



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

in Partnership with St Thomas More

Sunday 27th 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, 27th December: Feast of the Holy Family	10.45 am Public Mass 5pm No Mass	George & Paula Black ~
Monday 28 th Dec: Holy Innocents	10am Live stream Mass	Martha & Frank Perry
Tuesday 29 th Dec: St Thomas Beckett	10am Live stream Mass	Packie Meehan
Wednesday 30 th Dec	6.30pm Live stream Mass	Brigid Moran (Anniv)
Thursday 31 st December: St Sylvester I	10.00 am Public Mass	Mary Meehan
Friday 1 st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	10.00am Live stream Mass	Eileen Connolly
Saturday 2 nd January: St Basil and St Gregory	10.00am Live stream Mass	Phyllis & Gerard Deegan
Sunday 3rd January: Second Sunday after the Nativity	10.45 am Public Mass 5pm No Mass	Charles & Martha Connolly ~

**A HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND BLESSED
CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!**

WE ARE LIVE ON THE INTERNET! FOLLOW MASS ONLINE

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: Monica Deegan, Margaret Young, Jesse Thompson, Anne-Louise Healy, Mary Storey, Thomas Murray, Gladys McIntyre, Daniel Knowles, Bernard Hopkins, John McNaughton, Michael Hogan, Nellie Britten, Patrick Forde. 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

◆ STEWARDS AND CLEANERS NEEDED FOR 5PM MASSES ◆

At the moment, we are not able to steward the 5pm Mass with certainty over the next couple of Sundays. This means that we cannot be open for evening Mass without more volunteers. **Please speak to one of the clergy or email the parish to volunteer.** No one should volunteer who is not in good health or who is taking care of a vulnerable person. Numbers in the congregation at the 5pm Mass have reduced considerably recently and so it may be that we simply have a smaller pool to ask at present. Given the news about the virus, we must not take any risks or simply assume Masses will be adequately stewarded. As Christians, we have a duty of care towards one another and to wider society. We look forward to being able to offer this Mass again as soon as volunteers have come forward. So, to be clear, as well as no 5pm today (which was announced last week), there will be no **5pm Mass next Sunday 3 January**. If volunteers come forward this week, it can return on 10 January.

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.

THANK YOU for your kind Christmas greetings, cards and Christmas offering.

FR STEPHEN WRITES: Christmas 2020 will be a Christmas we shall all remember, a Christmas like no other. Those memories may be of relief that we had any kind of Christmas at all, of sadness that we could not be with all those we love, of separation from those closest to us, of gratitude for the love and care of friends and family. What did Mary and Joseph remember about the first Christmas? What memories did the shepherds take back with them and ponder afterwards? Of course, that first Christmas was like no other: never had God the Son been born in flesh before. Never had Mary and Joseph known such callings by signs and wonders to enable God's plan for our salvation to unfold with and through them. Never had the Shepherds seen a heavenly host of Angels and gone down to the town to see a new-born child. But doubtless, Mary and Joseph were relieved – they had found somewhere to stay, Mary had given birth without complications, Jesus was healthy. Mary and Joseph were soon to be separated from home and family as they fled into Egypt to escape murderous Herod and of course knew gratitude at their safe return. Christmas is an end to separation and a cause of true gratitude. The Creator has come as a creature, to join Himself to humanity that we might be joined to Him. Even the angels rejoice at God's love for humanity, the hope of salvation He promises. As we pray in the Third Eucharistic prayer 'gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world'. The shepherds gather at the manger, but God's presence in Jesus is His gathering us, living and departed in faith, hope and love. May you continue to know peace and hope this Christmas season. God bless you all.

FR PETER REFLECTS: As 2021 fast approaches it's good to pause and ponder the words of Minnie Louise Haskins, made famous by King George VI's 1939 Christmas broadcast to a troubled nation at the start of World War II. My Aunt, who originally heard them on the radio at the time, first introduced me to them in my teens. Each December I think of them:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills in the breaking of day in the lone East...God knows. His will is best. The stretch of years which wind ahead, so dim to our imperfect vision, are clear to God. Our fears are premature; in Him all time hath full provision. Then rest: until God moves to lift the veil from our impatient eyes, when, as the sweeter features of life's stern face we hail, fair beyond all surmise God's thoughts around his creatures our mind shall fill."

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 1 JAN

Public celebration of Mass at St Thomas More Church at 10am. May God bless 2021 and Our Lady pray for us.

SUNDAY PUBLIC MASSES IN THE TWO PARISHES

Saturday Vigil Mass of Sunday 5.00pm STM

Sunday Mass 9.00am STM

Sunday Mass 10.45am SJW

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.

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

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 needed.

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 £125.00 Donations £80.00 **Thank you**