

Supply Priest  
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# SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

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**Parish Schools:** St John Fisher, Kineton Road, Coventry CV2 3NR, Tel: 02476 443333: St Gregory's, Harry Rose Road, Coventry CV2 5AT, Tel 02476 445900  
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 Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul - Cycle A

Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Souls	
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Charlie McAnespie	
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Nicola Coyle	
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Spec Int (Anne Nolan)	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Sheila Sedgley	
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Pat Daley	
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>Feast of St Thomas, Apostle</b>	Nick Porter
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Michael Campbell	
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Paddy Griffin

### Message from Fr Peter

A big photo of Aslan the lion from CS Lewis' Narnia Chronicles caught my eye. The article underneath mentioned that carvings from the books were to feature on the stonework of St Mary's Church, Beverly, Yorkshire, the childhood home of St John Fisher. Aslan, in Lewis' novels, is a Christ figure. He dies and rises again to save his people. Jesus invited us to have creative minds also. He connects the sacred and the secular when he says to be a disciple we must "Imagine a Sower going out to Sow".

### The Possibility of Church Services Resuming

The Archbishops of England and Wales have written a letter which outlines the next steps to be taken as we gradually move towards celebrating mass and the other sacraments once more. They recognise every parish will need time to follow updated guidance which the Bishops have agreed with the government. This includes recruiting significant numbers of stewards and cleaners. In the Coventry deanery, the priests will meet next week, by Zoom, to discuss the new guidelines. At Saint John Fisher parish we already have a small, dedicated group of volunteers to ensure we can open for individual prayer safely.

For us to begin to celebrate mass - for a limited number of parishioners only - we will have to wear masks, or face coverings, to accommodate social distance rules of 1m plus. We will also need to recruit many more stewards and cleaners in order to be ready to have mass from mid-July, at the very earliest. I am very grateful for those who, co-ordinated by Tina, have come forward already. If your health allows you, please consider volunteering too by emailing the parish office. You will receive further details of what will be involved. May I thank you in advance. You will find the Archbishops' letter I referred to, attached to our own.

### Current Arrangements for Individual Prayer

Our Church is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 9am and 10am for individual silent prayer only. These arrangements depend upon volunteer stewards and cleaners as well as other factors beyond our control. On visiting the church:

- you will be greeted by stewards who, because of the necessary regulations, will be wearing PPE.
- stewards will ask you to sanitize your hands on entry and exit and direct you to your seat.
- due to social distancing, seating is limited and you may have to queue.
- the steward will ask you if you want a candle lit and light it on your behalf.
- as you leave your seat it will be cleaned
- follow all of the direction signs carefully
- all of the moveable statues have been stored away and you should not touch any which remain, or the stations of the cross.
- you will need to bear in mind that the Church will be colder than usual as doors and windows have to remain open for ventilation.
- it is not possible for you to have use of the toilets at present
- please bring your own face covering or mask
- please maintain safe social distancing in the car park and grounds

All of this is a lot to take in but the stewards are there to guide you. Our careful following of the government guidelines will be the basis upon which further progress, in respect of our worship, can be made.

With my blessings to you and your families, the schools' staff and pupils and all of our key workers.

May St John Fisher and St Gregory Pray for us.

Fr Peter

### Parish Finances

Thank you all for funding the parish by saving up your collection, paying by standing order or a posting a cheque to the parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in these challenging times, when everyone's money is tight. With my blessings to you and your families, the schools' staff and pupils and all of our key workers.

### Pope Francis's Prayer

Many people suffer due to the great difficulties they endure. We can help them by accompanying them along an itinerary full of compassion which transforms people's lives. It brings them closer to the Heart of Christ which welcomes all of us into the revolution of tenderness. We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

### 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)

### 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, Eric Holt, Rose Maughan, Derek Coyle, Kirsty Coyle, Iain Connell, Michael Ward, Jim Ward, Stefan Szwarnowski, Eileen Barnes, Michael Kelly, Garry Hole, Thomas Hewitt, Mindi Devi, Peter Charman, Elaine Watkins, Arthur Watkins, Michael Butler, Cathy Grant, Constance Kowalik,

### And pray for the priests of the Archdiocese, especially

Fr Michael Stack, Mgr Tony Wilcox, Fr Andrew McCann and Fr Bernard (Holy Family)

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

**Susan McNally**  
**Alan Brooks**

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

*Candles will continue to be lit in church for your intentions, if requested.  
Please put envelope containing intentions and donation (£3.50) through presbytery door – thank you.*

**Sacred Heart:** This week: Fr Bob  
**Our Lady:** This week: Tina

### THANK YOU:

- to the parishioners who helped Tina to cut the hedges and attend to the Rose Garden this week
- to the volunteer stewards and cleaners who have worked during the Private Prayer sessions this week.

Your help and support have been very greatly appreciated in keeping the church grounds looking tidy and in enabling the Private Prayer sessions to take place. God bless you.

### MASS FOR FR BOB:

Fr Michael, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Bulkington, will be offering a Mass for Fr Bob on **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July**. This will be live streamed on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-of-the-sacred-heart-bulkington>

### MASSES FOR CARE WORKERS & THE SICK

Every Thursday at 7pm Mass from a Catholic Cathedral offered by a bishop. All livestreamed. See <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

### 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

## **A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to “do this in memory of me.” We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going ‘back to normal.’

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

*“As I have loved you,”* said the Lord Jesus, *“so you must love each other.”* (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ

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

*This letter is addressed to the Catholic Community in England; the opening of the Catholic Churches in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly who are still evaluating their position on opening Places of Worship.*