



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon
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SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

Churches: Public spaces AND 'essential service providers'

It had been troubling me that churches and other places of worship seem so far in the COVID crisis to have been categorised as 'public places', like restaurants and cinemas. Churches are public places of course, open to all and where people gather in large numbers, but they are also places where an essential service is provided.

So I was delighted when last week our bishops, in response to the government's **COVID-19 recovery strategy**, called upon the government to look seriously at the possibility of our churches being allowed to reopen for **private prayer** sooner than the proposed opening of other public spaces. This has been met with a positive response.

A new government taskforce (Places of Worship Taskforce) has been set up to develop a plan to reopen places of worship, and faith leaders and the government have agreed to develop a plan to enable the phased and safe reopening of places of worship, including churches. Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, is a member of the taskforce.

Community Secretary, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

"I realise how challenging being separated from their communities has been for people of faith. That's why I have convened the Places of Worship Taskforce to establish how religious practices can safely resume outside the home as soon as possible. Today's first meeting of the Taskforce was very productive. We will now work together with all faith communities to understand how we can open places of worship as a priority, while continuing to prioritise safety. I look forward to working with the Taskforce over the coming weeks to reach a solution."

And Faith Minister Lord Greenhalgh said:

Places of worship serve such an important role in supporting and providing spiritual leadership for this country's diverse communities and in bringing communities and the generations together, but this also makes them places that are currently particularly vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic.

We realise that practical issues such as the size of both physical buildings and congregations are significant but we are determined to find a way to safely reopen places of worship as soon as possible, ensuring that people are not put at undue risk.

Thank God for this progress. We must pray now for the cardinal who will be making the case on behalf of the Catholic Church and for all the members of the taskforce. I'm sure it's not just the faithful who need to come and pray in the sacred space of our church; there may be other people whose lives have been unsettled and changed by this whole experience (by no means over yet) who will appreciate and benefit from an open church. Pray too for the day when we can safely gather for Mass again.

God bless you and take care. Fr Paul

Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today



First reading

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

In Acts, chapter 1, Jesus told his followers to spread the gospel "in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes even to the ends of the earth." It takes a persecution, but the mission takes its first step outside Jerusalem today.

Second reading

1 Peter 3: 15-18

The author of the First Letter of Peter warns persecuted Christians to bear sufferings patiently, and, like Jesus, not return evil for evil.

Gospel

John 14: 15-21

For Christians facing rejection by others, Jesus speaks of various ways that God is with us, and how our ways differ from those of non-believers.

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

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

Sunday 17 th	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<i>People of the parish</i>
Monday 18 th	Easter feria (St. John I, Pope, Martyr)	9.30am Mass	<i>Denis Burke</i>
Tuesday 19 th	Easter feria (St. Dunstan, Bishop)	9.30am Mass	<i>Martin Mulligan</i>
Wednesday 20 th	Easter feria (St. Bernardine of Siena, Religious, Missionary)	9.30am Mass	<i>Eric Traynor</i>
Thursday 21 st	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	9.30am MASS	<i>Ann Cullen</i>
Friday 22 nd	Easter feria (St. Rita of Cascia, Religious)	9.30am Mass	<i>Annie Turvey</i>
Saturday 23 rd	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Marie Lawton</i>
Sunday 24 th	7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<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.

MASS INTENTIONS As the number of Sunday Masses has reduced from two to one during the lockdown (and the number of intentions from three to one because Fr Tim is not concelebrating), we have had to rearrange some of the scheduled intentions. It may also take a bit longer for your requested intention to be offered. Thank you for your patience.

PENTECOST NOVENA Join us in praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church in these troubled times by praying a novena on the days between the Feast of the Ascension and the Feast of Pentecost, Friday 22 – Saturday 30 May. See the **Come, Holy Spirit** tab on the website.

2020 VIRTUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Although the decision has been made to cancel the forthcoming Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes for 2020, you are instead invited to the opening Mass on Sunday 24 May at 3pm - this time from St Chad's Cathedral. The Mass is available to anybody, but especially for those who would have been making the pilgrimage this year. The aim is to provide a daily programme of reflection for the week that we would have spent in Lourdes so, like Bernadette, we will make a spiritual pilgrimage: "Every day I go in spirit to the Grotto. I make a pilgrimage there." More information at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

FELLOWSHIP AND AID TO THE CHRISTIANS OF THE EAST

Today is an International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians. Millions of Western Christians will be praying for our brothers and sisters in the Eastern churches. Archbishop Bernard encourages us to join them. Conversely many Catholics from the East will be praying for us too. "Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their lands. And may we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice against oppression. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Had it not been for the coronavirus crisis, Bishop Kenney would today have confirmed our year 6 children. This obviously had to be postponed and we will keep in touch with parents about future dates as soon as these can be arranged. Please pray for the children, that their love for Christ and his Church will be kept alive in these distressing times. Our Celebration of First Holy

Communion in June will also have to be rescheduled. Again, please pray for our year 3 children and their families.

ECUMENICAL MORNING PRAYER via Zoom on Saturday 6 June at 8am. Hosted by St Mary Magdalen CE church. Please email Fr Paul for the meeting log-in details.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT 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 A couple of national charities which offer support to men particularly who are suffering domestic abuse and violence are: **Mankind** 01823 334244 info@mankind.co.uk and **Respect** (Men's advice line) 0808 801 0327 info@mensadvice.org.uk.

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 for the log-in details.

UPCOMING FUNERALS The funeral of **Andrew Gardner**, son of Rene Gardner, will be held at Canley crematorium on the morning of Wednesday 27 May. As we pray for Andrew, we pray too for all his family in their time of terrible loss.

TOILETRIES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS Unused shower gel, spray deodorants, moisturising lotions, shaving foam, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes and new combs are still most welcome for patients in the critical care units of University Hospital. Please leave items in a bag and drop them in the box outside church. Thank you.

ONLINE DONATIONS TO THE PARISH 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 allsoulsco@gmail.com to request the parish bank details

