



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

in Partnership with St Thomas More

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2020

Fr. Stephen Day, Parish Priest, Tel. 02476 411900 Email stmcov@gmail.com

Fr. Peter Conley, Assistant Priest at St Joseph's and at the University, Parish Mobile 07908 817344

Rev David Palmer, Parish Deacon & Catholic Chaplain to University of Warwick, Mob 07831 726731

The Presbytery, 1 De Montfort Way, Coventry, CV4 7DU.

Email: stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk Tel: 02476 419 111

Safeguarding Officer: Henry Whitney, email: henrywhitney111@gmail.com, Tel: 02476 675 668

Hall Manager: *The hall is currently shut due to the pandemic regulations.*

Parish Website www.sjtwcoventry.org.uk Partner Parish Website www.stmcov.org

Deanery: www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk Archdiocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Sunday, 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	10.45 am Public Mass 5pm Public Mass	<i>Special Intention (Jean)</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 21 st Dec		
Tuesday 22 nd Dec	10am Live stream Mass	<i>Pamela and John Clarke</i>
Wednesday 23 rd Dec	10am Live stream Mass	<i>Michael Conway</i>
Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Eve	10.00 am Live stream Mass only 4pm Live stream Mass only 9pm Public Mass	<i>Alice Murphy</i> <i>Kath & John Conley</i>
Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day	10.45am Public Mass (No Evening Mass)	<i>May, Jack, Sean McCrave, Patricia Swain</i>
Saturday 26th Dec Boxing Day: St Stephen	10.00am Live stream Mass	<i>Dolores Connolly</i>
Sunday, 27th December: Feast of the Holy Family	10.45 am Public Mass *NO 5PM MASS THIS WEEK*	<i>George and Paula Black</i> ~

A HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

WE ARE LIVE ON THE INTERNET! Click on the link from the website home page or use the link below <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APw4-ldWAmc&feature=youtu.be>

Please pray for the sick, including: George Morton, Josie Dekkers, Kevon Perry, Bridget Cherry, Peter Kennedy, Jennifer Shaw, Danny & Mary Harrington, Paddy Beausang, Peter Nottingham, Edith Whatling and Margaret Dunne.

Please pray for the departed, Bernardine (Bernie) Bell, Francesco Lionetti, John Folliard, Elizabeth Piercy, Veronica Brownhill, Deacon Frank Lockett, Deacon Peter Kilgallon, and all who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time: Eric Bergman, Gary Doyle, William Donahoe, James Dolan, Michael Lenagh, Edna Hughes, Dorothy O'Neill, John O'Hare, Margaret Howarth, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Michael Collins, Eileen Watford, Esther Nelson, Dolly Ryan, John McKenna, Monica Deegan, Margaret Young, Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr Canon Tom Gavin, Rev Thomas Meager. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Prayer as you watch a Livestream Mass:

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 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. Amen

◆ ◆ ANY MORE STEWARDS AND CLEANERS? ◆ ◆

At the moment, we have a small number of volunteers, particularly for Sundays at 5pm and Thursdays, where there is almost no slack in the system, as a volunteer has had to withdraw. If any of the volunteers are unable to come – whether through sickness or holiday or needing to isolate – we will be close to having to cancel Masses at very short notice. Having enough wardens and cleaners is **compulsory** for any Mass that is public. We need enough people to make up a rota so that there are spare helpers to call on. Stewards and cleaners mean that we fulfill the conditions under which we can open, and we need to be confident that we can. It is not only a legal duty but a moral responsibility to keep people as safe as possible. Of course, only those who are fit enough and not in a vulnerable category can be expected to volunteer, so there is **no criticism at all** of small numbers. But if small numbers are all we have, then we can only be open for the Masses we can be sure those numbers can support. Please volunteer to one of the clergy if you can help. **THANK YOU to all our helpers! We'd be shut without you!**

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Chloe Holden
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Carmel Silver RIP (Birthday)

A VERY HAPPY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

These are strange and difficult times, and although we celebrate Christmas in restricted circumstances this year, the joyful fact of the Incarnation remains. Fr Stephen, Fr Peter & Deacon David wish you and your families every blessing this holy season. God bless you, and **THANK YOU** for your Christmas greetings, cards and offering.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: YOU NEED TO BOOK

First, **thank you** to our stewards and cleaners who have made known their availability over Christmas and have made it possible for there to be public Masses this Christmas.

