

ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Saturday 12th February at 2pm - Westminster Cathedral

The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th February in Westminster Cathedral. The decision has been taken that this year the Sacrament of the Sick will not be administered.

We are pleased to let you know that the Mass will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's livestream, which can be accessed at www.westminstercathedral.org.uk or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx0dFI8GV5D9DSZo46ox6Q>

If you wish to attend and require wheelchair access, please contact the parish office so that we can notify the cathedral in advance.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022
22nd - 29th July 2022

Plans for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 22nd to 29th July 2022 are well under way and it is important to know who intends to travel with Westminster Diocese and in what capacity. For this reason, an Expression of Interest Form is available for completion either in paper copy (from the parish office) or online via: <https://forms.rcdow.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage-2022-expression-of-interest/> on the Westminster Diocese Pilgrimages webpage.

Given the fraught difficulties that independent travel might unexpectedly incur, it is suggested, and by some, even recommended under the current climate, that all Westminster participants opt to travel together as one body of pilgrims to Lourdes, possibly with the same travel operator and, that every traveller possess the appropriate travel insurance product e.g. with Tangney Tours (01732 88 6666). This type of policy offers cover for the potential eventualities which may occur with travelling abroad, and more especially if a Covid-19 related medical incident or other were to occur.

For those who wish to travel to Lourdes with the diocese, the organisers of the Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes would very much appreciate it if you could kindly complete the Expression of Interest Form – either online or by paper copy – and return it as soon as you can.

Please remember to tick 'Yes' or 'No', and to read and sign the Privacy Statement before returning the form, and note, the completion of the Expression of Interest Form does not constitute a commitment to make a booking.

[NB: If you are a registered practising Doctor or Nurse please make this known on your form and also on your booking form should you choose to travel with the Diocese of Westminster on Pilgrimage.]

LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

Masses will be offered for the following intentions:

Saturday	5	Mass	6.30pm	Edelmira Barrera de Camacho RIP
Sunday	6	Masses	9.30am	Celia Vesey RIP (Anniv)
			11.30am	Jose Fernandes RIP (Anniv) Enrico Pennacchiotti RIP (Anniv)
Monday	7	Mass	10.00am	For Pope Francis, all Bishops, Priests and Nuns - that they are always kept safe
Tuesday	8	Mass	10.00am	Pam Warren RIP
Wednesday	9	No Masses		
Thursday	10	Mass	10.00am	People of the Parish
Friday	11	Mass	10.00am	-
Saturday	12	Mass	6.30pm	-
		6th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME		
Sunday	13	Masses	9.30am	Private Intention
			11.30am	Julian Hains RIP

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Saturdays 5.00pm- 6.00pm and Mondays 10.30 am - 11.00am
Confession Saturdays 5.15pm - 6.00pm



Please note we will not have Holy Hour/Confessions next Saturday 12th February as Fr Agustin will be away.

CANDLELIGHT

This week for
PAM WARREN RIP
*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen*

Please pray for: John McCarthy, Hannah Tran, Mary Dykes, Clare Ashton, Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkowa, Terril Park, George and Gabriel Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stanley Cummins, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Maria Wales, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan,
for those who have died recently: Rita, Talbutt, Ann Marie Coughlan, Michael Delaney, Julian Hains, Sandra Warner, Remo Losi, Timothy Mulcahy, Margaret Rattray, Blanca Crisanti, Elsa Robertson, Teresa Gannon, Carlos Pereira, Anne Wilson,
and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Teresa Warner, Eugene Garcia, Margaret Power, Michael McDonagh, Daniel Byrne, Thomas Martin, John McGovern, Catherine Woods, Giovanni Sozzi, William De Noronha, Michelle Morais, Kathleen Stocker, Nora O'Neill, Maria Felisa Wood, Jose Fernandes and Julia Caulfield



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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YouTube Channel: [St John Fisher RC Church Perivale - YouTube](#)

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

Isaiah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

6th February 2022

Parish Mass Book p.135

COVID-19 UPDATE

Following the Government's announcement that 'Plan B' measures would be lifted in full on 27th January, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales has issued updated guidance to all catholic churches.

