

## NEWSLETTER

SS Peter and  
Paul, ApostlesMASS INTENTIONSJune 27, 20206pm - Joseph Francis Silva  
(Anniv)June 28, 2020

11am— People of the Parish

For weekday mass intentions  
please, see the notice board on the  
left hand side of the main door of  
the church.*The church remains closed  
but masses continue to be  
offered behind the closed  
door.**Parish Office remains  
open.**Please, contact us in case  
of any problem caused by  
the lockdown. We got a  
team of healthy people  
ready to help.***Spiritual Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All  
my soul longs for thee.My heart yearns to  
receive thee inHoly Communion, come, O  
Lord.Bread of heaven and food of  
angels to nourish my soulheal my body and to rejoice  
my heartcome most lovable friend of  
my soul,to inflame me with such love  
that I may never again be ever  
separated from thee. Amen

*“So many people have memories marked by a lack of affection and bitter disappointments caused by those who should have given them love and instead orphaned their hearts. We would like to go back and change the past, but we cannot. God, however, can heal these wounds by placing within our memory a greater love: his own love. The Eucharist brings us the Father’s faithful love, which heals our sense of being orphans. It gives us Jesus’ love, which transformed a tomb from an end to a beginning, and in the same way can transform our lives. It fills our hearts with the consoling love of the Holy Spirit, who never leaves us alone and always heals our wounds.”*

Pope Francis

*“It’s true that Christian life is to obey the Commandments (Cf. Exodus 20:1-11); this must be done. Christian life is to follow the way of the Beatitudes (Cf. Matthew 5:1-13); this must be done. Christian life is to carry out works of mercy, as the Lord teaches us in the Gospel (Cf. Matthew 25:35-36), and this must be done. But, it’s more: it is this mutual abiding. Without Jesus, we can do nothing, as the branches without the vine. And He — may the Lord permit me to say it — seems unable to do anything without us, because the branch bears the fruit, not the tree, not the vine. In this community, in this intimacy of “fruitful abiding,” the Father and Jesus abide in me and I abide in Them.”*

Pope Francis

**OPENING OF CHURCHES**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am happy, as you must be that from 4th July, we can resume our public liturgies. It's good news that we are allowed to gather with members of our parish community to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments. We await for guidelines from the Bishop Conference as to how we proceed and will we be restricted to numbers at any one time. In this time, of our Eucharistic Fast, our hearts have yearned to receive Our Lord. Now our hearts are joyful in anticipation to gather once more to receive Our Lord with joy. Amen

1. With this in mind, we need to work out **how many could be allowed into the Church at any one time, on Saturday at 6 pm; Sunday 9 am; Sunday at 11 am.** Could I ask, for one or two Volunteers to come and we could discuss the numbers for each of the Masses? We need to do this before next weekend. If you are available please give your details to the Parish Office with the dates you are free to come in.

2. We would require Ushers at all Masses if you could volunteer to do this role please give your details to the Parish Office and the Mass you could help out.

3. We would need volunteers to clean the Church immediately after the 9 am Mass. If you could volunteer in this role to help, then please give your details to the Parish Office.

4. Mass books and hymn books would not be available as there will not be congregational singing. Instead, the choir will sing or alternatively Kriemhild would just play the keyboard.

5. Under the current situation, there wouldn't any Children's Liturgy at 9 am & 11 am.

6. If you take a Newsletter, Please do not return it back to the stand OR leave it lying around in the Church. Kindly take it with you home and dispose of it there. **Thank you, Fr. Christopher**

**Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Reading; Acts 12:1-11

Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 10 response v 17

2nd Reading - Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

Gospel – Mathew 16; 13-19

1st Reading; Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 response v 1

2nd Reading - Romans 8: 11-13

Gospel – Mathew 11; 25-30

### ***Taking Up once Cross***

It has been said, 'Don't fear the cross' and we say it to those who are seriously ill or going through some difficulty. The idea has been from the cross pours forth divine Blood which consoles us and radiates joys that are reserved for us in heaven. But to those who experience misfortune and crosses cannot see it bring them closer to God?

In this situation, while experiencing excruciating pain, we find it hard to accept such kind words, as charitable and kind they are, but it's useless and cold leaving an emptiness in the soul. Despite such experiences, we need to turn to God, he knows how to comfort our battered hearts, and in him would we find comfort for all our ills.

Often times in such situations prayer is difficult and our hearts wounded and it takes time for us to turn to God for his soothing blam that will assuage our pain which we have handed over to him which enables us to abandon ourselves entirely to our Lord; his suffering, tears have incredible power over that loving Heart, the Heart of our Lord will be with us, and be in no doubt, that one day he will repay us many times over for what we have suffered for him.

Be full of joy despite our trails and be assured of the fact, that a new opportunity to suffer is cash with which to buy some comfort and graces for our own soul, in our trials and struggles which will accompany us until death.

*Fr. Christopher*

### ***A Firm Affirmation***

'But you', he said, 'who do you say I am?' Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God'. Our parish is not a social structure; We are a community that shares the same faith as Peter and the Apostles; we proclaim one apostolic faith. The Church fathers compared Peter and Paul as the two pillars, that support the Church. The Church has celebrated their martyrdom on the same day 29th June each year. With their blood bore witness to Christ by their preaching. SS Peter & Paul testify with their experience that Our Lord never left them, not even when they both encountered harshest trials. The Lord was with Peter and He delivered him from the hands of his opponents in Jerusalem; He was with Paul in all his labours that communicated to him his grace, which made him so fearless a preacher of the Gospels for the benefit of the nations.

The witness of faith and the struggles which both Peter and Paul endured for the Gospel were considered in human terms, as ended in defeat. Even in this, they both followed our Lord's example. Humanly speaking our Lord's mission, who was condemned to death and crucified, was seen as a defeat. Peter and Paul had their eyes fixed on the Paschal Mystery, had no doubt what to the world seemed a defeat, was the beginning of the fulfillment of God's plan. It was the victory over evil won first by our Lord and then by his disciples through faith. The entire parish community relies upon the firm foundation of the apostolic faith and gives thanks to our Lord for the solid rock on which its life and mission are built.

Our Lord who gladdens us with the memory of Peter and Paul allow us to listen to their teaching with a docile heart, may we persevere with devotion, and transmit it with such fidelity, that the Gospel message would reach the ends of the earth. Amen

*Fr. Christopher*

### ***Cardinal's Statement,***

*I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister earlier today, that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England. I thank all who have worked hard to bring this about, not least my fellow religious leaders.*

*As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4 July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith.*

*It is important that we continue to abide by the guidance, given by the Government, on appropriate social distancing and the other measures to avoid all unnecessary risk. Our own detailed guidance will be distributed around dioceses and parishes so everyone can be confident that they may come to Mass securely and understand the part they are to play in protecting each other from any remaining risk of infection.*

*The past few months have been a time of fashioning new patterns of prayer, new ways of exploring and enriching our faith and vigorous ways of reaching out to those in need. We can build on these, forgetting nothing of the graces we have been given. Yet now, with the experience of opening our churches for individual prayer already gained, this return to the more normal patterns of worship will be of great importance to all Catholics.*

*This time of our 'Eucharistic fast' has made our hearts grow in longing for that moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is now very near and for that we thank God.*

## 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.*

***“The Lord knows that evil and sins do not define us; they are diseases, infections. And he comes to heal them with the Eucharist, which contains the antibodies to our negative memory. With Jesus, we can become immune to sadness. We will always remember our failures, troubles, problems at home and at work, our unrealized dreams. But their weight will not crush us because Jesus is present even more deeply, encouraging us with his love.”*** Pope Francis