



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon
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SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2020

✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Dear friends,

I hope and pray that you are keeping physically and spiritually well. The assurance that the Risen Christ is always with us surely brightens these dark days and provides a comforting certainty at a time when so much else seems very uncertain. Each day I pray for you all, and try to imagine you sitting in your usual places as I stand at the altar!

In the last week or two I've heard and read several commentators drawing comparisons between the Church's current experience in the UK and elsewhere – of individual Christians worshipping in their own homes - to the 'house-churches' of the early Christian centuries. Behind some of the comparisons lies the assertion that the Church doesn't really need buildings and that the house-church is the ideal model of church organisation, to which we should return. The current crisis is an opportunity - so their argument goes - for Christians to discover what the 'real' Church is.

Well, I agree that present circumstances give us cause to reflect on where God is in all of this and how he wants us to worship and serve him at the moment. But to liken the scattered 'COVID-19 church' to the house-churches of the first few Christian centuries is, I think, mistaken, because it mis-represents how we know many early Christians worshipped from the evidence we have in the New Testament, the writings of the early church fathers and from archaeological discovery.

House-churches were NOT individuals or households cosily worshipping in their own homes, nor something like our Bible study or faith-sharing groups or Zoom communities of today. Rather they were a gathering of the *whole Christian community* in a locality in a large house of one of the wealthier members to celebrate the Eucharist. (Read in his First Letter to the Corinthians St Paul's stinging criticism of the less than edifying practices that were taking place in one of the house-churches at Corinth as it gathered to celebrate the Eucharist). Moreover, the community gathered in a house for worship NOT because early Christianity had no stomach for sacred spaces – archaeology shows us that some Christian houses had a room or two set apart solely for community worship, resembling a church in many ways - but because a house or villa attracted less attention in time of persecution.

Church buildings *can* be a pain in the neck, sometimes sapping our time, energy and finances, but we *do* need them to do the very thing that made our ancestors the Church and makes *us* the Church – gather together as the People of God, the Body of Christ, to celebrate the Eucharist. *That's* real Church. Pray God it won't be too much longer before we're all back at All Souls doing it together again in person. God bless you. Father Paul.

Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today



First reading

Acts 2: 14, 22-33

The book of The Acts of the Apostles introduces pagan converts to the roots of their new religion. Today we read of an early stage when Peter addressed a strictly Jewish audience about Jesus.

Second reading

1 Peter 1: 17-21

The writer of the First Letter of Peter tells his audience they are fortunate to live in the time when they could turn to Christ from paganism.

Gospel

Luke 24: 13-35

Two discouraged disciples had left the company of believers in Jerusalem. They are turned around and re-joined with the church first by coming to understand the scriptures, then by recognising the Risen Jesus in the breaking of bread.

"Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you, all things are passing, God is unchanging. Patience gains all; nothing is lacking to those who have God: God alone is sufficient." St. Teresa of Ávila

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

DURING THE CURRENT PANDEMIC MASSES ARE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION AND LIVE-STREAMED

Sunday 26 th	3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<i>Maureen & Anthony White</i>
Monday 27 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Vincenzo Terranova</i> (funeral today)
Tuesday 28 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Doreen Winstone</i> (funeral today)
Wednesday 29 th	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin, Doctor, Patron of Europe	9.30am MASS	<i>Barbara Kathleen Mulhall</i> (funeral today)
Thursday 30 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Tom Healy</i>
Friday 1 st May	Easter feria (<i>St. Joseph the Worker</i>)	9.30am Mass	<i>Tom Magill</i>
Saturday 2 nd	St. Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9.30am Mass	<i>Maurice Blount</i>
Sunday 3 rd	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<i>Jack & Bridie Carolan</i>

Daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12noon-1pm (live streamed)

PASTORAL NETWORK Thank you to all our volunteers who are phoning parishioners on a regular basis on behalf of the parish to make sure that they are well and safe, and also for a chat. Your efforts are being hugely appreciated by all.

