



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 1908 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT** 21ST MARCH 2020 YEAR A

Readings 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 Psalm 22 Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

Coronavirus and Its Implications ...

It has been hard for all of us to absorb the unprecedented world events surrounding the spread of the coronavirus, and to take on board the magnitude of the responses being made by those in authority, and being asked of us. In the midst of our confusion and perhaps anxiety, it is the virulence of COVID-19 that makes the situation so urgent. In line with government guidelines preventing mass gatherings, from last Friday (20th March), all public Mass has been suspended, as obviously, has your obligation to attend Sunday Mass. All other liturgical celebrations and public prayers in church have also been stopped. Please see the letters from Archbishop Bernard, and from the Bishops' Conference for more details.

Having no public Sunday Mass will be very hard for us - it is normally the foundation of our faith. However, most importantly, the Mass will continue to be offered daily in our parish and our country. You are also asked to participate in Mass online, if possible. Christ the King parish, Coventry, streams Mass every day at 9.30am (go to <https://ctk-cov.org.uk/wp/live-streaming/>), and other parishes offering a similar service can be found on the diocesan website (www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online).

It is encouraged that we don't just watch the Mass online, but join in: if living with others, gathering as a family or household (with social distancing taken into account); prepare a few minutes before in silence; stand, sit and kneel as normal, if possible; and join in with the prayers. At Holy Communion time we are all asked to make a spiritual Communion. At its heart this is simply a sincere prayer for Christ to enter more deeply into our hearts and minds, followed by a time of stillness knowing he has answered our prayer. A particular prayer for this is:

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.

The more we embrace this temporary invitation, the more it will help us grow. Cardinal Vincent helps us to see how our current situation can increase our hunger for the Eucharist (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbZ0_x_Cxc - or search for Cardinal Vincent coronavirus on Youtube), and Archbishop Bernard also helps us to unite in solidarity in the times (www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGDoX9VL8W4).

There are two other important ways we can unite with God and each other in these difficult times. Firstly, our churches will be open for private prayer - maybe it is particularly important for our children to maintain the link of going to church, if it can be done safely. Secondly, we need to be creative in supporting each other - especially the more vulnerable and isolated - by phone calls and maybe texts: isolation may help protect people from the virus, but it comes with its own problems which we can seek to alleviate, safely.

Finally, let us remember that God is almighty, all-loving and our Father. He has the power to protect us from harm and to bring good out of even the darkest times - as he did through Jesus' Cross and Resurrection. Let us therefore pray and care for each other in a spirit of trust. The Lord is truly our shepherd; there is nothing we shall want (Psalm 23).

Dedication to Mary ...

We have been asked to dedicate ourselves to Mary, in union with our bishops re-dedicating England to her this Wednesday 25th March - the Solemnity of the Annunciation. However this now happens, if anything the coronavirus has focused our minds on the importance of this moment, and on our need for her maternal protection and guidance.

The diocesan website gives us information about uniting with this rededication, but maybe a simple but powerful way is simply to pray five decades of the rosary each day from Wednesday to next Sunday. It takes about 20 minutes each time. And as we pray, we can offer ourselves along with all the church in this country, to Mary. Don't forget, praying the rosary on the phone is a great way of praying and supporting each other, especially the isolated. Don't be too embarrassed to ask someone.

Mass Intentions

All Mass Intentions will be said as normal albeit privately by the clergy—Mass Intentions being said this week are: Peter & David McHugh (b'day a), John & Christine O'Donnell, Eileen Hannon, Dick Doyle (a), Intentions of Mary Flynn & family, Sal Boyd, Ints of Patrick O'Connor, Alice Gourley, Paddy Battersby, Rita Curran, Lilian Tierney, Div Coyne (a), Michael & Winifred Conboy, Olga Antonowicz & William Sparkes

Lamp at the Shrine of Our Lady

*This week the lamp burns in loving memory of **MICHAEL & WINIFRED CONBOY***

*Next week in loving memory of **PADDY JOE & BRIDIE McINERNEY***

Lamp at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart

*This week the lamp burns for **EDDIE PURCELL & ANNE POLLARD***

*Next week in loving memory of **CONWAY BREWSTER (ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY)***

For the dead ...

*Your prayers are asked for **FRANK CURRY**, Reception into Church Thursday 26th March at 5pm Funeral Mass Friday 27th March at 12 noon, **MARY COURT**, Reception into Church Monday 6th April at 5pm, Funeral Service Tuesday 7th April at 1.15pm at the Abbey Chapel. May their souls and the souls of the all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

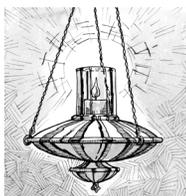
Collections/Donations

In response to the many questions regarding collections/donations during this time. For those that wish to continue giving during this time cheques made out to Mount Carmel Church, GA envelopes or Cash can be dropped into the Presbytery, the office or through the letterbox. We thank you all for your continued support.

Baptisms

Just to reiterate what has already been said, Baptism Meetings will cease until further notice and those families who have Baptisms already arranged over the next few months, these should be deferred. If this is a problem please contact the parish office on 01527 63096.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY PARISH GROUP If you wish to contact the SVP, please telephone 07531 818731 (the SVP phone) and leave a message with your contact details so we can return your call.



LAMPS AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY & THE SACRED HEART

To have the lamp burn for your intentions or loved ones, please contact the parish office, suggested donation £5

May Our Lady of Mount Carmel protect you all and keep you safe through these unprecedented times

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Jane Craig & Mrs Linda Gordon
Email:safeguardingOLMC@gmail.com

