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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

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Cycle A

Sat 9 th May	Des O'Hanlon
Sun 10 th May	Jim Angwin: Kevin King
Mon 11 th May	Paddy Rodgers
Tues 12 th May	Nicola Coyle
Wed 13 th May	Tom McSharry
Thurs 14 th May	Feast of St Matthias, Apostle Josephine Goddard
Fri 15 th May	Bernie McCarthy
Sat 16 th May	Deceased relatives of Filipino families: Sean Newsome (Anniversary)
	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sun 17 th May	Ben Carey

Message from Fr Peter

Watching the Channel 5 programme featuring homemade films of VE Day, I was moved to see Princess Elizabeth (our future Queen) in her ATS uniform. It was the same one my mom wore so proudly. My dad joined the national celebrations a few months later on VJ Day as he served in the RAF in the Far East.

While our 75th commemorations contrast to the high spirits of 1945, we have no less gratitude for the peace which the sacrifice of so many enabled us all to benefit from. On the parish twitter account I shared this poignant quotation:

On VE Day we remember that:

“the joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women at this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.” (DoCat,31)

Part of my pastoral work this week has been to research the life of Saint Gregory, the patron of one of our parish schools. In the process, I have discovered what makes him so inspirational for us today. He became Pope during a pandemic in 7th Century Rome. He responded to the suffering of the population by radically reorganizing the Vatican's finances, buildings and granaries so that they focused their activities on charitable out-reach. He was the first Pontiff to call himself the “Steward of the property of the poor” and clearly showed what he meant by this title.

Gregory's name means “watchful” and he is known as God's official Consul because he protected God's people by providing them with physical and spiritual nourishment, on His behalf. One of the programmes Gregory set up has a very contemporary feel about it. During his experience of lockdown, he set up a courier service to take meals to the sick and infirm in the city streets and lanes. He also arranged the equivalent of ‘payment holidays’ or cancelled debts, gave church employees pensions and paid bills for anyone who could not afford to do so.

He believed that Jesus calls us to serve others, with a humble, generous heart, and he would be applauding the vital community services offered by those involved in food production, distribution and, especially the NHS, Private care home and educational sectors.

(You will find my full article about Pope St Gregory the Great on the parish website: sjfcov.org)

With my prayers for you all and your families

Fr Peter

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.

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

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

**Stephen Sedgley
Bishop Leo McCartie
Fr Anthony Conlon
William Coyle**

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: Fr Bob

Next week:

Lamp lit at Our Lady's Shrine:

This Week: Mary & Tina (Spec Int)

Next week:

Lamp Lit at St Joseph's Shrine

This week:

Next Week:

Lamp Lit at St Anthony's Shrine

This week:

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: FIFTH 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 13th 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.

5th Tuesday:

Blessed St Anthony, I greet you in the name of all the holy Bishops and Priests, and I thank God for giving you the grace of converting so many people to Christ. May God hear your prayers for me and 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 have added the Luminous Mysteries. 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.

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

St Chad's Cathedral is now live streaming services from Sunday www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Papal Masses 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

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