



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS



The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon
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A parish of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in collaboration with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

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SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY



Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light. 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

PUBLIC WORSHIP CONTINUES

One of the government's 'reasonable excuses' for being outside of one's house in a tier 4 area is to attend communal worship. Public worship at All Souls continues as at present, following national guidance on the safe use of places of worship. Please note that government rules state that when you come to church you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble in and around church, and you should maintain strict social distancing at all times.

JESUS CHRIST - THE SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER

We begin 2021 as we ended 2020 – in the throes of a global pandemic which continues to bring a great deal of disruption, uncertainty and anxiety to our lives. Many challenges still lie ahead. This is as true for parish life as for any other aspect of our lives. Even with the good news of approved vaccines coming on stream, we all know that it is likely to be months before parish life (and the rest of life) resembles anything like normal. It's good to begin 2021 with a sobering dose of realism!

Part of that realism will be to face up to some of the challenging questions the pandemic has thrown up for the Church and for parishes: *Is our faith strong enough for when the going gets tough? Are we forming mature and resilient disciples of Christ whose faith sustains them in good times and bad times? Does our faith mean as much to us as we thought it did? Are we a praying parish? Is drawing close to Jesus in the Eucharist central to our lives or is it something we've found we can do without? Will parishioners return to the Eucharist and parish life when all this is over? Does gathering as the Body of Christ for worship really matter or will some people be happy to stick with 'virtual Church' via live streams from here and elsewhere? How are we to draw back people who have carved out new Sunday morning routines? How will we re-engage families and children? What is our response to the painful experience of separation from the Church of many of our parishioners due to age, ill-health and vulnerability? How do we hold together as a community when sickness/disease keeps us physically apart? How do we support and encourage one another? How do we communicate with one another and with those more on the fringes of parish life?* Honestly addressing questions like these will help us move forward, I hope with a clarity of vision and purpose, and in a way that resists the temptation simply to default to "the way we have always done things". I invite you to begin to reflect on them yourself.

It's also essential to begin 2021 with a hefty dose of **hope**. The daily news is tough enough to stomach these days, but the pessimism and cynicism with which it is delivered by many news outlets is depressing and utterly hope-less. Being a Christian doesn't make one immune to a coronavirus or any of life's ills, and it shouldn't make us naïve, but it does make one a **person of hope**. When outward certainty and stability have collapsed, the stability we have in Christ is unshaken. Though so much has changed since last March, and we're not sure where and when things will land, our hope in Jesus Christ is constant because he is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and promises never to abandon his Church. Vaccines and the gifted scientists who develop them give us hope. The many community initiatives and responses that have emerged during the pandemic give us hope. Job retention schemes give us hope. But ultimately our hope is founded on God. We trust that he is Lord of all things; that he is in charge of all things; that he has a plan for all things even if we can't see what it is right now; and that he is never absent from us and from his creation. So let the newscasters relentlessly prophesy doom and gloom, but let the Church lead the way into 2021 with hope and courage and good news.

I wish you a very happy and hope-filled new year, whatever it brings. God bless you.

Father Paul

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

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| Sunday 3rd Jan | 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY | 10.30am MASS <i>For the People of the Parish Bridie Morrow RIP (Fr Tim)</i> |
| Monday 4 th | Christmas Feria | 9.30am Mass <i>Mary Lynch RIP</i> |
| Tuesday 5 th | Christmas Feria | 9.30am Mass <i>Intentions of Ellen McGilloway</i> |
| Wednesday 6th | SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | 9.30am MASS <i>Helen Smith RIP Intentions of Fr Gerard Mary Toman (Fr Tim)</i> |
| Thursday 7 th | Christmas Feria | 5.30pm Reception of the Body of Ann Davin RIP 10.30am Funeral Mass (Ann Davin RIP) |
| Friday 8 th | Christmas Feria | 7.30pm Mass <i>Eamon Mullally RIP</i> 9.30am Mass <i>John Philip Curristan RIP</i> |
| Sat 9 th | Christmas Feria | 11.00am Funeral Mass (Eileen Holloway RIP) 9.30am Mass <i>John Hopkins RIP</i> 10.30-11.30am Confessions |
| Sun 10th | FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | 10.30am MASS <i>For the People of the Parish Annie Turvey RIP (Fr Tim)</i> |

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 30 minutes before Mass Monday-Saturday
Daily Evening Prayer (Vespers) via Zoom at 6pm (email Fr Paul to receive log-in details)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Wednesday 6 January

Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us Incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Hid beneath a form of earth.

