

Supply Priest  
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# SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

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Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: *Registered Charity No 234216* Deanery website: [www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk)

During these difficult and uncertain times, the weekly newsletter will continue to be published. It can be found on the new parish website <https://sjfcov.org> and the Coventry Deanery website.

For live streaming of daily Mass in other local parishes who have the facility: eg Christ the King, St Thomas More, see the Deanery website for the links (<https://coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk>)

Fr Peter will celebrate a private Mass for your intentions.

## Today We Celebrate The Fourth Sunday of Easter - Cycle A (Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop</b>	Dennis Doherty
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bernadette & Anita Taylor: Celia Hanna	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Feast of the English Martyrs</b>	Peter Pithy
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Tony Masarella	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Kathleen Hale	
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs O'Keefe	
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Patrick & Maureen Millar	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Des O'Hanlon	
	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Jim Angwin: Kevin King	

### Message from Fr Peter

My priest friends tell me that, while not planning to audition for Master Chef yet, the quality of the meals they are preparing in lockdown has gone up massively! As someone who has almost zero culinary skills, I'm envious! These conversations remind me of two famous spiritual writers. St Teresa of Avila and Brother Lawrence were both members of the Carmelite Order and commented on the importance of kitchen work - though a century apart.

St Teresa said: "Reflect that God is there among the pots and pans and that He stands at your side", while Brother Lawrence prayed: "Lord make me a Saint by baking cakes and washing plates."

May we all appreciate anew the gift of food and the dedication of those who prepare it.

### Keeping in Touch

We all benefit from phone calls from family, friends and parishioners during these difficult times. You can contact me on the Presbytery number Tel: 02476 443 459 as well as the parish mobile Tel: 0790 8817 344. Please remember especially those parishioners without access to the internet or newsletters.

### The Parish Website: [sjfcov.org](http://sjfcov.org)

As well as local parishioners, people living outside the UK are accessing our site from Germany, France, Spain, USA, Australia, West Africa, India and China which is great.

### The Parish Twitter Account @sjfcov

Launched last week, this is also attracting interest and a number of people have already signed up to receive messages directly. I try and "tweet" daily thoughts. You can read them via the website twitter feed icon even if you don't have an account yourself.

### Live Streaming Mass at the Parish

It is my understanding that Fr Bob had been thinking about the possibility of the parish live streaming some masses. The Archbishop is also very supportive of parishes having such facilities available. I know that parishioners have appreciated being able to access mass via Christ the King and other local Churches. I would like to explore this idea with you, in the coming weeks.

### Selfless Courage

On Vocations Sunday, we bring before the Lord all of those parishioners who are heroic key workers. We also remember the staff of St John Fisher and St Gregory's Schools for their care of young people during these difficult circumstances. As well as Church students for the priesthood, the diaconate, men and women religious. May the Lord of the harvest, send ever more labourers.

With my prayers for you all and your families

Fr Peter

### The Pope John Paul I Foundation

This has just been established by Pope Francis to study the life and work of one of his saintly predecessors. The "Pope of the Smile", as he was known, said this in 1978: *'God is too great, he deserves too much from us for us to be able to throw to him, as to a poor Lazarus, a few crumbs of a time and our heart. He is infinite good and will be our eternal happiness; money, pleasure, the fortunes of this world, compared with him, are just fragments of good and fleeting moments of happiness. It would not be wise to give so much of ourselves to these things and little of ourselves to Jesus.'*

### Bishop David Oakley, Pope Francis and Archbishop Bernard

"Father into your hands" is Bishop David's moving reflection. Pope Francis' homilies Strong in the Face of Tribulation and the Archbishop's letter are all powerful commentaries on the present (see the website)

## YEAR OF THE WORD: The God Who Speaks

The Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to focus on the Gospel of Matthew. For help to do this, [www.cbew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/celebrating/how-to-do-lectio-divina-holy-reading](http://www.cbew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/celebrating/how-to-do-lectio-divina-holy-reading)

*Candles will continue to be lit in church for your intentions.  
Candles are available in May - £3.50.  
Please put envelope containing intentions and donation through presbytery door*

### Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently

**Lucy Barwell  
Stephen Sedgley  
Margaret Corcoran  
Bishop Leo McCartie  
Fr Anthony Conlon**

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

#### Lamp Lit at Sacred Heart Shrine:

**This week:** Bernadette Taylor

**Next week:**

#### Lamp lit at Our Lady's Shrine:

**This Week:** Anne & Larry

**Next week:**

#### Lamp Lit at St Joseph's Shrine

**This week:** Anita Taylor

**Next Week:**

#### Lamp Lit at St Anthony's Shrine

**This week:** Ints of IM

**Next Week:**

### Prayers have been requested for the sick of our parish community:

Please contact the church to add a name to the Sick List

Anne Gillies; Hugh McAteer; Margaret Buckley; Cath O'Toole, Tom McGrath, Patrick Maughan, John Maughan, Anthony McDonagh, Rose Maughan, Derek Coyle, Kirsty Coyle, Iain Connell, Michael Ward, Jim Ward, Stefan Szwarnowski, Eileen Barnes, Michael Kelly, Thomas Hewitt, Mindi Devi, Peter Charman, Elaine Watkins, Arthur Watkins, Michael Butler, Cathy Grant, Garry Hole, Eric Holt,

And pray for the priests of the Archdiocese especially Fr Michael Stack and Mgr Tony Wilcox

**NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY: FOURTH TUESDAY:** This has been ongoing in the parish since 1983. Prayers are said on 9 consecutive Tuesdays leading up to the Feast of St Anthony on 13<sup>th</sup> June. This year, we urge you to join in from your home.

*O glorious St Anthony, safe refuge of all the afflicted and distressed, who miraculously revealed that all who piously invoke you on nine consecutive Tuesdays, will experience your powerful help, I, a poor sinner, encouraged by this promise, come to you, and with a firm hope implore your aid, your counsel and your blessing. Obtain help for me dear Saint, in my present necessity (mention it), but if it be opposed to the will of God and the welfare of myself, obtain for me such other graces as shall be helpful to my salvation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

#### **Say each Tuesday:**

*O gentle and loving St Anthony, in whose arms the infant Jesus ever loved to linger, grant your powerful aid, and at your word my prayer will be granted.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday:**

*Blessed St Anthony, you, like the martyrs and the Saints who proclaimed Christ, were always ready to suffer persecution for His sake. I greet you now and ask you to approach Almighty God and implore Him to grant my request.*

*Our Father.... Hail Mary.....Glory Be To The Father.....*

### May Devotions

The website now has a complete set of rosary devotions which I have written. I added the Luminous Mysteries this week. Traditionally, the Joyful Mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday. The Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday. The Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursday. If you go to the homepage of the website and click on Help to Pray you find the meditations I refer to as The Cup of Tea Rosary.

### The VE Day 75th Anniversary

On 8th May, the country will specially commemorate the ending of World War II in Europe. Many of us will have family members who served in the forces. My dad was a radar operator in the RAF and my mother a clerk in the women's section of the army known as the ATS. The Queen was also part of this regiment. We pray in thanksgiving for all those who fought for our freedom.

### Celebration of the other Sacraments during this time

The Bishop's Conference Guidelines (for more details see <https://coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk>) have stated:

- **Baptisms** can only take place when there is serious necessity (danger of death).
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** Given Government guidelines, it is not possible to offer Confessions at this time. The Bishops remind the faithful that they are only obliged to receive Communion once a year. They recommend that the following Act of Contrition be regularly said:  
*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 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.*
- **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** These celebrations are postponed.
- **Weddings** should be deferred.
- **Funerals** The funeral service should take place at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated in memoriam when congregations are allowed to gather.
- **Anointing of the Sick** will continue under special guidelines.

*No Pastoral Visits can be made to people who are self-isolating but phone support can be offered.*

*Visits to people in Care Homes and Hospitals will follow advice from the staff*

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Catholic Bishops' Conference <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

Archdiocese of Birmingham [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

St Chad's Cathedral is now live streaming services from Sunday [www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)

Papal Masses [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

### MAGNIFICAT ONLINE

As there are no public Masses for an indefinite period Magnificat online is allowing free access to enable you to follow the Mass, daily prayers, readings etc at home. Log in at [www.magnificat.com/free](http://www.magnificat.com/free)

Contact Margaret (02074483607) or Paul (02074483618) for more information or to order hard copies

**For a helpful leaflet of prayers and bible readings 'Inspiration in Times of Isolation' and a reflection series 'Encouragement from St John Henry Newman' (written by Fr Peter) see Alive Publishing**