, like many others, need a bit more time to get ready. Two or three people need to act as "STEWARDS", and it is finding VOLUNTEERS to do this.

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

Initially we shall be open only for about 2 hours a day during the week: we are thinking of 9:30-11:30 am, but that is fluid.

If you would like to know more about volunteering, please do contact us on 0207 405 0376.

ALL OUR MASSES are livestreamed, so do join us on: <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>

Keep safe and every blessing,

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

+THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
7th June 2020

GOD has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — three persons, but one God. We could never know this by use of reason: we know it because Our Lord Jesus has revealed it.

GOD's love is made known to us as a dynamic interaction of loving between the Three Persons of the Trinity. God is literally "loving" — the dynamic relationship of loving between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

GOD's love for us is made known in the Incarnation — the enfleshment of God — when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." That love is revealed through the mystery of the

Cross. God's love for us is confirmed in every Mass through receiving Holy Communion. As Pope Francis tells us: "Christ has shown us the face of God, one in substance and triune of Persons. God is all and only Love, in a subsisting relationship that creates, redeems and sanctifies all: Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

God's love for us is made known in the fact that God wants to be known by us — to live in relationship with us. We can do so with confidence because in our baptism God made us His adopted sons and daughters with the great privilege of relating to God as a most beloved son or daughter. We always have access to God on this personal level. So relate to God everyday, ever faithful.

"Pray, pray, pray!" as Our Lady always says, and then you will learn the art of loving.

JUNE: MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

To be utterly devoted to the love of Jesus, and therefore to God our Father, that is our aim. This too is the reason for an ever greater devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

June, always dedicated to the Sacred Heart, is our opportunity to grow in our love for the Sacred Heart. Each year we have a NOVENA, compiled by the Irish Jesuits, and we shall follow this again as usual after the 6:00pm Mass. You can download the NOVENA (for free!) by going to:

<https://www.messenger.ie/the-sacred-heart-messenger/sacred-heart-novena-2020/>

All our Masses are "livestreamed" – simply go to:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>

You will see that our beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart has been moved temporarily to near the lectern – this is to facilitate our devotion during June.

The NOVENA runs from Thursday 11th – Friday 19th June.

OUR PARISH CHURCH still cannot open our doors to you, BUT as from last Wednesday the main wooden doors will be open although the glass doors will be locked. This does mean that you can look into the church, see the tabernacle, altar, the Sacred Heart and Our Lady. The more your faith, the more you will see!

The wooden doors will be open:

Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays

9am – 12:00 noon 1pm – 4:45pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9am – 4:45pm

Sundays 1pm – 6pm

Fr. David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY MASS INTENTIONS 7th JUNE 2020

Saturday 6th June: 6:00pm Vigil Mass: Bill Ogilby RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 7th June: 12:00 noon Mass Pro Populo

Monday 8th June: 12:30pm Mass The Pais Family ints
6:00pm Mass Joseph Attard RIP

Tuesday 9th June: 6:00pm Mass Special Intention

Wednesday 10th June: 12:30pm Mass Special Intention
6:00pm Mass Joanne Bazen RIP

Thursday 11th June: 6:00pm Mass Fr Antony Conlon RIP

Friday 12th June: 12:30pm Mass Special Intention
6:00pm Mass Special Intention

Saturday 13th June: 6:00pm
Vigil Mass: Lina Gambon Birthday Thanksgiving

Mass Sheet: Pentecost Sunday - 2020

+PENTECOST SUNDAY
31st May 2020

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE HOLY SPIRIT transformed the first followers of Jesus. From being uncertain, timid and afraid, the Holy Spirit transformed them so they became filled with faith, hope and love, and wanted to communicate to everyone the wonderful things God has done for us, most especially the Resurrection of the Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT, already given us in our Baptism and Confirmation, can continue to transform us, if we really want to be so transformed. But without the desire and longing in our heart to be transformed it will not happen: too often we can let fear of change rule our heart.

POPE FRANCIS says: *“Let’s ask ourselves: are we open to the Holy Spirit, do I pray to the Holy Spirit to enlighten me, to make me more sensitive to the things of God? And this is a prayer we need to pray every day, every day: Holy Spirit may my heart be open to the word of God, may my heart be open to good, may my heart be open to the beauty of God, every day”*.

PENTECOST SUNDAY is often known as the Birthday of the Church. Today is a joyful celebration of our belonging to that community of faith that believes in the Risen Lord, and that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know, love and communicate the marvels of God.

POPE FRANCIS gives us an important warning: *“Let us never give in to pessimism, to that bitterness that the Devil offers us every day. Do not give in to pessimism and discouragement. We have the firm certainty that the Holy Spirit gives the Church with His mighty breath, the courage to persevere and seek new methods of evangelisation, to bring the Gospel to the ends*

of the earth”.

