

**Sunday 8th November 2020**  
**32nd Sunday in Ordinary time**

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Psalms week 4

Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford



Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Conference on the National Lockdown

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Today, Parliament passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2nd December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings. Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Please refer to the Regulations (for places of worship see paragraph 18) and associated Guidance.

Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: *'Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity'* (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need.

This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness

in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
President

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP  
President Vice-President

THANKFULLY our LIVE STREAMING has been installed and parishioners have already been accessing Mass this week. As with all technology there will be a learning curve for all of us and we will have to be patient with one another.

Throughout the time of LOCKDOWN you will be able to participate at Mass every day Monday to Saturday at 9am. Our Sunday Masses will be Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am, 9.30, & 11am. These Masses will be kept on the YOU TUBE website for the rest of the day so that anyone who has missed Mass live can still participate later.

**You can access our LIVE STREAM by: going to YouTube website then type in their search engine Holy Rood, scroll down to the picture of the sanctuary and click on that.**

LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES

**THE MASS ONLINE.** If you have access to a computer or smartphone you can follow a live-streaming of Masses online by going to [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>

**ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE VIRTUAL SIXTH FORM PREVIEW EVENING.** Families are warmly invited to St Columba's College's Virtual Sixth Form Preview Evening on Tuesday 10 November at 6pm, which you can join from the comfort of your own home. St Columba's College is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4-18 years in St Albans. We welcome students of all faiths and none. We will be welcoming girls into the Sixth Form from September 2021, followed by a phased transition to co-education. There will be a live welcome from the Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form, and a virtual tour of the school. There will also be live Q&A sessions with staff, and videos from subject leaders about the A Level curriculum. Families can register for this event [on our website here](#), or by contacting the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer, at [admissions@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto:admissions@stcolumbascollege.org) or 01727 892040

**Due to restrictions on using our heating system together with issues regarding stewarding and cleaning we will NOT be opening for any personal prayer at this time.**

**CHURCH CHAIRS.** Those on the waiting list can now start collection of their chairs. Please phone or email to arrange a suitable time to collect them.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND 2021 CALENDARS** - as the Pandemic continues and we are not at full capacity due to number restrictions, the Repository will have a limited stock this year. It would be helpful if you could let us know sometime this week if you want to purchase 2021 calendars and Christmas cards for this year. Please let us know by the end of TODAY (Sunday)

**Thank you to all who contribute using the Standing Order method—it provides for the church in these times of need.**

**STANDING ORDER—  
September £ 5912**

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Jude Ferguson, Asuncion Enriquez,  
Margaret Murray, Mick McDermott,  
Paula Goad,  
Bill Turner, Andrew Kiely,  
Elvira Mazzone, Margaret Skinner,  
Alex Muir, Joe Rodriguez,  
Marlene Godfrey.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Michael O'Donoghue, Trombetta  
Giovanni, Secondina Giovanni.

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**

**TWO IMPORTANT CHARITIES**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November – Second Collection**

Our second collection today would have been in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support.

By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you will help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners. The fund will be used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It could ensure a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery.

Rest assured, the Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will nevertheless be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their senior years.

If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests.

Donations can be made via bank transfer Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No. 01307894 or send a cheque payable to WRC DT-SRPF to Fundraising and Stewardship Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street London SW1P 1QN or hand in a donation to the parish office clearly marked SICK AND RETIRED.

*In this year of so many challenges for us all, it is with great joy that Mary's Meals can share some incredible news with you. Until 31 January 2021, donations made to its **Double The Love** appeal will be matched by the UK Government, up to £2 million,*

*This funding will bring new hope to families in Liberia who struggle daily to feed their children. The Covid-19 pandemic has only added to their challenges but, in a country that has also survived the terrible impact of the Ebola virus in 2014, the resilience of Liberians is clear to see.*

*Together, through this **Double The Love** campaign, we can transform the lives of more than 43,000 desperately hungry children across 167 primary schools in Bong County, Liberia.*

*There are a number of ways to make a donation to Mary's Meals:*

*visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate) or*

*Text **DOUBLE** plus the amount you would like to donate to 70450. For example: text **DOUBLE3** to donate £3, **DOUBLE5** to donate £5 or **DOUBLE10** to donate £10.*

*Texts cost the donation amount plus one message*

*You can phone 0800 698 1212.*

*For a cheque please make it payable to 'Mary's Meals' and send it to Mary's Meals, Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AR*

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

MON 9 November	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	9.00	Leroy Stuart-Berrisford, Birthday Int.
TUES 10 November	St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor	9.00am	Michael O'Donoghue, Anniv Deanery meeting
WED 11 November	St Martin of Tours, Bishop	9.00am	Geoff & Avril Berrisford, RIP
THUR 12 November	St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr	9.00am	Anne Burns, Recovery
FRI 13 November	feria	9.00am Evening Mass	FUNERAL MASS Jude Ferguson RIP Trombetta Giovanni Ara Bacciono, Secondina Giovanni, Anniv
SAT 14 November	feria	9.00am 6pm	Constance Noel & Patricia Pantaleon, RIP Patrick Keating, Anniv
SUN 15 November	+ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time	8am 9.30am 11am	Peter Kelly, Anniv V.V. Joseph, Anniv Jose Da Silva, Anniv

### THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

is sponsored for **Sonia Faria** in thanksgiving

**November Remembrance Candles: Effie Halyvides, Wolsey Colley, Madonna Renwick, & members of the following Families: Maule Family, Coia Family, Leeder Family, Finnegan Family, Casey Family, Kleiser Family, Mulkerrins/ Glynn Family, Adeleye Family & Ugwu Family. 12 Candles this week**

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER** –We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest: Fr Derek McGuire derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 3)

Assistant Priest: Fr Joseph Okoro josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 4)

Deacon: Rev Neville Dyckhoff neville Dyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 5)

Parish Secretary: Martha Stuart-Berrisford watford@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 2)

**Office hours: PLEASE ONE OF THE CLERGY OR SEND AN EMAIL**

Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/>

**Other Parish Contacts:** Safeguarding Representatives: Andrew Danquah **Important new app:** <https://www.hestia.org/brightsk>

**Hospital Chaplain:** Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: [anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk)

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.*