

St. Joseph the Worker

Fifth Sunday of Lent

29th March, 2020



Fr Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

The Presbytery, 1 De Montfort Way, Coventry, CV4 7DU.

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We are a parish with a clear identity and purpose: to be a Catholic community, formed by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, for the glory and praise of God the Father and the service of His Kingdom, and also for the mutual up-building and support of its members. The core message that we feel called to live is contained in Jesus' words:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Sunday, 29 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION.	Chris Mullen
Monday, 30 th March		The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 31 st March		Angela Shilton
Wednesday, 1 st April		Olive Kilroy
Thursday, 2 nd April <i>Com. of St. Francis of Paola, Hermit</i>		Holy Souls
Friday, 3 rd April		John Paul Cassidy
Saturday, 4 th April <i>Commemoration of St. Isidore, Bishop</i>		Paul Finn
Sunday, 5 th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</i>		Margaret Ward

Please pray for Malcolm Kilby, Barbara McGwynn, Chow Yup Ken, Patrick Finan and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Thomas Williams, Mgr. Canon Daniel Leonard, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan, Philip O'Reilly, Lawrence King, and Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also William Armstrong, Joseph Convey, Annie Evans, Charles Underhill, Nancy Doyle, Catherine Carey, Kathleen French, Elizabeth Conry, John Brown, Marie Saba, Patrick O'Brien, Ethel Morrell, Robert Ellis, and Joe Anderson. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for those we know who are sick including: George Morton, Josie Dekkers, Paddy Beausang, Kevon Perry, Bridget Cherry, Chris Mullen, Peter Kennedy, Jennifer Shaw, Anne Doherty, Danny and Mary Harrington, and all the sick.

Rededication of England. The Archbishop will celebrate Sunday Mass in St. Chad's Cathedral today at 11.00am for the Rededication of England as the Dowry of England. We can join him via live-streaming.

Funeral Services. For this time churches cannot be used for funerals. Funeral Services may take place at the crematorium and/or by the graveside with immediate family only. In Coventry only a maximum of five mourners may attend.

The 200 Club has been suspended until we are able to re-open and celebrate Sunday Mass together.

Collections. It sounds mercenary, but the church still needs to have an income, and there will be no collections if there are no celebrations of Mass. I know that it is challenging financially for many at the moment, but if you could continue to put something aside each week for the collection and bring it to the church when public services resume it would help a lot. Or you could consider donating by Standing Order. On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form to use if you wish (<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/FAQS/category/finance-resources>). Thank you very much for your generosity at all times.

Dear Parishioners and Friends. Because of the need to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, the difficult decision was taken that from Friday, 20th March, until further notice there should be no public services held in any Catholic church in the country. That was followed on Monday, 23rd March, by the Prime Minister's broadcast outlining further necessary steps to be taken to combat the spread of the Coronavirus.

It would undermine the Government's attempts to persuade us to remain at home if we are then allowed to go out to church. As a sad but necessary consequence we must ensure that the doors of all churches and chapels in the Archdiocese are closed to the public and that they remain permanently locked until these restrictions are lifted. In this way we shall continue to play our part within every parish in fighting the Coronavirus and to show our solidarity with all those who are striving to overcome the current pandemic.

Be assured of my prayers for you all during these difficult days. As Pope Francis reminded us in the Holy Hour at St. Peter's on Friday, 27th March, the Lord is with us in our storm-tossed boat and the glory of His Resurrection will shine through this crisis.

We are called to be model citizens in protecting the most vulnerable and I thank you for the example that you are giving to society by staying at home. The instructions to stay at home apply as much to priests as they do to everyone else. I am sorry to say that in the context of the pandemic, any pastoral work must now be very limited. I can perform funeral services, and anointing and baptising in danger of death. Beyond that, I have to ask myself, is it essential that this visit happens now, and does it justify the danger of unwittingly passing on the virus to others? Such pastoral acts with others, I fear, will be very few in number.

On a positive note, the necessary lockdown should give us more time for prayer and reflection. Let's do our best to use the time well.

May God bless us all, keep us safe and sustain us through this period of trial.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for those working in Health Care.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Sick.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the Dying.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Unfortunately, because the church is closed and we are required to practise "social distancing" it is not possible to offer Confession at this time. Nor can the Sacrament be celebrated over the telephone or by conference call. However, a recent Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current epidemic, 20th March 2020 states:

Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by ... the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones.

So if you need to go to Confession you should make a Perfect Act of Contrition and then to go to Confession as soon as it becomes possible. Perfect contrition is true and real sorrow for our sins. It requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

An Act of Contrition.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Dispensation from Easter Duties. Normally we should receive Holy Communion and go to Confession. Since it is not possible to receive Holy Communion at this time, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for this year. They have asked that we should all make a Perfect Act of Contrition.

Tailpiece: At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

May God bless you and all those whom you love and keep you safe. Fr. Harry