Wishing you all a joy-filled celebration,

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

The Cardinal’s video message for Pentecost is available at: <https://vimeo.com/421046273>

As we continue our journey towards Pentecost, Fr Pat Browne and Patrick Van Der Vost have prepared a video meditation on the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, using Christian art and music. The video was prepared to help us as we spend time in prayer on the Vigil of Pentecost, as the Cardinal has encouraged us to do. It can be found at: <https://christian.art/videos.php>

Mass Sheet: 7th Sunday of Easter-2020

**+SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
24th May 2020**

PENTECOST

NEXT SUNDAY (31st May) we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after the Resurrection. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, “the Lord and Giver of Life”.

POPE FRANCIS, at this time last year, said: “Without the Spirit, our Christian life unravels, lacking the love that brings everything together. Without the Spirit, Jesus remains a personage from the past: with the Spirit, He is a person alive in our own time. Without the Spirit, Scripture is a dead letter: with the Spirit it is a word of life..... A Christianity without the Spirit is joyless moralism: with the Spirit, it is life”.

How very important it is then that we prepare as well as we can for the coming of the Holy Spirit!

Pray each day that we will open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit, and long that we be a person filled with the Holy Spirit. Our Lady is such a person: may she always be an inspiration to us, and let her help us by embracing her daily as our Mother, and invoking Her prayers.

CARDINAL VINCENT is asking that on Saturday 30th May “across the Diocese priests and people participate, from their homes, in a short vigil of prayer”. In our parish, this will be the Holy Hour before the Vigil Mass, 5pm to 6pm. Please do join us for at least some of that

(<https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields> <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>)

YOU ARE ALL in my thoughts and prayers each day. Please pray too for me. In these difficult days, please do let me know of any family or person in real need. We have some means to help those who are struggling to keep things together. And as a parish we have almost no income at present, so if you are able to donate online, that would be a real help. God bless you all.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

CARDINAL VINCENT NICOLS Pastoral Message:

The Cardinal has recorded a video of a pastoral message in preparation for Pentecost. In it, he reflects on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, particularly in the context of the circumstances in which we are living at the moment.

The video is available online at <https://vimeo.com/421046273>

Mass Sheet: 6th Sunday of Easter-2020

**+SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
17th May 2020**

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

"...HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN..." (Creed)

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S ASCENSION on Thursday gives us much to ponder and treasure in our heart.

- He has completed everything the Father had given Him to do, crowned by the Paschal Mystery, and now He is returning to the Father. His joy is complete, and He invites us to share His joy.

Our true joy is to share His joy!

- He goes to prepare a place for us. Heaven is where we truly belong, to be with God for all eternity. Our Lord has prepared a place for us. He is calling us "so that where I am, you may be too".

Do I live with heaven as my goal and true homeland?

- We are never alone: in his Ascension He promises that He will be with us always, "Yes, to the end of time".

He is always present to us: are we always wanting to make ourselves present to Him?

- My Mission and purpose in this world is to share in the Mission Jesus gave the infant Church at His Ascension: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News..."

Our Lord shares His life fully with us through the Church: do we seek to bring others to share His life through the Church?

"Gladden us with holy joys, Almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son in our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope" (today's Collect).

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

ASCENSION DAY MASS TIMES:

Wednesday 20th May 6pm Vigil Mass

Thursday 21st May 6pm Ascension Mass

Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Wednesday 20th May, the Vigil of The Ascension. See poster: [Sackcloth and Ashes 20th May 2020](#)

Mass sheet: 5th Sunday of Easter-2020

+FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10th May 2020

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY

The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima is this Wednesday 13th May. In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children – Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto – Fatima (Portugal) on the 13th day of 6 consecutive months.

God wants us to know how wonderful it is to be fully human and destined for the life of heaven and we therefore need conversion: to give up our sinful ways, and to do penance for our sins. So Fatima calls us to a deeper conversion.

OUR LADY identified herself as “The Lady of the Rosary”, and she asks for the Rosary to be said each day, especially as a means of peace for the world, and peace in our hearts.

DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY: “Jesus wishes to establish throughout the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. The more we are identified with and devoted to the purity and burning love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the more we shall grow in holiness.

Let this May be a time when we deepen our desire for conversion to God through love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Is there any real reason why we cannot say the Rosary every day?

POPE FRANCIS, spoke movingly on May 7th about going “virtually” to Our Lady’s Shrine in Argentina: **“I will look at her once more, and once more I will let her look at me with that motherly gaze that renews you, takes care of you, gives you strength”**

YOU, dear people of this little parish of St Anselm and Cecilia, are daily in my thoughts and prayers. Especially during Mass. Every night I commend all of you and our parish to the loving care of Our Lady. You know I am here for you, so do contact me if you want to. If you know anyone in particular need, do please let me know and, as a parish, we will try to help. This pandemic has changed us all, so let’s pray that it will be for the better! Let Our Lady look at you with that motherly gaze that renews you, takes care of you, gives you strength.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

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 well-being.’ 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*

Mass sheet 4th Sunday of Easter- 2020

+FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION 3rd May 2020

TODAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

‘Good Shepherd Sunday is the day when we pray for our seminarians and encourage other men to consider the call to the priesthood. The seminaries, Allen Hall, the Venerable English College and the Beda College in Rome, where future Westminster priests are in formation, are physically closed. Nevertheless, prayer continues in the life of seminarians and staff, and they are able to participate in streamed liturgies. All have on-line lectures, regular conversations with formation staff and spiritual direction. Our seminarians are praying for an end to the pandemic, for the priests serving in the parishes and hospitals, the heroic healthcare staff and care workers, and all who are suffering from this virus. While the present reality lacks the community dimension of formation and the important common liturgical life, their studies and preparation for priesthood continue.

