

Please pray for: Marianne Elliott, Ken and Sheila Green, Melanie Kraan, Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkwa, Leila Cummings, Terril Park, George Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stephen Connellan, Stanley Cummings, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Michael Delaney, Maria Wales, Breda Connellan, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan,

for those who died recently: Leonard Cabral, Keith Murray, Alcinda Ramos, Maria Stella Bastiampillai, Margaret Mulhall, Fr Bryan Jones, Pat Galvin, **and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Livio Upali, Monica Galvin, Gerard O'Flynn, John Daly, Pearl Fernando, Madge Howard, Frank Reynolds, Hedy Tremayne, Bill Taylor, Alfred Lewis, baby Santa Cruz de Souza, Ellen Regan, Fr Pat Sammon (former Parish Priest), Samira Awad, James Flynn.



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - A

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3: 15-18

John 14: 15-21

17th May 2020

Parish Mass Book p.268

**BOOKING A MASS INTENTION
DURING THIS PERIOD**

Masses will continue to be said in private for the intentions that have been booked each day and we have received Mass Intentions for each Mass until the end of May. If you would like to book a Mass Intention for June onwards you can do so via email at perivale@rcdow.org.uk or by phone (020) 8997 3164. Please leave your contact details so that we can confirm which day has been booked. Payment can be made once we are able to re-open the church.

MASS INTENTIONS - COLLECTIVE INTENTION MASSES

As public Masses cannot be celebrated at this time, it is generally no longer appropriate for priests to celebrate Mass more than once a day, including on Sundays. This might mean that some Masses which were to be celebrated for a special intention will now not be celebrated. In these situations, and only whilst these very exceptional circumstances continue, it might be necessary for a Mass to be celebrated for more than one intention.

If you have arranged to have a Saturday or Sunday Mass celebrated for a specific intention and do not wish to have that intention included with other intentions in what is known as a Collective Intention Mass, please contact the parish office.

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	16	Gilhooley Family RIP
Sunday	17	John Duff RIP
		Kathleen O'Mahoney RIP
		Alcinda Ramos RIP
Monday	18	Mary Madden RIP
Tuesday	19	Pat Walsh RIP
Wednesday	20	NO MASS

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday	21	Alcinda Ramos RIP
Friday	22	Teresa Karmali RIP
Saturday	23	People of the Parish

7th SUNDAY of EASTER

Sunday	24	Stan Keeble RIP
		Simon Date RIP
		Charlotte and Family

In the Old Testament, to be an orphan was a tragedy; In a world in which there were not the legal protections and the social services that we enjoy today in our modern society, in those days to be an orphan, a widow or poor, was a terrible fate.

These people in particular: orphans, widows and the poor, had no one to protect them, no safety nets; they were rejected and abandoned and they would easily fall into slavery and live a life of misery, oppression and fear.

In Scripture, God shows a special love, a predilection for such people, for those who have no one to rely on, no one to trust. God himself stands as their protector and defender. We also hear God uttering through the prophets terrific curses against people who would dare to exploit or take advantage of them.

Today in our world there are many people who live like orphans even if they have parents. We may include ourselves in this category, when we experience in our lives the absence of God, the absence of a loving father, the absence of love. When we feel we cannot rely on anybody or we cannot trust in anyone.

I'm certain that the Covid-19 pandemic has made us feel somehow especially vulnerable at this time, perhaps oppressed and fearful, like orphans and like them, missing the spiritual nourishment that feeds our spirit.

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you" These words of Jesus in this Sunday's gospel resonate deep within us. The promise of an Advocate, of the Holy Spirit sent by the Father fills our lives with joy and hope.

If we feel like orphans, alone and oppressed, then, in the Holy Spirit, God becomes our Father and we become his children. If we find ourselves weak and vulnerable like a widow, then, Christ, in the Holy Spirit, will become our husband. If we are aware of our emptiness and our poverty, the Holy Spirit, will make us rich with his divine gifts.

We know we need the Holy Spirit, let us ask for it during this time, let us pray for it. The mission of Christ has not finished with his resurrection, he still has to complete his work by ascending to the Father to ask him for the Holy Spirit to be sent to us. The Lord is ascending in to heaven, but he has promised us "I will not leave you orphans".

Fr. Agustin

BISHOPS RESPONSE TO THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the government's release of the document 'Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy' on 11th May, the Bishops of England and Wales have made the following response:

'The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The government's document and statements fail to recognise this.