The scientific consensus is that the virus is transitioning from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase, but there is still a risk associated with any gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and therefore we need to continue to be cautious. But being cautious needs to be balanced with the need to move forward safely towards a more normal lifestyle i.e. living safely with Covid and keeping infections to levels which minimise disruption to people's lives.

With this in mind, the following will apply to our church from this weekend:

- ◆ The main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol therefore parishioners may **continue to wear a face covering** over their nose and mouth whilst inside the church. It is not compulsory but we would encourage everyone to continue to do this.
- ◆ Parishioners may **continue to sanitise their hands** when entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ The **holy water stoups can now be used**. These are located by the main front doors. The water will be changed on a weekly basis.
- ◆ There is **no longer a need for formal social distancing** and so all the tape on the benches and on the floor have been removed. Everyone should continue to be sensitive to those around them when deciding where to sit.
- ◆ The **sign of peace may now be given in a form that parishioners are comfortable with** e.g. a handshake
- ◆ **Holy Communion will be distributed by both the priest and extraordinary Eucharistic Minister from the centre**, in front of the altar. Parishioners should approach in an orderly manner, row by row, starting from the ends nearest the central aisle.
- ◆ Both the priest and Eucharistic Ministers will continue to sanitise their hands before distributing communion.
- ◆ We will also continue to ventilate the church.

As per the Catholic Bishops statement "Whilst the reduction of restrictions brings about a more normal way of living, the Covid-19 virus is still in circulation, and this should continue to be in the mind of those coming to church. There is still a need for personal safety and taking responsibility for that safety.

The main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated; this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over. The vaccine programme in England and Wales has had a major impact in reducing death and serious illness from infection with Covid-19. **The Church in England and Wales supports the vaccination programme and encourages people to be vaccinated.**

Alongside the positive effects of covid vaccination, it should be stressed that anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church. This is good practice for any transmissible illness.

If you have any questions regarding the latest changes please speak to us.

Fr Agustin & Ana

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK
Friday 11th February

On Friday we will celebrate the World Day of the Sick. The Holy Father’s message for the day is below.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them. [1] We are grateful to the Lord for the progress made over the years in the particular Churches worldwide. Many advances have been made, yet there is still a long way to go in ensuring that all the sick, also those living in places and situations of great poverty and marginalization, receive the health care they need, as well as the pastoral care that can help them experience their sickness in union with the crucified and risen Christ. May the Thirtieth World Day of the Sick – whose closing celebration, due to the pandemic, will not take place as planned in Arequipa, Peru, but in Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican – help us grow in closeness and service to the sick and to their families.

1. Merciful like the Father

The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father’s love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God’s name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God’s very nature. It combines strength and tenderness. For this reason, we can say with wonder and gratitude that God’s mercy embraces both fatherhood and motherhood (cf. Is 49:15). God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; he unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus, the mercy of the Father

The supreme witness of the Father’s merciful love for the sick is his only-begotten Son. How often do the Gospels relate Jesus’ encounters with people suffering from various diseases! He “went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people” (Mt 4:23). We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that he made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. Lk 9:2). One twentieth-century philosopher suggests a reason for this: “Pain isolates in an absolute way, and absolute isolation gives rise to the need to appeal to the other, to call out to the other”. [2] When individuals experience frailty and suffering in their own flesh as a result of illness, their hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply, and questions about the meaning of what is happening in their lives become all the more urgent. How can we forget, in this regard, all those patients who, during this time of pandemic spent the last part of their earthly life in solitude, in an intensive care unit, assisted by generous healthcare workers, yet far from their loved ones and the most important people in their lives? This helps us to see how important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick. [3]

3. To touch the suffering flesh of Christ

Jesus’ invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer. Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission. Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails. Let us thank the Lord for the progress that medical science has made, especially in recent times; new technologies have made it possible to prepare therapies that are of great benefit to the sick; research continues to make a valuable contribution to eliminating old and new pathologies; rehabilitation medicine has greatly expanded its expertise and skills. None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties. [4] Patients are always more important than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can prescind from listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given. It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her pathology. For this reason, I would hope that the training provided to health workers might enable them to develop a capacity for listening and relating to others.