Due to the pandemic, as we are unable to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass, this year there will not be a collection for the Priests’ Training Fund.

Please pray for the seminarians and those discerning God’s call at this time. May they model through their actions and words the example of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who came to serve and not to be served.

Donations to the Priests' Training Fund are always gratefully received. If you wish to make a donation, please visit the donation page.

Please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donate/priests-training-fund/>

Please also see [Seminary News 2020](#)

VIRGIN MONEY GIVING

We have now set up a parish Virgin Money Giving account. This enables you to donate to the Parish during the current pandemic. To support the Parish while the church remains closed. You can help keep the church going, request a Mass Intention or donate to the weekly collection. You can do this by visiting the Virgin Money Red Button at the top of this page or on our churchservices.tv webpage: <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinfields>

If requesting to book Mass Intention, please follow this by emailing us at the Parish email the date/time and intention details and we can confirm this has been booked.

Parish email: lif@rcdow.org.uk

Thank you in advance for supporting the parish during this difficult time.

Stay safe & well.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS FOR MAY PRODUCED BY FR JAVIER RUIZ-ORTIZ,
FOR 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' YEAR OF THE WORD

Jn 10:1-10

MEDITATE: Jesus promises life and life to the full. There are two words for life in Greek: bios (natural life) and zoe (spiritual life). Jesus promises fullness of zoe. In speaking of this kind of life he requires his sheep to listen to him and not to trust the voice of strangers. In our lives we are bombarded by so many different voices. As aspects of our bios have been curtailed recently, we can focus on the promise of Jesus of fullness of life in him.

ACT: Fullness of life is found in listening to Jesus amidst our distractions. We have so many of those, we follow so many different voices that it would be important to make some silence in our external life so that we may hear what God might be saying to our heart as we read Scripture or pray silently.

+THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

26th April 2020

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

TODAY'S GOSPEL (Luke 24:13-35) has two disciples of Our Lord Jesus walking on their way to Emmaus. They come to recognise who He is in two particular way:

- - through understanding the Sacred Scriptures better ("did not our hearts burn within us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?")
- - through "the breaking of the bread" (the Mass/Eucharist) they recognised Him ("they had recognised Him at the breaking of the bread")

OUR WALK THROUGH LIFE should have always these two dimensions: love of the Word of God, the Sacred Scriptures, and love of the Eucharist and the gift of the Lord Himself

in Holy Communion.

MASS is livestreamed each day from Ss Anselm and Caecilia's. Go to www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinfields

THE MASS is the greatest thing this side of heaven – do as always participate in it at least on Sundays, and as often as possible during the week. (see Mass times below).

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY begins this Friday. Put some flowers near to your statue or picture of Our Lady at home. Gather there each day to recite the Angelus, and to say the Rosary. God honoured Mary, and so should we. May we let the spirit of Mary, the spirit of **“YES – TO – GOD”**, flourish in our day-to-day living.

DAILY PRAYER can be helped by **“Click to Pray”**, the Pope's App, which you can download for free: www.clicktopray.org, on the App store or Google play.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

With every Easter Blessing,

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

Second Reading: 1st letter of St Peter 1: 17-21

Gospel according to St Luke 24: 13-35

[Mass Sheet 3rd Sunday of Easter 2020-pdf](#)

Every Thursday evening, at 7pm, a bishop, in turn, will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, live streamed, for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families.

The dates, locations and live-streaming information (link in the name of the cathedral) for the next five Masses have also been announced. They are as follows:

7 May: Bishop Marcus Stock, [Leeds Cathedral](#)

14 May: Bishop Robert Byrne CO, [Newcastle Cathedral](#)

21 May: Bishop Mark Davies, [Shrewsbury Cathedral](#)

28 May: Bishop Terence Draine, [Middlesbrough Cathedral](#)

Recently-deceased priests:

Mgr Fred Miles, died on 06.04.2020.

Fr John Helm, died on 07.04.2020.

Mgr John Coghlan, died on 11.04.2020.

Fr John Seabrook, died on 14.04.2020.

May they rest in peace.

+SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION
19th April 2020

From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A— Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B— Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C— Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

<https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/backgr.htm>

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS, this Sunday 2.30-3.30pm online, please visit:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>

**+EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION
12th April 2020**

THE LORD IS RISEN, Alleluia

HE IS RISEN IN DEED Alleluia

This ancient Christian greeting, said on meeting one another during Eastertide, should surely be recovered and used again – encouraging us to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord.