By its lambent beauty guided,
See, the Eastern Kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.

Offerings of mystic meaning!
Incense doth the God disclose;
Gold a Royal child proclaimeth;
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu! in thy brightness
To the Gentile world display'd!
With the Father, and the Spirit,
Endless praise to Thee be paid.

Aurelius Prudentius (348-413), translated E. Caswall (1814-1878)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY Each of the member churches of Churches Together in Earlsdon and Chapelfields will host Evening Prayer in turn on Zoom from Monday 18 to Friday 22 January in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It will be the turn of All Souls on Tuesday 19 January. More details to follow.

PAX CHRISTI SECOND COLLECTION A second collection to support the work of *Pax Christi* will be taken at Masses in the week beginning 17 January.



CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS Thank you for all your Crib Offerings so far this Christmas. Please place any further **Food Bank** items in the box near the crib. The Food bank helps local people in need. Any further offerings for **Friends of the Holy Land** should be placed in the wall slots near the exit. Friends of the Holy Land aims to ensure a secure Christian presence in the land of Our Lord's birth. This Christmas so many Holy Land Christians, their homes and families, will be affected by a lack of tourists and pilgrims, which means a loss of income. Please place crib offerings in the wall slots near the exit.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED Of your charity pray for the repose of the souls of **Annie Davin**, **Eileen Holloway** and **Anna (Nancy) Cairns** who have died recently. Their funerals will be celebrated at All Souls on Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Monday 11 January respectively. Please pray too for Marilyn **Parish**.

GROWING FAITH

Week 8: The Power of Prayer

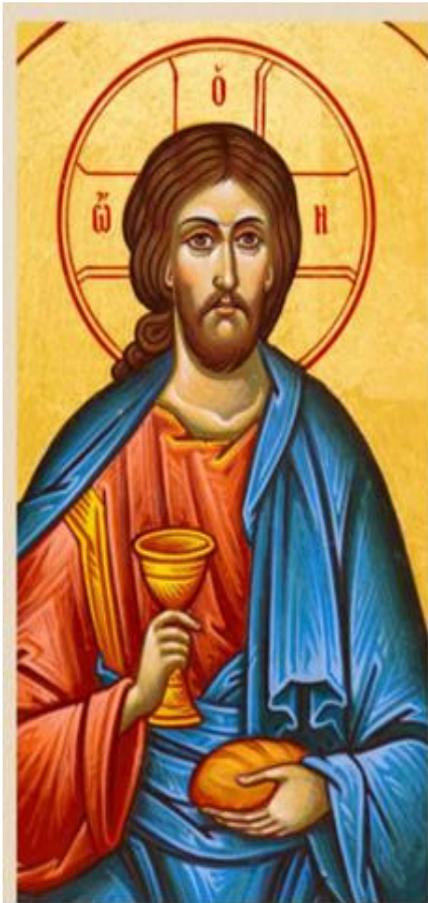
To help sustain our faith during the challenging winter months, we are providing parishioners with a weekly link to resources from Sycamore, a Catholic course aimed at helping people mature in their faith. The main feature is a 30 minute film.

This week's session is entitled The Power of Prayer. Simply follow the link, press play and enjoy the video:
<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/session-8-the-power-of-prayer/>

Those receiving the link by email will also find an attachment with some questions for reflection/discussion plus some related passages of scripture and teaching of the Church. You may wish to use the resources on your own or as a family. Please feel to pass them on to others who you think would benefit. Fr Paul

HELPING THE STEWARDS Could you please leave the kneeler down in your place when you leave church to indicate to the stewards which kneelers need to be cleaned. Many thanks. If you are able to join the team of stewards please speak to Celia Lewis or Fr Paul.

Prayers for Spiritual Communion



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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.

Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ,
wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen
me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within thy wounds hide me
Permit me not to be
separated from thee
From the wicked foe defend
me
At the hour of my death call
me
And bid me come to thee
That with thy saints I may
praise thee
For ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep us all in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclude with the following:

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.