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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 Sixth Sunday of Easter - Cycle A

Sat 16 th May	Deceased relatives of Filipino families: Sean Newsome (Anniversary)
Sun 17 th May	Ben Carey
Mon 18 th May	Paddy Griffin
Tues 19 th May	Sheila Sedgley
Wed 20 th May	Tom McSharry
Thurs 21 st May	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Billy Grant
Fri 22 nd May	Dennis Doherty
Sat 23 rd May	Nick Forster
Sun 24 th May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Father Bob

Message from Fr Peter

I often think about and pray for the many parishioners who are key workers in the NHS, and Care Homes locally and further afield. I was really moved by the creativity of 18 year old Jessica Wilcox- Drew's portrait of a nurse wearing PPE. She drew it by using the word "hero" over and over again. She was inspired to begin the pencil and fine-tipped pen free-hand sketch, after taking part in the Clap for Carers.

St John Paul II said:

"Society needs artists, just as it needs scientists, technicians, workers, professional people, witnesses of the faith, teachers, fathers and mothers, who ensure the growth as a person and the development of the community by means of that supreme form which is the art of education".

He goes on to note that this medium has a unique role in promoting the Gospel of human dignity. This message "is translated into colours shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look and listen."

Part of my pastoral ministry this week has been to research the life of Saint John Fisher. Given that our parish schools are named after him and St Gregory, I was delighted to discover a direct connection between them. Pope Gregory sent St Augustine (of Canterbury) to convert the Anglo Saxon people - beginning in the south of England. This involved establishing the See of Rochester, Kent, in 604 AD.

Exactly 900 years later, in 1504, Saint John Fisher became Bishop of this diocese.

Whenever, Fr Bob looked up from his chair in the dining room of the presbytery, or from the Altar, he could see a statue of St John Fisher. The more I read, I came to recognise that he drew great inspiration from our patron.

St John Fisher lived a simple life and had that quality of quiet humility.

Coming from Yorkshire, he 'told it like it is' but always with a pastor's heart.

He was a dedicated priest, bishop and cardinal who said he modelled himself on Jesus the Good Shepherd. He cared especially, for the poor and vulnerable, was deeply committed to the education of young people and appointed only the best staff to teach them and priests to serve them.

He maintained Church property diligently, yet frugally. His sermons contained examples from daily life and he chose to remain as a Bishop in Rochester for over thirty years - even when offered the opportunity to move on.

He was not perfect, but he was a man of great integrity. Despite his national and international achievements as a Scholar and political figure, he was a little shy, but had many friends and was much loved.

He chose as his Episcopal motto Christ's words to the disciples be "fishers of Men".

May St John Fisher be, as he was to Fr Bob, our inspiration too.

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.

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

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, Constance Kowalik, Andrew McCann

And pray for the priests of the Archdiocese, especially

Fr Michael Stack, Mgr Tony Wilcox and Fr Andrew McCann

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

Fr Anthony Conlon

William Coyle

Fr David Duggan

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

There are no **Candle Intentions** this week – however candles will continue to be lit in church for your intentions, if requested.

Candles are available in May - £3.50.

Please put envelope containing intentions and donation through presbytery door – thank you.

NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY: SIXTH 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 and thank God because He gave you, and many monks and hermits, the grace to spend your life in good works. Like them, you stayed awake at night; you prayed, you fasted and denied yourself. May your prayers and theirs rise before God so that I may obtain what I ask.

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.

Come All You Who Thirst

This is an online ecumenical retreat run by the Sion youth community based in Coventry via zoom. It is taking place between 29th and 31st May. It is free and further details about how to book are on the Archdiocesan website: birminghamdiocese.org.uk

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