THE RESURRECTION is a supernatural event, a clear break with the natural order, Jesus is raised from the dead through the power of God, and in sharing this victory we are “*saved*”. To reduce our understanding of life to the natural order alone is to miss out on the full reality of human existence: life is so much more wonderful, beautiful and exciting when we can see everything in the light of the Risen Lord!

WE ARE WITNESSES to our Risen Lord because we choose to believe and trust the

witnesses who saw Him, believing the accounts of the Risen Lord in the Sacred Scriptures, and also believing the Church who has faithfully handed on the message to us.

TRUST and **FAITH** is at the heart of our believing. The present pandemic, with a virus that can be so destructive of human life, reminds us of our fragility and vulnerability. Just as sin is destructive of our power to love, made in the image of God, so there is a destructive power at work in the natural order. The virus is surely part the armoury of the Evil One. We must fight it with all the resources we have, in the sure faith that it will be vanquished.

Wishing you all a Blessed and joy-filled Easter.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

+PALM SUNDAY and HOLY WEEK 5th April 2020

The streets are empty, and a great stillness cover our land. Fear and anxiety are palpable. Faced with the present pandemic, we are much more aware of how vulnerable we all are, and how fragile our life really is.

This can help us look again at the values and understandings that shape our daily life. Where is our security to be found?

HOLY WEEK is the most wonderful time to follow our Lord through His suffering and death, leading to His Resurrection. The closer we try to live in His shoes, the more our own sufferings will be seen to have purpose and meaning. His life interprets our life.

THIS HOLY WEEK will be the most extraordinary Holy Week any of us has lived through. Keep asking our Lord what He is teaching us.

Follow the Holy Week Liturgies as best you can. Our Liturgies are live streamed (<http://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields>) and you will also have access to many other Liturgies.

In Christian thinking every trial is an opportunity to open us to the Love of God.

Now the First Beatitude can be lived:

“How blessed are those who know their need for God”

It is a time to hear often how Our Lord says to us “Do not be afraid.....I am with you”.

You are much in my thoughts and prayers. If you know anyone in the Parish is in great need, through sickness or financially please do let me know.

Let us pray for one another, that these days may enable us to know better the things that really matter.

God Bless,

Fr David

+++++

**+5th SUNDAY IN LENT
29th March 2020**

Today's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus, gives us a foretaste of how He wills to raise us up, unbind us and let us be free from sin and death. We are designed for eternal life with Him forever, to come to see God face-to-face. It is in light of this that we enter Passiontide joyfully and with great confidence, wanting to share His wondrous love. Our Lady accompanies us just as she accompanied Her Son and shared His Passion.

“O God, who in this season give your Church the grace to imitate devoutly the Blessed Virgin Mary contemplating the Passion of Christ, grant, we pray, through her intercession, that we cling more firmly each day to Your only begotten Son and come at last to the fullness of grace. Through Christ Our Lord.”

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Fr David Barnes PP

THE SYCAMORE FILMS ARE NOW ON OPEN ACCESS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS: In an effort to support parishes and Catholic communities in every way possible, Sycamore films have made all of their films OPEN ACCESS so that they can be viewed online at home by anyone who wishes, without a subscription or log-in. You can access the Film Pages here: <https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/>

**+4th SUNDAY IN LENT
22nd March 2020**

CORONA VIRUS COVID-19 Stage 3:

The church is to remain closed until further notice. Mass and Liturgy in public are suspended as are all parish gatherings.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW for a timetable of Mass times (no congregation).

[COVID-19: MASS, ADORATION & ROSARY TIMES from 23rd March 2020](#)

Mass and other liturgies in our church are available via online streaming.

You can find us each day on: www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

You need no words from me to state the grave seriousness of the crisis of the spread of the coronavirus around the world and throughout this country. We know the steps and the sacrifices we must take in order to play our part in slowing its spread, saving lives and enabling the NHS to continue its vital work. These things are our duty before God.

There are other vitally important aspects of this moment in our history that are less prominent in

our media and conversations.

At this moment we stand before God. That is never to be forgotten. Together we turn to God in prayer, at this moment as never before.

Our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the bedrock on which we live. Prayer is the first and loving expression of this relationship. Prayer is an acknowledgement that we are not in ultimate control of our lives or of our world. That is so clear at this time. Prayer is the recognition that our lives, individually and communally, are marked by failure and sin. Prayer is an expression of our turning to God for that grace which alone can heal us, strengthen us and give us the resolve and generosity to do all that is rightly expected of us today. Please make this a time of prayer, personally, in the family and wherever you happen to be.

The highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Holy Mass. This is at the heart of the rhythm of the life of the Church, the rhythm of prayer which sustains us all. The present crisis will not disturb that rhythm. Mass will continue to be celebrated, day by day. The prayer of the Church will continue day by day.

What will change is the manner of our participation in those celebrations of the Mass. In response to the pandemic and the official guidance, which we must follow, public participation in the celebration of the Mass is not, for now, possible. This is a sacrifice we have to make. It is not easy, for any Catholic, but it is what we must do.