'The government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with "stakeholders" in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship.

'In dialogue with the government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer.

'The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship.'

As a parish team, we are following developments closely and are starting to plan for the time when we will be able to re-open. People's safety is of the utmost importance and when we are able to re-open we want everyone to come back full of joy at being able to step into God's house again, but to also come without fear. In the meantime, continue to make your own homes God's home and let's stay together united in prayer and in hope.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY - SUNDAY 24TH MAY

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren"

Next Sunday is World Communications Day and this year a new social media campaign has been launched inspired by the message from Pope Francis for this day. In this he invites us to share our stories, and particularly this year to share stories of how we are keeping our faith alive during the lockdown. His message highlights the importance of sharing meaningful memories, stories and experiences, so that they may live on and transform the present, hence the strap-line 'that you may tell your children and grandchildren'.

The full message is available here: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20200124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html

As part of the media campaign, for those who already use Twitter or Instagram, you are invited to share your stories of faith during lockdown by posting them online and using the hashtag **#FaithInLockdown**

For those not on social media or who don't use Twitter or Instagram, you can email your stories to us here, using the parish email address, and we'll share them in the newsletter or on the parish website. (Please indicate you are happy for us to share. We'll only use your first name). We'd love to hear your story. Maybe you've been following Mass from a church you used to go to many years ago and its brought back special memories or prompted you to get in touch with someone. Maybe in your reading you've come across a passage or a prayer that has really meant something to you. Perhaps the children have made something that has brought them closer to Jesus, which will now be treasured. Whatever it is, send us your stories or join the campaign and post online. (Please be mindful of online safety if you are going to post online. Be careful about what you share. Don't reveal sensitive personal information that can be used by someone else to identify you. Remember what goes online, stays online!)

WEEKLY DONATIONS

If you would like to continue to donate during this time there are several ways you can now do this. For those that do online banking, the quickest and easiest way to donate is to do a **one-off bank transfer payment or consider setting up a regular Standing Order.**

The parish account details are:

Account Name Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee St John Fisher Perivale

(Please note this has been updated from previous newsletters. Enter as much of the account name as your bank system will allow. It may only be the first few characters of the account name).

Account Number 01095846

Sort Code 40 - 05 - 20

If donating online, it is very important that we can identify you as the donor. In the payment reference please include your name e.g. Paul Smith and if you normally use weekly envelopes also include your envelope number in the reference, e.g. Paul Smith env 301

If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation. If you have not completed a Gift Aid Declaration Form for our parish before, the quickest and easiest way to Gift Aid is to send an email to giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following information:

- The parish name, your title, first name and surname, your address and postcode, the date of your donation or start date of Standing Order and the amount

Also include the following text in your message: **'Please Gift Aid my donations'**

The Diocese Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately on behalf of our parish, and email you a confirmation.

You can donate **by cheque**, made payable to 'St John Fisher RC Church' and send it to the parish office (our address is on the front page of this newsletter). If you normally donate using the weekly envelopes please write your envelope number on the back of the cheque or include the envelope with the cheque.

You can now also donate **by debit or credit card**. Please visit the 'Donate to our Parish' page on the parish website, which has an online form that will enable you to do this.

*Thank you to those parishioners who have been making donations by whatever means, your commitment to the parish is very much appreciated.
If you are unable to donate at this time please do not worry.
Simply set aside what you would normally donate and you can catch up when you return.*

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI

The **6th-24th May 2020** is **Laudato Si' Week** and marks the 5th Anniversary since the publication of the papal encyclical on 'The Care of Our Common Home' by Pope Francis. This encyclical encourages us to reflect on the values we share and together, create a more just and sustainable future. The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected" and during this week we are all invited to come together as one people across the world to prayer for our planet. How many of us have commented on how wonderful it has been over the last few weeks to see less traffic, how we have found better, more sustainable ways to carry out our work and live our lives. We have become more aware of nature and what is around us and are appreciating it more. For more information on Laudato Si week and online events taking place, please visit the website <https://laudatosiweek.org/>
Sunday 24th May is the actual date of the anniversary. Please join the Pope in saying the specially composed prayer together at 12noon that day, wherever you are. The prayer is available from the following website <https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com/laudato-si-week-2020/>