



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon
Kingsland Avenue Coventry CV5 8DX



Email: allsoulscoventry@gmail.com

Twitter: [@allsoulsrccov](https://twitter.com/allsoulsrccov)

Deacon: Rev. Paul Rabvukwa **Tel:** 07584 668021 **Catechist:** Barbara McGowan **Tel:** 07528 644617 **Safeguarding Rep:** John Corroon 07826 570830

Assistant priest of the Ordinariate: Fr Tim Boniwell

Parish Priest:

Father Paul Burch

Tel: 02476 674161

www.allsoulscoventry.org.uk

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(LAETARE SUNDAY & MOTHERING SUNDAY)

A very happy Mothering Sunday to all mothers. God bless you and your families.

These are very confusing and disorientating times for us, and much of the world, as we are forced to make some drastic and uncomfortable changes to our lives. This is the first Sunday we are unable to gather as a parish community because of the coronavirus. It is painful for us not to be able to celebrate Mass together, but it must be this way for a while, and I know that we will rise to the challenge of being a parish community in a new way.

Although it is not possible for us to attend Mass and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, it is possible to watch livestreamed Masses [hopefully soon including from All Souls when we get the necessary technology in place – I'm hopeful that it will be in the next day or two] and to make an **Act of Spiritual Communion** (see below). I will be offering the Mass every day in church without a congregation at 9.30am and then church will be open for people to come and pray from 10am. **Church will be open Monday – Friday 10am-6pm; Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm.** Thank you so much to our band of volunteers who are generously giving their time to sit in church so that others can come and pray. If you can offer *your* time too please add your name to the list/rota in the porch or phone or email.

I encourage you to read the letter below from the Bishops of England and Wales issued last Wednesday. It sets before us both the challenges and the opportunities that these strange times present. Not least among the challenges is our care for one another, especially the sick, isolated and most vulnerable among us. Again, I am confident that we will do that and find new ways of serving and loving in Christ's name.

Please be assured of my prayers. I will remember you all at the altar each day and as I pray the Daily Office. God bless you. Fr Paul.

*God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful,
out of love for us you sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies,
look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world,
turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief,
deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families,
give wisdom to our leaders; energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers; eternal life to the dead.
Do not abandon us in the moment of trial, but deliver us from all evil.
We ask this of you, who with your Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.*

Mary, Mother of health and hope, pray for us!

Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today

	<p>First reading 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Israel's first king, Saul, was failing. The Lord sends the judge named Samuel, secretly, to a small town to find and anoint the next king. Samuel goes and invites the town's elders and their sons to a ritual sacrifice.</p>	<p>Second reading Ephesians 5: 8-14 The Ephesians were pagan converts. This reading is a reflection on the contrasts in their lives before and after their baptisms. The closing quotation is from an early baptismal hymn.</p>	<p>Gospel John 9: 1-41 Early Jewish followers of Jesus began to suffer persecution and expulsion from synagogues. Saint John's gospel tried to get the indecisive converts to make their final commitment to Christ. Here John turns an early memory of a cure by Jesus into an extended teaching on conversion and its consequences.</p>
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✠ MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK ✠

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION. CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRAYER FROM 10AM EACH DAY.

Sun 22 nd	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am MASS (May Healy, 90 th birthday)
Mon 23 rd	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (David, Dorothy & Patrick Atkinson)
Tues 24 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Margaret Aitchison)
Wed 25 th	SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	9.30am MASS (Helen O'Kelly)
Thurs 26 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Sonja McKernan)
Fri 27 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (John Hannan)
Sat 28 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Dhar Shan Devagnanendran, RIP)
Sun 29 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am MASS (Brenda Etherson)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) DAILY 10-11am

LETTER FROM ALL THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website (www.cbcew.org.uk). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you. *'The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.'* May God bless us all.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION when unable to receive Holy Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the 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.

COMMUNICATION Please keep checking the parish website allsoulscof@gmail.com to keep up-to-date with parish life. It contains suggested prayers for such a time as this, as well as some online devotional links (Daily Bible readings and Reflections, Rosary meditations, Stations of the Cross etc). Also our Twitter account [@allsoulsrccov](https://twitter.com/allsoulsrccov).

WASHING YOUR HANDS CATHOLIC-STYLE Try praying an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be while you're washing your hands – it's the perfect length to get them properly clean!

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS Pope Francis has appointed Canon David Evans and Canon Stephen Wright Auxiliary Bishops to serve the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We pray for them both as they prepare for their Episcopal Ordination later in the year.

CARRIERS OF HOPE Carriers of Hope are very grateful for the regular supply of food donated by this parish. As they are not carrying out home visits at the moment, and a number of the refugees who use their services also use food banks, any donations made during the current crisis will be taken to a food bank. Unopened non-perishables, nappies and toiletries will be a valuable addition to their supplies which are running low at the moment, a time of urgent need. Please put them in the box in the porch. Many thanks for your generosity.

CAFOD CHILDREN'S LITURGY WEBINAR An excellent initiative in response to the present crisis is for our children. Take part in a virtual children's liturgy each Sunday at 10am at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

