



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

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SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today we move into the more solemn period of Lent once commonly called Passiontide. Now our attention turns more intently to the Lord's Passion (suffering) and Death. We focus in on the central mysteries of our Christian faith. More than ever this year we need to unite our sufferings and trials with the Cross of Jesus. Jesus has not only redeemed us from sin and death, he has also redeemed suffering. He has made suffering a source and a means of something good: redemption and eternal life. Because of Christ's Death and Resurrection we can face these testing times with courage and fortitude.

The covering of sacred images in church in these last two weeks of Lent is a beautiful custom which can lead us to greater devotion as we walk with Jesus – albeit quite differently this year in our own homes - through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Our eyes are not drawn away to other objects like statues and we can turn our focus to the altar – the place in our churches where the Sacrifice of Calvary is made present every day - and inwardly to contemplate Christ Crucified for love of each one of us. We might also think of the next couple of weeks as a time of *us* being veiled in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. As the holiest time of the Christian year approaches may God bless you all and keep you safe in his love. Father Paul

The Lent Prose

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial :
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting :
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.



Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today



First reading Ezekiel 37: 12-14

When Israel was exiled in Babylon, Ezekiel had to tell them that things were going to get even worse, that they would become like a desert valley filled with dried bones. But after that, the Lord would revive them and breathe the Spirit into them again. This reading is the hopeful conclusion of that dire prophecy.

Second reading

Romans 8: 8-11
Saint Paul teaches that to be "in the flesh" is to try to earn God's grace by our own merits, while being "in the spirit" means letting God **give** us that undeserved grace.

Gospel John 11: 1-45

In Saint John's gospel, the raising of Lazarus starts the chain of events leading to Jesus' death and resurrection. John uses the story to remind early converts of the life-and-death consequences of choosing to follow Jesus.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK ✠

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9.30AM WITHOUT A CONGREGATION

Sun 29 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am MASS (Brenda Etherson)
Mon 30 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Christopher Egan)
Tues 31 st	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Mary Bygate-Ralfe)
Wed 1 st April	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Mark Goonan)
Thurs 2 nd	Lent feria	9.30pm Mass (People of the Parish)
Fri 3 rd	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Frank & Eileen Duckett)
Sat 4 th	Lent feria	9.30am Mass (Leslie Bonner)
Sun 5 th	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	9.30am MASS (Maria Teresa Vethanayagam)

URBI ET ORBI BLESSING FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC Last Friday at 5pm UK time (6pm Rome) Pope Francis prayed on the steps of St Peter's basilica for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. Although the famous square was deserted, millions of people were with the Holy Father in spirit and via social media for prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Holy Father imparted his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing and offered a plenary indulgence to all those who were with him by whatever means. A very special moment. The full text of the Holy Father's address is on our website under Urbi et Orbi. [Watch Urbi et Orbi here](#). Pope Francis asks that we join together to uphold the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness at this awful time and to remain united and make our closeness felt – especially with healthcare professionals and those who serve.

KEEPING IN TOUCH Let's remember to keep in touch with each other during this time of separation and to pray for each other.

SUPPORT A Facebook support group has been set up by some members of the Spirituality Committee at the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. The group – CCC Christ, Covid, Community – is the space to open doors and to allow hearts to speak to hearts, sharing journeys through this wilderness, remembering you are not alone. It promotes the Christ-centred solidarity that is stronger than any illness. The group can be found [here](#).

LIVE-STREAMED MASS Last week we began live streaming the daily Mass at 9.30am. There have been a couple of hiccups, but we are trying to upgrade the technology to enhance the quality of your viewing and participation in the Mass. We ask for your patience. The Pope's daily Masses and the Sunday Angelus are being streamed live on the [Vatican's YouTube channel](#). The [National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham](#) is also live-streaming all Masses and other liturgies during the day.

DAILY EUCHARISTIC REFLECTION Not being able to receive the Eucharist during the current pandemic is a cause of sadness and distress for us who highly prize the Holy Eucharist as the "source and summit of the Christian life". But I'm sure that this time of absence from the Mass can also be a time for us to discover afresh the wonder of the Eucharist, which we often take for granted. I hope you will find the [daily eucharistic reflections](#) posted on our website a helpful way of remaining spiritually close to the Lord whose presence is always with us. The reflections are drawn from believers across many centuries and in many different circumstances. At the centre of them all is the living Lord Jesus, offered, received and adored in the sacrament of his love.

INTERACTIVE EVENING PRAYER All clergy and many lay people pray every day what is called the Divine Office of the Church (also known as the Liturgy of the Hours). The Divine Office is the Church's official set of prayers "marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer". It consists of psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers and antiphons. Together with the Mass, it forms the official public prayer life of the Church. When you think about it, that is an enormous network of prayer all across the world at every time of day. To help people join that network we are inviting the people of our parish to pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6pm each day online and interactively via Zoom. It will also help to unite us as a parish community during this time of enforced isolation. Please follow the instructions on our website on how to join us. It is actually quite straight-forward, so please give it a go.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO MARY TODAY In spite of current circumstances, the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary is still taking place today. From our own homes at 12noon today we can unite England in prayer asking for Our Lady's powerful intercession for us all. The Rededication Prayers can be found [here](#). I will also be saying the prayers at the end of the 9.30am Mass.

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME There is an excellent liturgical resource available for those who can't be at Sunday Mass. You can download The Lord's Day at Home resource [here](#).

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES CAFOD have produced downloadable children's liturgy resources which can be found [here](#). Additionally, CAFOD is hosting a virtual children's liturgy of the word at 10am on Sunday as a webinar. Parents and children are encouraged to join CAFOD online for prayers and reflection on this Sunday's Gospel. The liturgy will be led by catechists who would usually be leading children's liturgy in their parish and will be based on our CAFOD children's liturgy resources. You can register for this [here](#).

PRAYERS IN TIME OF SICKNESS The Liturgy Office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has produced Prayers to be used in times of sickness/flu which can be found [here](#). This document contains general prayers for health and also a note about Spiritual Communion and praying during Self-isolation.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Bridget (Bridie) Piercy who died recently. Bridie's graveside funeral service takes place at Canley Garden Cemetery on Wednesday 8th April. Pray too for the repose of the soul of Brian Kelly. Brian's funeral service will take place at Canley Crematorium on Wednesday 15th April.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE is this Friday, 3rd April. Please take time to stop and pray.