I want to make it exceptionally clear that the teaching of the Church is that, in these circumstances, the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days no longer applies. Please have no doubt about this.

This does not mean that we lose our love of the Mass or our desire to take part in the celebration of the Mass. Mass will be celebrated, day by day, in your church. There are many ways of taking part in this prayer. Associate yourself with the celebration of the Mass spiritually. Read the Scriptures of the day. Use some of the materials that are available to be close in your heart. Learn again the practice of spiritual communion. If you are helped by a visual participation in the Mass, then go to one of the websites on which that celebration is being streamed. [The list of those websites](#) is available to you. There are many ways in which we can deepen our participation in the Mass and our life of prayer in these strange and stressful days. Indeed, they are an opportunity for us to do so.

Two other points.

Being unable to attend Mass is the experience of many, many Catholics around the world. They are deprived of the Mass through distance, or through violence, or through persecution. We can unite our experience with them and, like them, return to the Mass with fresh love and enthusiasm when, again, it is possible for us to do so, in bigger numbers than ever.

Secondly, you understand well that from our prayer, and from the prayer of the Mass, flows the love and compassion which we want to show to those around us who are in need. Jesus gives himself entirely for us in his sacrifice, the sacrifice made present again for us in every Holy Mass. What we receive from him we offer to others. So please do look out for every way in which you can help those in need around you. Thank you.

We know that this time of crisis is not going to be brief. We are involved in a lengthy battle. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. Together we turn to Mary for her special

protection, especially on 29th March when again, in keeping with our ancient tradition, we offer ourselves and our country to her, as our gift, and seeking her protection.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us
Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us
Mary, Mother of Joys, pray for us.
Amen.

Yours devotedly,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

PS, I was given this prayer a few days ago. It touched me deeply. It is a prayer for our times.

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become his dwelling place. Plead with him, that through his sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

We are still surrounded by the angels and by the saints who are glorifying God and protecting and assisting mankind. Why should we not make them our particular friends and allies in situations where we are touching limits that we cannot overcome?



NO ONE IS ALONE

Prayer when confined to your home

This time of the covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity for all of us -especially in families and as Church -to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness.

It is also a time when those of us who are sick, or whose lives are turned upside down because of being [self-isolated](#), may find it difficult to pray in their new circumstances.

The experience of isolation, to some, may seem to offer the unexpected opportunity of a retreat at home, undistracted by other responsibilities. However, distractions are rarely so compliant! And the circumstances that have led to this time apart can turn out to be profoundly unsettling.

It can be easy to feel discouraged and to give up on prayer, at the very time when there is deepest need to know and feel the love and mercy of God and to entrust our worries and concerns to him.

Do not be afraid to bring any feelings of weakness and vulnerability to the Lord in prayer. But also do not be surprised if you find it difficult to pray at all.

Be gentle with yourself, and try to do what you can, and see where that might lead you.

A few simple suggestions:

- You might use the following prayer

General Prayer for Health

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

- Read and reflect on a passage of scripture, even a single verse...

Some suggestions

- O Lord, come to my rescue, *Ps 39:14*
Lord, come to my aid.
- Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; *Jer 17:14*
save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.
- Lord, save me. *Matt 14: 30*
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Rev 22:20*
- Simply hold a cross or crucifix and ask to know the closeness of Jesus to you, to know his sharing in your pain, for love of you. You might use any cross, but especially popular are the olive wood hand crosses made in Palestine. We offer our sickness and suffering in union with others, with Jesus, of course, but with all who suffer.
- Pray a decade of the Rosary - or just hold the beads and remind yourself of God's love and care
- Quietly sing or hum a favourite hymn tune... Can't remember the words? Try 'google'.
- Make use of a picture that speaks to you of God's power, love, and care. You may have guidebooks to favourite shrines which can focus prayer - and again, of course, 'google' offers many images...

Got the desire and energy for something more?

- It has long been the Church's encouragement that those unable to attend Mass on Sundays should, if they can, spend time in prayer reading the readings and prayers of the Day. These texts can be found in a People's Missal, or in the *Universalis* app2 <http://universalis.com/> You might like to offer your prayer at the same time as Mass is usually offered in your parish.
- The *Universalis* app also makes available the texts of the Church's Divine Office - her daily prayer. You might find Morning, Evening and Night Prayer the most helpful.

- Other forms of spiritual reading can be very supportive during a time of isolation. If you find you have nothing to hand ask friends and neighbours if they can recommend something. (To avoid import the virus it will be safer to avoid library books etc. Often ordering from the likes of Amazon will be the most convenient source.)
- You can find broadcasts of Mass - including the Pope's daily Mass - online or on subscription TV.

Feeling on the fringes of things?

In sickness, you have the benefit of knowing that you are being prayed for by the Church. You may also be in a position where you can pray to God for yourself and your needs.

In addition – even in illness – you may find you have the strength and energy, and the desire, to pray for others.

And when you can you are, of course, sharing in the mission of the Church, interceding for those in need, sharing your love, inspired by the Lord's love.

