

University of Warwick Chaplaincy

Fourth Sunday of Easter

3rd May, 2020

Catholic Chaplain: Fr. Harry Curtis

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www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk

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Prayer Before Mass

God our Father, you sent Jesus, our High Priest, to redeem us and you willed that His saving work should continue through the ministry of priests. Enlighten us to celebrate this Sunday Mass with our priest, so that, empowered by the Word of life and the Eucharist, we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live to the full our Christian calling. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, 3 rd May Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION. Live streaming of Sunday Mass and other Masses when a time is printed here is on Youtube. Go to our website (www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk)	10.00 am <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 4 th May <i>Feast of the English Martyrs</i>		Clare Curtis (Birthday)
Tuesday, 5 th May <i>Easter Feria</i>		Private Intention (for healing)
Wednesday, 6 th May <i>Easter Feria</i>		9.30 am <i>Anne Doherty RIP</i>
Thursday, 7 th May <i>Easter Feria</i>		Mary Meehan (1 st Anniversary)
Friday, 8 th May <i>Easter Feria</i>		Robert Curtis (Anniversary)
Saturday, 9 th May <i>Easter Feria</i>		Lilian Cherry
Sunday, 10 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter		10.00 am <i>The People of the Parish</i>



**Online Retreat
in Daily Life**
Sunday 17th to
Friday 22nd May 2020

- Join with others in prayer online
- Talk to a prayer guide every day for a week
- Find help in your personal prayer
- Try a more structured prayer life

“An Online Retreat in Daily Life”: It is the first time that we have tried to do this in this way, and it sounds good! **I highly recommend it.** It is for anyone who is already Christian and who wants to deepen their prayer life, or someone who is not sure what they believe but is willing to take a risk and seriously explore the reality of God. Either way, it is for any generous soul willing to commit to the elements of the week. **Important: you have to agree to pray each day for a week and be willing to talk (in confidence) about how it went.**

It is run by a team of trained prayer guides led by Stephen Hoyland who works for the Jesuits and does this work in many universities up and down the country, normally, in person! And Kate, as Anglican chaplain and zoom expert in the making, will take care of the hosting.

The core elements of the week are prayer for half-an-hour each day, reviewing how that prayer time went, and individual meeting with your prayer guide online each day. We'll also have an opening meeting, closing meeting, and two prayer workshops also online via zoom.

We ask for a donation of £10 to take part. To sign up, let Kate the Anglican chaplain know you want to take part. Kate will use your email to invite you to a zoom meeting on Sunday, 17th May at 3pm. **Please download zoom by then. It is important to be at this to meet your guide for the week. If you cannot be at this meeting please email Stephen - sthoiland@gmail.com**

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for bishops, priests, deacons, and we pray that God will help people to answer His call to follow Him.

May is the Month of Our Lady. If you find yourself with more time than usual, why not try to pray the Rosary each day?

A People Who Hope in Christ

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: 'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.' (27 March 2020)

The impact of Covid-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid-19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort.

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted.

None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing, touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and wellbeing.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling.

As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare.

We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise.

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool,
✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, ✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff,
✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

Make an Act of Spiritual Communion. Whilst you watch a live stream of Mass being offered say the following prayer:
"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Tailpiece: A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "Perhaps they couldn't get a babysitter."

May God bless you and all those whom you love and keep you safe.
Fr. Harry.