

# University of Warwick Chaplaincy

## Solemnity of St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles

28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Catholic Chaplain: Fr. Harry Curtis

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[www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk](http://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, 28 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Solemnity of St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Apostles</b>	<b>UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION.</b>  <b>Live streaming of Sunday Mass and other Masses when a time is printed here</b> is on Youtube. Go to our website ( <a href="http://www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk">www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk</a> )	10.00 am Ron Jones RIP (Anniversary)
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> June		Sr. Leena (Birthday)
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Optional Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church</i>		The People of the Parish
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Oliver Plunkett, Bishop, Martyr</i>		Private Intention
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July		Cora Lanigan
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> July <i>Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle</i>		Anthony Armstrong
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July <i>Optional Memorial of St. Elizabeth of Portugal</i>		Holy Souls
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July <b>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		10.00 am Anna Dalli

Today we are celebrating the (transferred) Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul – two of the great saints of the Church, who were very different characters, but who were united in their love and faith, and who both gave witness to Jesus by the shedding of their blood in Rome.

**Livestreaming of Sunday Mass from St. Joseph's** on Youtube each week at 10.00. Go to our website ([www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk](http://www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk)) and look for the indication for "Sunday Mass".

**Act of Spiritual Communion.** While 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."*

**Prayer.** I know that when you are on your own, away from a faith community, it can be challenging to keep faithful to a pattern of prayer. If you want to chat or a bit of advice and encouragement, please contact me and I shall be delighted to hear from you.

**Mary's Meals.** If you remember, a few weeks before the lockdown started we had a visitor from Mary's Meals who told us about what they are doing and how you could help. Several people said that they wanted to get involved, but then came Covid-19 and everything stopped. Now the people who run Mary's Meals are creating a series of short films with updates on how they are feeding hungry children through this pandemic and personal reflections on how faith is bringing hope and comfort. The latest message is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek0x5FbAypk>. I recommend watching it if you would still like to be involved.

**First Friday.** This Friday is the First Friday of the month. If you need a copy of the Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart, please ask me.

## Re-opening St. Joseph's for the celebration of Mass

I expect that, like me, you were overjoyed during the last week when it was announced that churches could once again open for public services from 4<sup>th</sup> July onwards. My joy, however, was quickly tempered by the realisation that it is not going to be straightforward and is going to take a lot of thought and work.

At the time of writing, I have just received official guidance from the Diocese about how this should be done (and there is quite a lot to digest). What I am sure of is that it will be a larger task than it was to open the church for private prayer. We shall have to refine our risk assessment form, identifying all the potential dangers and showing how we shall overcome them; we shall have to assemble a larger team of stewards and cleaners than we already have; we shall have to train them in all the aspects of their roles. Only when everything is in place shall we be able to open. I am sorry to disappoint you, but all of that means we shall not be ready to open for Mass next Sunday. We *might* be ready for Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, but I think it is more likely to be the following Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July.

So, let me make a few points now:

- If you would be able and willing to help either as a steward or a cleaner at St. Joseph's, either at the 9.00 am Mass or at the 5.00 pm Mass, please contact the Parish Office THIS WEEK, identifying which job and which Mass you would be available for.
- When we do open we shall have restricted numbers of people in the church. To make sure that there will be a place for you, you will have to "book" your place. Please let me know by telephone, email, letter, note through the letterbox, carrier pigeon, etc., which Mass you would like to attend.
- The Bishops have said that the Sunday obligation to attend Mass is still suspended. You don't *have* to come to Mass on Sunday. This is especially the case if you are shielding or vulnerable in any way. I shall continue to stream the Mass and provide as much support as I can so that you can join in at home.

You may be pleased to hear that one piece of advice that has been given is that groups should not spend more time together than necessary and that Masses should be kept short. The homilies especially should not be too long. It's an ill wind .....

As for the Chaplaincy at Warwick University, I don't think I shall be able to start celebrating Mass there before the new term starts at the end of September (if then). Firstly, the Chaplaincy building is under different authority and I have no authority to say when it will open, and in the second place we couldn't ensure a reliable system of stewards and cleaners over the summer.

**I shall be "away" on Retreat this week.** This is an annual clergy Retreat that was arranged a long time ago. Of course, the situation makes it impossible to gather as we usually would, but it is being done through the wonders of modern technology (hmmmm!!!). I shall not be available from Monday to Friday this week. Please pray for me and for the clergy who will be taking part, and I shall pray for you.

**Because I shall be away, St. Joseph's will NOT be open for Private Prayer on Thursday this week.**

*Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray: look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**A Youth Alpha Course, supported by the mission team at Alton Castle.** We all have questions about life and faith, perhaps now more than ever. The Kenelm Youth Trust (the Diocesan office for young people, based at Alton Castle) are offering several ways to get involved with a youth Alpha online.

**Act of Contrition.** *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 should 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.*

**Diocesan Trust Secretary.** The Archdiocese is seeking a voluntary part time Trust Secretary to assist the Trustees in good "corporate practices". Details can be found on [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs).

**Tailpiece:** After the birth of his baby brother, a little boy was thoroughly annoyed at all his crying and screaming. "Where did we get him from anyway?" he asked his mother. "He came from heaven!" his mother replied. "Well I can see why they threw him out!" the boy said thoughtfully.

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