- If you are sick or in isolation you have a particular experience of this to bring to the Lord as you pray on behalf of others. Your prayer may be all the more informed and focussed, in consequence.

Spiritual Communion

There are times when people are unable to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, through illness or due to their personal disposition. Even though some may not receive 'sacramental' Communion, all are united in some way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional idea of 'spiritual' Communion is an important one to remember and reaffirm. A deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. (cf. Celebrating the Mass 212)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen. based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

Prayer for Health Staff

Wondrous God, author of life, you fashioned us in your likeness and breathed into us the life which is your own. Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body. Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift and sustain them daily in your service, that their hands may bring to others the comfort of your healing touch.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those affected by the current situation

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Household

Hear us, Lord, and send your angel from heaven to visit and protect, to comfort and defend all who live in this house. Amen.

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+3rd SUNDAY IN LENT 15th March 2020

COVID-19

To help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the following initiatives have been taken for our church:

- 1. HOLY WATER** has been removed.
 - 2. HAND GEL** (awaiting arrival) is being placed at the back of the church; please use it when entering/leaving the church.
 - 3. HOLY COMMUNION** is best received on the hand only.
 - 4. AT MASS** the handshake at the sign of peace should be replaced by nod of the head/smile/namaste.
 - 5. WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN:** this will be printed on an A4 sheet, with the hymns for the two Sung Sunday Masses printed on the back.
- PLEASE TAKE AWAY THE SHEET WITH YOU.** If you use the Liturgy sheet, please, also take that **AWAY** with you. These measures are to minimise cross-infection.

Hymn Books will not be used until we have the “all clear”

THE ALL – CLEAR will signal the return of Holy Water stoups, handshakes at sign of peace and the choice of Holy Communion direct on the tongue.

+2nd SUNDAY IN LENT 8th March 2020

THE TRANSFIGURATION

The Apostles spent three years accompanying Jesus in his public ministry while he was teaching and forming them. In the Transfiguration, Peter, James and John come to see more

clearly who He really is — they literally see Him “*in a new light*”. They come to see that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law (represented by Moses) and the Prophets (represented by Elijah). They also hear the voice of God the Father say “This is my Son, the beloved... listen to Him”.

His true identity is revealed to them: He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word of God made flesh. The voice of God our Father is heard “Listen to Him” And what about us? Are we listening to Him? Are we spending time alone with Him in prayer?

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

On 29th March this year, a truly wonderful event will take place that should excite us as close companions of our Blessed Lady. On that day, England will be re-dedicated as the Dowry of Mary.

The first dedication was made by King Richard 11 in Westminster Abbey in 1381 as he sought the protection of Our Lady in the face of great political turmoil. At this point, England received the title ‘**Mary’s Dowry**’; meaning that England was ‘set aside’ as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection.

On Sunday 29th March at 12noon, the Re-dedication will take place throughout the country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady, we are invited to give ourselves, as the people of this country, to Mary. We respond to this invitation on the day of Re-dedication in two ways: by making a personal promise and a communal entrustment.

Our personal promise brings us closer to Mary, the first disciple of Christ. In this we unite in her joy by following her openness to God’s call. Our communal entrustment unites us together as the people of our country in prayer, by renewing the vows of dedication made to Mary by our ancestors.

Fr Maximilian Mary OFM Conv. – *from The Crusader Magazine*

+1st SUNDAY IN LENT
29th February 2020

RESURRECTION GLORY

To realize the unrealizable, to bring this miracle within the immediate grasp and understanding of everyone is the genius of both John’s Gospel story here and of our artist. We can be sure from this painting and its supporting text - that the resurrection was, and is, real. To want to see Jesus again is not about doubt as Thomas has historically and inaccurately been accused of, but about relationship. Thomas doesn’t want to believe simply because the other disciples told him he should, he wants to have his own experience of relationship, and he can only do that by seeing Jesus for himself’.

MARY POWER RIP: Please pray for the repose of Mary’s soul, and for her family in their grief. Mary’s Funeral Mass will be held here, Wednesday 4th March at 12:30pm. May she rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT 2020:
WEDNESDAYS 1:00pm & FRIDAYS 6:30pm

+7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
22nd February 2020

LENT 2020 begins this Wednesday. It is a joyful season because we are choosing again to come back to the Lord with all our heart.

ASH WEDNESDAY reminds us of our mortality: “remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return”, so how are we using the relatively short life we have? Our aim is to move away from our self-centredness and self-indulgence toward the love of Christ and his way — that of love expressed in service and sacrifice.

PRAYER, FASTING and **ALMSGIVING** are the means we take on with renewed vigour.

PRAYER the raising up of mind and heart to God each day will keep us focused on our aim. — a deeper conversation to God and neighbour.

FASTING gives us greater control over bodily appetites, helps us live in greater solidarity with the hungry, and helps us grow in our capacity to hunger for the Bread of Life.

ALMSGIVING moves us to share what we have with others, especially those in greater need.