Christmas Eve: 4pm Livestream *only* with carols

Christmas Eve: 9pm Public early 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day: 1045am Public Mass

To avoid any possible overcrowding **it will be necessary to BOOK A PLACE at the public Masses. We cannot** let in any more than 50 people. **Book on the parish website preferably, or by phone or by letter.** Give name, numbers coming and phone contact. **Thank you**

PUBLIC WORSHIP: We must thank the volunteer cleaners and stewards without whom we would not be here together. Public worship is totally dependent on their efforts. We must maintain our keeping of Covid guidelines at all times, and we thank you all for that.

HANDS – please remember to sanitise and to touch as little as possible. Please take away the news sheet on your seat so that no one else touches it.

FACE – wear a face covering over mouth and nose. If cannot do this, you must keep 2 metres or 6 feet distance.

SPACE – keep more than 1 metre (or 3 feet) away from people not in your household. Please do not move the seats unless to move closer to a family member. **Seats must not be moved for any other reason and must always be 1 metre from the aisle and the point of Communion, and anyone else** behind, beside or in front of you if not in your household. (If you do not wear a mask, your seat must be 2 metres distant). When you move for Communion, or to enter or leave the church, remember that the shortest route may always not be the safest – always keep 1 metre distance (2 metre if no mask). Stewards will guide you.

VENTILATION – We must keep fresh air coming in to minimise the risk of viruses in stale air.

Please follow instructions from stewards – they are there to help make sure that these guidelines are followed. The good news about vaccines mean that we move ever closer to the end of all this – but it isn't over yet.

FR STEPHEN WRITES: The great feast of Christmas has been celebrated in many places, circumstances and ways. The cheerful Dickensian glow, the hopeful but doomed truce of No-man's land in 1914, the austerity of wartime rationing, a family marking baby's first Christmas, the suffering of the priest's barracks at Dachau, the sun-drenched heat of Australia's Bondi beach. This year, we celebrate with a pandemic and a tight limit on who we can see and how many can gather. But the message is so wonderful that it transcends everything. God comes into our mixed-up world to bring healing and salvation, to all people in every place no matter what else is going on. Nothing can ever change that, and as we are called to give thanks to God always and everywhere, the eternal and universal meaning of Christmas is a prime reason why. Whatever our darkness, the light of Christ shines out in

hope. Whatever our failings, the light of Christ shines out with salvation. Have a very blessed Christmas.

FR PETER REFLECTS: St John Henry Newman's Letters and Diaries comfort us in the context of the current pandemic. He writes of the mixture of strong emotions he feels, both strengthened by the "nimbus glow" of holiness around the crib, while missing his loved ones who are now contemplating the Lord of Life, face to face, in Heaven. Newman's sermons reassure us too. In 'Remembrance of Past Mercies' he encourages us to look back at key recent events, to see the pattern of God's hand at work, which guarantees that he is now in the present and will be forever. 'The Lapse of Time' recommends we review the past year in this way. While 'Religious Joy' celebrates Jesus's coming to carry our burdens, because he was fully human, and 'acquainted with grief' (*Isaiah 53:3*) and yet completely divine. Newman drew great strength from this line from Handel's Messiah – as he sat listening to it being performed. Like our local Saint, we will receive the gift of Christ's "spirit of ever-abundant, ever-sprinting love." Amen.

GIVING TO THE PARISH You can set up a regular or single donation on the diocesan website:

(www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) click on Donate (top right) and follow the instructions. When asked which church you are donating to, select 'Coventry: Canley'.

Thank you for your giving, especially in these times

CHRISTMAS CARDS It will not be possible to sell any Christmas cards from a parish piety stall this year. You can buy excellent cards in support of many wonderful charities.

Aid to the Church in Need website <https://acnuk.org/>,

CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/>

Friends of the Holy Land website

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

Catholic Children's Society website

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>

CHURCH WEBCAM It is now possible to join in with all the worship here over the internet via a link on the home page of the parish website. Ask for help – or indeed give it!

KNOW ANYONE STRUGGLING TO AFFORD FOOD? Find out how to **receive help** from a foodbank and how to **give help** to support one by visiting coventry.foodbank.org.uk

KEEP IN TOUCH... Fr Stephen and Fr Peter can be contacted by phone or email. You might find an answering machine sometimes, but we will get back to you.

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: Pandemic guidelines apply. No more than **6 people may be at a baptism** and **no more than 15 at a wedding.**

FUNERALS: These may still happen in church under the restrictions that apply to all public Masses with **no more than 30 people** present: stewards and cleaners are **obligatory.**

CONFESSION: May be celebrated outdoors in a public space maintaining social distancing.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE: This remains available of course, under the guidance given for the safety of all involved – carers, relatives, priest **and** the person receiving the sacraments in an emergency.

CHURCH WEEKLY COLLECTION:
Collection £139.00 Donations £140.00 **Thank you**