4. Centres of care as “houses of mercy”

The World Day of the Sick is also a good occasion to focus our attention on centres of care. Down the centuries, showing mercy to the sick led the Christian community to open innumerable “inns of the good Samaritan”, where love and care can be given to people with various kinds of sickness, especially those whose health needs are not being met due to poverty or social exclusion or to the difficulties associated with treating certain pathologies. In these situations, it is children, the elderly and those who are most frail who most often pay the price. Merciful like the Father, countless missionaries have combined the preaching of the Gospel with the construction of hospitals, dispensaries and care homes. These are precious means whereby Christian charity has taken visible shape and the love of Christ, witnessed by that of his disciples, has become more credible. I think especially of people in the poorest areas of our planet, where it is sometimes necessary to travel long distances to find treatment centres that, albeit with limited resources, offer what is available. We still have a long way to go; in some countries, access to adequate care remains a luxury. We see this, for example, in the scarcity of available vaccines against Covid-19 in poor countries; but even more in the lack of treatment for illnesses that require much simpler medicines.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions: they are a precious treasure to be protected and preserved; their presence has distinguished the history of the Church, showing her closeness to the sick and the poor, and to situations overlooked by others. [5] How many founders of religious families have listened to the cry of their brothers and sisters who lack access to care or are poorly cared for, and have given their utmost in their service! Today too, even in the most developed countries, their presence is a blessing, since in addition to caring for the body with all necessary expertise, they can always offer the gift of charity, which focuses on the sick themselves and their families. At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like “houses of mercy”, can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end.

5. Pastoral mercy: presence and proximity

In the past thirty years, pastoral health care has also seen its indispensable service increasingly recognized. If the worst discrimination suffered by the poor – including the sick, who are poor in health – is the lack of spiritual attention, we cannot fail to offer them God’s closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith. [6] In this regard, I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: “I was sick and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.
Francis

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 7th	First Holy Communion - Monday Groups	After school	St John Fisher School
	Baptism Course	7.30pm	Church
Tuesday 8th	Confirmation - Parents Meeting	7.00pm	Church
Thursday 10th	First Holy Communion - Parents Meeting	7.30pm	Church
Tuesday 15th	Funeral Mass - Ann Marie Coughlan	10.00am	Church

FR AGUSTIN - SURGERY HOUR

If you would like to see Fr Agustin in person, Father will be available on
Thursday 10th February from 11.00am -12.00pm

Please contact the parish office if you would like to book an appointment.

ANN MARIE COUGHLAN
Funeral Mass

The funeral service will take place on
Tuesday 15th February at 10.00am

This will be in place of the normal 10.00am weekday Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

GETTING MARRIED?

For those planning to get married this year, please note that the diocese requires at least six months notice to allow adequate preparation and time to gather all the documentation required. This is particularly relevant for couples who are planning to marry in a Catholic Church abroad. If you are planning a wedding, please speak to Fr. Agustin as soon as possible.

MARRIAGE COURSE 2022

There will be a Marriage Course here at St. John Fisher Church in March. The Joy-Filled Marriage programme will consist of just 4 sessions this year. Each session from 7.30pm - 9.00pm

March: Thursdays 10th, 17th and 24th
Saturday 26th for the last session

Please speak to Fr. Agustin / contact the parish office, if you would like a place on the Marriage course.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

All candidates and parents are invited to a meeting on

Tuesday 8th February at 7.00pm
in the church.

It is essential that all candidates and at least one parent attend this meeting as we will be sharing important information about the programme with you.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND
HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The next **meeting for parents** whose children are on this year’s programme is now on

Thursday 10th February at 7.30pm
in the church