“**DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU**” said Our Lady to the servants about her Son at the first miracle in Cana: in doing what Jesus said, the water was transformed into wine! When we pray, fast and give alms out of love for the Lord we too are transformed. Have a good and joyful Lent!

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES:
8:00am, 9:30am (School Mass), 12:30pm, 1:15pm and 6:00pm

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

+6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
16th February 2020

“GO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS”

Our Lord commissioned the Apostles to spread the Gospel throughout the world, so **MISSION** is at the heart of the Gospel – making known the wonderful things that God has done to all peoples, at all times and in all places.

TODAY (Sunday) we welcome Fr Aidan Mc Crystal, a priest from the Society of African Missions, so it is appropriate for us to consider how we ourselves participate in the Mission of the Church. Here are 10 things Pope Francis wants us to know about Evangelisation

EVERYONE IS MEANT TO EVANGELIZE: Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.—
Evangelii Gaudium

WANT AUTHENTIC PERSONAL FULFILLMENT? EVANGELIZE: When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For “here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means”.—*Evangelii Gaudium*

EVANGELIZATION STARTS WITH OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS: The spread of the Gospel is not guaranteed either by the number of persons, or by the prestige of the institution, or by the quantity of available resources. What counts is to be permeated by the love of Christ, to let oneself be led by the Holy Spirit and to graft one’s own life onto the tree of life, which is the Lord’s Cross.—Homily, Mass with Seminarians and Novices, July 7, 2013

EVANGELIZERS LOVE PEOPLE: Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. An evangelizing community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic endurance. —*Evangelii Gaudium*

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE EVANGELIZED: Jesus teaches us that the Good News, which he brings, is not reserved to one part of humanity, it is to be communicated to everyone. —Angelus, January 26, 2014

+5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9th February 2020

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

OUR CHILDREN are among our greatest treasures, and as a parish family we must therefore ask ourselves “How is this lived in our parish?”

THE MASS is the heart of parish life: it is our means of union with God through communion with Christ. The Mass is God—with— us. That is why Mass, at least on Sundays, is such an essential. To rob ourselves or our children of Sunday Mass is to rob ourselves of our greatest good .

THE CHILDREN’S LITURGY is a good way of making the Word of God more accessible to our children. We have an excellent history of Children’s Liturgy in this parish, until Sr Lucina sadly left us just over a year ago. Now we are beginning again. This Sunday we shall have a Children’s Liturgy at the 10:00am Mass, led by Julia Leeson and Helena Game. If you would like to help with the Children’s Liturgy, please have a word with Julia or Helena, or with me.

WE ALL have a responsibility to treasure and support our children — first by our prayers, by supporting our altar servers and children’s choir (the Schola Caeciliana), and the children’s day trips and theatre visits. I am especially grateful to our school, St Joseph’s Macklin Street, for all they do in forming our children in the Catholic Faith. Frequent prayers for our school too please. My sincere thanks also to Mr Brian Stalker who is preparing our children for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Do please let me know of other ways we can develop our love and care of our children.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*



The God who Speaks – Sunday meditations

MEDITATE: Salt is necessary for living because it gives flavour and preserves. Through our faith our lives receive meaning and through baptism we are kept from corruption. Salt is therefore the perfect image of our faith. We are to keep this gift safe for our own good and that of the others.

ACT: St Paul invites us to season our conversations and speech with salt, that is, not to use harmful words. Watch your words and avoid things which destroy the other. Make comments which will build him or her up.

+THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2nd February 2020

CANDLEMAS

The Feast of the Presentation, often called Candlemas, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the temple, which occurred 40 days after his birth as prescribed by the Jewish law. According to Mosaic law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days. Also, she was to remain 33 days "in the blood of her purification."

Luke tells us, quoting Exodus:2,12, that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem because every firstborn child was to be dedicated to the Lord. They also went to sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons. This lowly offering showed that Mary and Joseph were likely poor. Once in the temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon, in the presence of Anna the prophetess. Simeon, upon seeing the Messiah, gave thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the

Nunc Dimittis:

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled:

My own eyes have seen the salvation,

which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Simeon told Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon thus foreshadowed the crucifixion and the sorrows of Mary at seeing the death of her Son.

The name Candlemas is derived from the activities associated with the feast. It came to be known as the *Candle Mass*. In the Western Church, a procession with lighted candles is the

distinctive rite.

Compiled by David Bennett

<http://www.churchyear.net/candlemasprayers.html>

**+3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
26th January 2020**

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD:
MAKING THE SCRIPTURES PART OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES**

Pope Francis is inviting Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and his Word.

That's why, as established by a papal decree - the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 26 this year, is to be observed as a special day devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God".

As Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization explained during a press conference on Friday, it is an initiative that the Pope has entrusted to the whole Church so that "the Christian community may concentrate on the great value that the Word of God occupies in its daily existence" (Aperuit illis 2).

AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW COMMITMENT AND UNDERSTANDING

Archbishop Fisichella said the occasion offers Christians an opportunity to renew their and understanding of "the inexhaustible richness that comes from God's constant dialogue with his people."

