



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, REDDITCH

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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Parish Clergy: Fr Anthony Rohan, Fr Jason Mahoney

Permanent Deacons: Revds Des Chilton & Peter Griffiths

NEWSLETTER 1914 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** 3RD MAY 2020 YEAR A

Readings Acts 2:14,36-41 Psalm 22 1 Peter 2:20-25 Gospel John 10:1-10

Good Shepherd Sunday—*Archbishop's Pastoral Letter for today available on our website under Pastoral Letters on the Newsletter page*

Thank you ... Fr Tony & Fr Jason would like to thank all those parishioners who have sent in their Easter Offerings—it is very much appreciated.

Reflection

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Communion

In these rather extraordinary times, as our churches remain closed, we hear how souls lament and long for the presence of the Lord. In the media, some look in askance at us that we may be putting merely earthly concerns of health before our need to turn to spiritual means such as prayer to end this pandemic; others look to the example of our Holy Father in closing the churches for our safety; and others again, remind us of the need to show how us Catholics are good law-abiding citizens.

As we cannot enter our churches at the moment, let's consider how else God may be present with us. Saint Paul teaches about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts: in 1 Corinthians (3,16) he says clearly, *"Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you?"* What St Paul is saying to us, the people of God, is that having grace in our souls, which means that God's Spirit – the Holy Spirit – is dwelling in our hearts: we have God's presence within us! During the Cold War era, when many priests and bishops were imprisoned by the Communists, some spoke of the consolation of knowing and embracing that God's presence was living within them whilst they were cut off from the Sacraments in prison cells.

As we pray our prayer of Spiritual Communion we find a similar idea:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament: body, blood, soul and divinity. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, please spiritually enter more deeply into my heart and mind. I embrace You, trusting in your answer to my prayer, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

We ask Jesus, as we would when we go to Holy Communion at Mass to 'come into our souls *spiritually*. We ask that his presence be there within us in our inmost heart and soul. We ask to be united with him, to be united with God. Let us meditate and contemplate God's presence in our hearts as we feel that hunger for God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, and take consolation in it.

Father Jason

Daily Rosary Prayer

Don't forget to join the Fathers spiritually in their prayers each evening at 6pm til 7pm when they pray the Rosary for the Parish, its people, living and dead, and its needs, remembering particularly those causes we support.

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations

'Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm'

Pope Francis from his 2020 message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Although many events are uncertain at the moment, could I ask you to pray that we will be able to celebrate the ordination of four new priests for the Archdiocese of Birmingham on Saturday 18th July. Please keep Clive Dytor, Sean Gough, Benedict Skipper and Alex Taylor in your prayers.

Fr Michael Dolman, Vocations Director

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the witness and ministry of the bishops, priests, deacons and consecrated men and women in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Continue to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire the hearts of your people to answer your call to the priesthood, the diaconate and to the religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity and may those you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Send your Holy Spirit upon me to guide me in my own vocation. Brighten my mind to show me what you want of me, fill my heart with the determination to answer your call in faith, hope and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Mass Intentions

This week are for: **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Holy Souls, Galton Trust, Jane Powell, Seamus, John, Michael & Elizabeth Sammin, Fr Bob Wright **Monday** Christine McNamara **Tuesday** Eileen Gavin, Fr Bob Wright **Wednesday** Ints of Alan Coombes & family **Thursday** Patsi Byrnes, Patsi Houston **Friday** Martin Twomey **Saturday** Mary Payne, Chris & Jan Srebniak, Lilian Tierney **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Lady Jeanne Hunt, People of the Parish, Ints of Fr Jason, John Finnegan, Tom Donnelly (a) & John Donnelly

Lamp at the Shrine of Our Lady

This week the lamp burns in loving memory of JOHN FINNEGAN
Next week in loving memory of LIZ MUNNERLEY (ANNIVERSARY)

Lamp at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart

This week the lamp burns for the repose of the soul of MARTIN TWOMEY
Next week for the INTENTIONS OF ALL GCSE STUDENTS

For the dead ...

Your prayers are asked for **MARTIN TWOMEY** Funeral 2pm Monday 4th May at the Graveside, Abbey Cemetery, **GRAHAM TOON** Funeral 12.30pm Wednesday 6th May at the Abbey Chapel, **BETTY HERLIHY** Funeral 12.30pm Thursday 7th May at the Abbey Chapel, **EDWARD BRADY** Funeral 11am Monday 11th May at the Abbey Chapel, **PAM LEWIS** Funeral 2.45pm Tuesday 12th May at the Abbey Chapel, **FREDA BURKE** Funeral 3pm Wednesday 13th May at the Graveside, Kings Norton Cemetery, **HELEN MCCABE** Graveside Service at Hadzor Wednesday 13th May at 2.30pm May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

For the Sick ... Your prayers are asked for **GERRY BREE, CAROLINE HOLLAND AND FAMILY, DOROTHY ADAMS, ANITA** in hospital in Poland, 9 month old daughter of Monika

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY— For Deacons—we pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and to the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire church.

CAFOD CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY APPEAL

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

Saints for the Week ...

Monday Feast of the English Martyrs

This feast celebrates the many men and women who suffered for the Faith in England between 1535 and 1680 and have been subsequently been recognised by the church. These included priests, both secular and religious, as well as laity who were prepared to shelter them, to arrange secret Masses, and to witness the Faith. They came from all ages and backgrounds, and their heroic witness helps us have a greater love for the Church, the Mass and the priesthood.

An 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.

News from the Diocese

Supporting Your Parish

Many have asked how you can continue giving to your parish during the pandemic. Parishes and charities still greatly need your support, even more so without their weekly congregations and visitors. We do though recognise that many parishioners may be struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so.

If you wish to donate visit the home page on the diocesan website - www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk where there is a DONATE button. You can donate via Standing Order or single donation - donations can also be gift aided.

Follow the Archdiocese on online

If you are on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram you can follow the Archdiocese to catch up on events, shared news and information.

Series of Special Masses

There is a series of special Thursday evening Masses for the sick, their families, NHS staff, and those working in Social Care which began last Thursday 23rd April at Westminster Cathedral—visit their website for more details.

500 Club

For obvious reasons the draw for the 500 Club has been postponed but as soon as everything is back to normal and I am, once again working from the parish office, we will have the draws for the months missed..... Carol

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Jane Craig & Mrs Linda Gordon