CLAP AND PRAY

It's a very moving and heartening thing that every Thursday evening at 8pm huge numbers of people across the country stand at their front doors to applaud our NHS workers, carers and others on the frontline. Many more people, I'm sure, are doing the same from wherever they are able to be. It's superb that we demonstrate our appreciation of those who are making themselves vulnerable for the sake of others every time they go to work. But I think they deserve and need more. I'd suggest that as Christians we ought to be matching our enthusiastic applause and pan-rattling with heartfelt **prayer** for them. What a difference it will make to them, to the sick and the dying, and to this whole situation, if we use the extra time which many of us now have to **pray**. Every day from **12noon to 1pm** the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar in church and live-streamed as a focus of this kind of intercession for others. There are so many people who need our prayers during this time of pandemic. Why not bring them all to Christ in the silence of Adoration? There are some prayers you may wish to use on our website home page.

LIVE-STREAMED DAILY MASS AT 9.30AM. Owing to the strain on the internet and our limited technology, the quality is not perfect, but I hope that people will suffer a bit of imperfection for the sake of maintaining a sense of parish community.

DAILY EVENING PRAYER Our church building may be closed, but the daily Prayer of the Church continues uninterrupted. Father Paul is praying the Daily Office in church throughout the day every day, and then every evening at 6pm a group of parishioners, varying from day to day, gathers on Zoom (an online virtual meeting platform) to pray Vespers (Evening Prayer) together. If you would like to take part, please email Fr Paul on allsoulscofv@gmail.com who will send you log-in details.

CHURCHES TOGETHER MORNING PRAYERS via Zoom at 8am on Saturday 2 May. Hosted by Rev. Tulo Raistrick at St. Barbara's. Please email allsoulscofv@gmail.com for login details.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK Monday 27 April: **Vincenzo Terranova** (Canley Cemetery); Tuesday 28 April: **Doreen Winstone** (Canley cemetery); Wednesday 29 April: **Barbara Mulhall** (Canley crematorium). We commend them all to the Lord's safe keeping. The Mass on the morning of their funeral will be offered for them.

ALSO RECENTLY DEPARTED We pray too for **Bishop Leo McCartie**, **Fr Bernard O'Connor OSA**, **Fr Andrew Kenny**, **Fr**

Anthony Conlon, **Fr Joseph McGovern** and **Fr Timothy Burke** who have died in recent days and weeks. *Requiescat in pace.*

FATHER JOHN WATERS will be based at Birmingham's temporary NHS-run Nightingale hospital, which has a 5,000-bed capacity and is situated in the National Exhibition Centre. We pray for Fr John as he exercises this invaluable ministry.

A BEACON OF HOPE A light is being left on in church during the night as a physical reminder that the Risen Christ is always with us, even in these dark and frightening times, and that the Church remains alive and active in worship, prayer and service.

TOILETRIES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS Donations keep on coming in, which is just wonderful. Toiletries are in short supply in the critical care units of the hospital due to patients not being allowed visitors. Unused brand new shower gel, deodorants (spray), moisturising lotions, shaving foam, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes and new combs are most welcome. Please leave items in a bag and drop them in the box outside church if you're passing on your daily walk. Thank you.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER IMAGES There are lots of Holy Week & Easter images of the inside and outside of church on our website. Click on [Maundy Thursday](#), [Good Friday](#), [Easter Vigil](#) and [Easter Sunday](#) to view them. There's also an Easter slideshow at the foot of each page.

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES CAFOD have produced downloadable children's liturgy resources which can be found [here](#). CAFOD is hosting a virtual children's liturgy of the word at 10am on Sunday as a webinar. You can register for this [here](#).

ONLINE DONATIONS TO THE PARISH The diocese has been receiving numerous enquiries from parishioners who would like to continue giving during this period when it is not possible to attend our parishes in person. The diocese has set up a system for parishioners to make online donations to their parish. There is a **donate** button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk. From there, donations can be made to our parish via credit or debit card.

How to donate online Visit the diocesan webpage - www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk / Click on **Donate** (top right) / Click on **Donate** / Enter your **Contact details** / Click **next** and complete your **Payment details** / To make a donation to All Souls select **Coventry: Earlsdon** / Click on **I want to Gift Aid my donation** if you are able / Click **next** and enter your **card details** / Click on **Donate by card**.

Giving by Standing Order Perhaps you might also consider setting up a **standing order** to All Souls, as this remains the most cost-effective way for parishioners to donate. Please email allsoulscofv@gmail.com to request the parish bank details