He said it foresees a host of creative initiatives "that will stimulate believers to be living instruments of transmission of the Word," and comes in the wake of the many different pastoral initiatives spurred by the 2008 Synod on the Word of God that aimed to increase and enhance the knowledge, diffusion, reflection and study of Sacred Scripture.

The Archbishop mentioned a series of projects and programmes that have been launched across the globe since that Synod, to learn to pray with the Bible and to make the Word accessible in different languages and formats.

He said that by establishing this Day, the Pope intended "to respond to the many requests that have come from the people of God, so that throughout the Church the Sunday of the Word of God may be celebrated in unity of purpose".

ECUMENICAL VALUE

He underlined the great ecumenical value that this Sunday possesses as it falls close to the Day of Dialogue between Jews and Catholics and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

As with other initiatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, Fisichella said this too has a characteristic logo that is immediately identifiable and may provide inspiration for a catechesis that helps to understand the meaning of the celebration of this Sunday. By Linda Bordoni

For more information visit:

<http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en/news/2020-01-18.htm>



OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.
R. This day and every day.

+2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
19th January 2020

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS — YEAR OF THE WORD 2020

POPE FRANCIS has declared this Church's year (1st Dec. 2019 — 29th Nov. 2020) to be a time when all of us get to know the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible, better. With a Bible in our hands, Pope Francis says, "You are holding something divine in your hands: a book that is like fire! A book through which God speaks".

Reading, or listening to, the Sacred Scriptures we should always be asking our Lord to enable us to hear what God is saying to us: "Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures". (Luke 24:45). We read the Bible in order to encounter God who speaks to us in a special way through the Scriptures.

Our Lady teaches us how to use the scriptures: "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Let us always imitate Her.

This year we are encouraged to read the Gospel of St Matthew (used at Sunday Mass this year). St Matthew helps us see that Our Lord is the expected Messiah, the Christ, who personifies wisdom and embodies goodness — He is God among us. We have copies of Matthew's Gospel available from the Repository or the Sacristy, £1.50 each. Pope Francis encourages us always to have a copy of one of the Gospels in our pocket or bag.

Do go to our Cathedral between 30th January — 1st February for the "Scripture Road Show". For more information see inside this bulletin, and go to godwhospeaks.uk, and also visit www.rcdow.org.uk/faith

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we maybe your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.



The God who Speaks – Sunday meditations

Meditate: John's mission was to point out Jesus as he walked around. Without him, some people will not have followed, listened or accepted Jesus in their lives. Today Jesus is still present among us, many a times unrecognised by us. How can you point him out to others? Who has presented Jesus to you?

Act: Pray in thanksgiving for the person who has been John the Baptist for you. Think also who could you lead to Christ, pointing out his presence in the events of his/her life.

+THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12th January 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY(Sunday) we celebrate Our Lord's baptism by his cousin John the Baptist.. Our Lord is revealed as divine, the Son of God. Our Lord commissions the apostles to go out into the whole world and baptise people everywhere in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

To be baptised means to be immersed into the life of the Blessed Trinity, so as to share God's life. In baptism God places us in His Son and we become a son or daughter of God: when God looks on us He sees us as His son or daughter because we are *in* His Son. This is all pure gift, a grace of God. We could not do this ourselves: God does it for us.

Baptism of infants began from the earliest times where the parents were Christians. Please remember- our new born should be baptised *as soon as possible* after birth, within the first weeks. This is the teaching of the Church, for it is vital that this new life should not be deprived of the gifts God wants to give. The baptism should never be delayed for social reasons (e.g. waiting months to coincide with a visit from relations abroad, **needing** time to save money for a big reception etc.) These are not good reasons for delaying baptism. The newborn should receive the gifts God wants to give as soon as possible.

God wants to share His Life with us, and for us to share ours with Him. Baptism initiates this relationship. Today, thank God for the Sacrament of Baptism, and pray we shall all live our friendship with God more devotedly.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*



The God who Speaks – Sunday meditations

Meditate: At his baptism Jesus is revealed as the Son, the Beloved on whom God's favour rests. At the same time the Spirit is visible as a dove and the Father speaks. All of us have moments of light where God is close to us. We need to carry them within us so that when, we go through darkness, we do not give up.

Act: You could spend some time in prayer meditating the second mystery of light, thinking of those moments of light in your life which precede and support your mission and life.

+THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4th January 2020

THE EPIPHANY

TODAY we celebrate the Epiphany. In the coming of the Kings/the Magi, we see that all real power and wisdom are found in the person of Jesus — He is the *Power* and the *Wisdom* of God personified.

The Kings/Magi fall on their knees and worship Him: we too must imitate them, falling on our knees and worshipping Him — only then are we better disposed to recognise who He really is.

The Feast of the Epiphany was the day I was ordained priest — now 44 years ago! On my ordination prayer card I put a prayer written by a saint who has influenced me greatly throughout my adult life: St Ignatius Loyola (1491 — 1556)

I put the prayer here again, and encourage you to say it regularly. Pray for me too, please, as I do for you.

Dearest Jesus,
teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*