



# THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon  
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SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

## ✠ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

### Where is God in all this?

One of the greatest problems for those of us who believe in a good and all-powerful God is the existence of evil and suffering in the world, especially the suffering of seemingly innocent people. Perhaps during the lockdown you've been reflecting, as I have again, on why there is suffering in the world, and asking the question, Why would God allow people to suffer on the scale we're witnessing at the moment? Ultimately we have to acknowledge that we don't have simple answers to these difficult questions, which may seem like a cop-out, especially to those who question our faith or whose faith is being challenged at the moment. But I don't think it's dodging the question at all, just humbly and honestly admitting that we don't have all the answers.

In 2011 a 7-year old Japanese girl who had been badly affected by the earthquake in Tohoku, asked Pope Benedict XVI in a televised Q&A session why children like her had to suffer. Part of the Pope's answer was: *"I have the same questions: Why is it that way? Why do you have to suffer when others live in ease? And we do not have the answers, but we do know that Jesus suffered as you do, an innocent, and that the true God who is revealed in Jesus is by your side."*

We believe that God *shares* in the world's suffering. The God we worship and proclaim is a God who *himself suffers*. In Jesus Christ he took our flesh to suffer with us and for us, not to eradicate our suffering, but to redeem it. So to those who are asking, Where is your God now?, we can confidently say that he is right here with us.

### Is God judging or punishing us?

The question may also arise in our hearts whether this terrible situation is God's punishment or judgement. Our response to this must be to affirm that *God is infinitely good* and therefore can not directly desire evil. As the first letter of Saint John in the New Testament tells us, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1:5). God does not directly send calamities like COVID-19 – all sickness and suffering and death are contrary to the fulness of life that God desires for us all – but he does *permit* suffering because in his wisdom he is able to bring a greater good out of it. God *allows* suffering in order that people might be brought by it to examine their lives and come closer to God again in repentance. We should continue to pray for an end to this pandemic – God surely doesn't will it – but we can trust that God will cause an abundance of good things to come from it. For example, might our forced absence from Mass cause us to love and revere the Mass more? Isn't a time of crisis making us realise that we need God? Isn't an international crisis changing our outlook towards others in our global community and the planet we inhabit? Isn't an attack on human beings bringing out compassion and kindness in unexpected and inspiring ways? Isn't social distancing uniting us and providing opportunities to care for each other? Aren't we realising how precious our families are? Aren't the curbs on our freedom and ability to choose making us re-evaluate our priorities?

Whatever suffering we and others are experiencing at this time, we can be assured that God is good, that God is with us, and that God is working some good through it all. God bless you all. Fr Paul

### Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today

#### First reading

Acts 6: 1-7

Pagan converts in the early church knew that their joining provoked some controversy. Saint Luke's second book for them, the Acts of the Apostles, tells a

#### Second reading

1 Peter 2: 4-9

Our ancestors in the faith had long been slaves, nomads and exiles, without a permanent home. The author of the First Letter of Peter uses images of stone buildings, drawn from the Hebrew Bible, to encourage early Christian pilgrims.

#### Gospel

John 14: 1-12

Some early Christians needed help in making a complete commitment to Jesus. In sympathy for them, John the Evangelist depicts an apostle as not fully understanding who Jesus is. But Jesus also makes demands of his followers that are uncompromising.



story of an earlier conflict among Christians of Jewish stock.

## ✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

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

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9.30am MASS</b>	<i>Tom &amp; Dot O'Brien</i>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Hugh, Agnes, Mary and Jim McLaughlin</i>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter feria ( <b>Note the earlier Mass time</b> )	9.15am Mass	<i>Maureen Heath (funeral today)</i>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Patricia Walton (funeral today)</i>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ST. MATTHIAS, Apostle</b>	9.30am MASS	<i>Leslie Bonner</i>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Kath, Alice &amp; Ambrose Barr</i>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Susan Mary Loughron</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9.30am MASS</b>	<i>People of the parish</i>

**Daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Prayer for an end to the Pandemic 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.

**STRONG IN TRIBULATION** On the website is the recent publication from the Holy See entitled [Strong in Tribulation](#). This book produced by the Holy See in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is intended to be "a little help offered to all, so as to know how to discern and experience God's closeness and tenderness in pain, in suffering, in solitude and in fear."

**INTERRELIGIOUS DAY OF PRAYER, FASTING & WORKS OF CHARITY** On our website you can read a [letter and statement](#) from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) on a day of prayer, fasting and works of charity on 14 May 2020. The PCID calls upon all peoples around the world to pray according to each one's respective religious convictions, to observe fast and to do good deeds to end this pandemic.

**LIVE-STREAMED DAILY MASS AT 9.30AM.** If you have the means, please do join us for Mass on Sundays and during the week. 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.



**CAFOD CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE** The spread of coronavirus to countries with poor health systems and limited access to clean water will be

devastating. Families who already struggle to get enough food to eat, and those living in refugee camps, are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. In order to continue protecting lives and improving the lives of those in poor communities, our prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. CAFOD's local experts are in their communities now delivering vital hygiene training, food parcels and raising awareness of this disease. Donate and help the most vulnerable people at: [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus).

**DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT** (information as in the recent special edition of Coventry Citivision). For anyone in the city who may be a victim of domestic abuse and violence, coronavirus can bring frightening and lonely times. There is help and support available. **The Safe to Talk** helpline is available Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm and Saturday-Sunday 10am – 1pm. For support call 08001114998. **Coventry Haven** also have their own 'live chat' function, open Monday-Friday 2-pm which can be accessed via [www.coventryhaven.co.uk](http://www.coventryhaven.co.uk)

**COME ALL WHO THIRST** online retreat 29/30/31st May

Registration at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/come-all-who-thirst-tickets-100837991146> Amazing prayer, worship and services lined up for you and some very exciting speakers and musicians booked. Contact Justine Gaffney on 07551096269 if you have any questions, need help with using Zoom etc.

**DAILY EVENING PRAYER VIA ZOOM** Every evening at 6pm parishioners gather on Zoom to pray Evening Prayer together. Email Fr Paul at [allsoulsco@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsco@gmail.com) for the log-in details.

**FUNERALS THIS WEEK** Tuesday 12 May: **Maureen Heath** (Canley crematorium), Wednesday 13 May: **Patricia Mary Walton** (Canley garden cemetery).

We pray too for **Andrew Gardner** who has sadly died recently, and for his family.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all who are sick and in hospital at this time, among them some of our own parishioners. Also for the bereaved, all care-workers and the most vulnerable.

**TOILETRIES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS** Thank you to the many people who are dropping off toiletries outside church for patients in the critical care units of University Hospital. Unused shower gel, spray deodorants, 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.

**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](http://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](http://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 [allsoulsco@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsco@gmail.com) to request the parish bank details

