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SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – YEAR A SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2020

Dear Parishioners,

During the month of June, we usually have the joy of celebrating with children from our parish as they receive the Eucharist for the first time. Sadly, this year, we were unable to celebrate the First Holy Communion Masses in either of our churches. The priests of the Deanery have decided that we will explore the possibilities for setting a new date for this when the schools return in the autumn term. Please continue to keep the children of our parish in your prayers.

It was also a very strange Holy Week and Easter this year, and we were unable to receive into Full Communion with Catholic Church those who were on our joint-deanery RCIA course. I look forward this week, to receiving a parishioner during Holy Mass on Tuesday morning. Please pray for them as they take this wonderful step on their journey of faith.

I continue to be moved by those who are beginning to take the tentative steps of returning to Holy Mass. I realise – from speaking to so many of you – how difficult these first steps are. After many months of shielding or self-isolating, it can be overwhelming to leave the security of our homes. I also know that this is not just the elderly and vulnerable of our parishes. Please continue to take your time...there will be a warm welcome at St Christopher's when you are able join us. We are seeing new familiar faces each week, and this is wonderful!

I am also aware that for some, any connection to our parishes was lost when we were forced to close in the middle of March. This is something we will begin to work on together in the months ahead. I have been stopped many times whilst out walking Oskar (my four-legged curate) and asked if we were open yet. St Christopher's is now open for Holy Mass!

I am very conscious that we are still not in a position to be able to gather at St Thomas's, and we are working on opening as soon as we can. I continue to update the news page of our parish website with lots of photographs of what is going on so that you have a peek of the progress!

Thank you for all of your messages this week to say that you're keeping me in your prayers! They are much needed and certainly appreciated! Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for you, and your families.

With every blessing, Fr Craig.

PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen.

based on a prayer of St Alphonus De'Liguori

KEY CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Craig Szmidt BA STB

The Presbytery

115 Wolverhampton Road

Codsall, WV8 1PF

01902 842891

pp.stchristopher.codsall@rcaob.org.uk

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev Mr Steve Walters

PARISH SISTERS

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Tarbes

33 Alameda Gardens

01902 751614

PARISH SECRETARIES

Codsall: Anne Shipley

Tettenhall: Linda Allen

SAFEGUARDING

Codsall: Jo Stewart

01902 845027

Tettenhall: Angela Walker

01902 751197

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Available after Holy Mass on Sunday,
and by appointment. Please contact
Fr Craig for more information.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday 6.30 p.m. concluding with
Evening Prayer at 7.00 p.m.

This will also be live streamed for
those at home.

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

...the young people of our parish, particularly those who are receiving results during these weeks of August!

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS

There is no obligation to attend Holy Mass at the moment, and please do not feel pressurised if you feel the time is not yet right for you.

A reminder for anyone coming to Holy Mass:

1. Everyone (unless under the age of 5, or with a serious medical condition) attending Holy Mass is required by law to wear a face covering or mask.
2. Entrance is through the rear door from the car park only,
3. We are required, by the government, to take the names and telephone number of every person who attends Holy Mass. This is for the purposes of Track and Trace.
4. In line with the guidelines, you will be directed to your seat by one of the stewards. The church looks very different, and you won't be able to sit in your 'usual' seat.
5. Once you are seated, it won't be possible to keep moving around the church due to social distancing.
6. The toilets are locked, and access to the sacristies and kitchen are restricted for the time being.
7. Holy Communion will be brought to you in your place by the priest. The priest will wear a face mask for this part of Mass.
8. There will be no congregational singing, sign of peace or offertory procession at Mass.
9. The congregation will be dismissed row by row at the end of Mass, starting at the back.
10. Please use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church.
11. We are following government guidelines on Track and Trace. More information is available on our website and on the noticeboard in church.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support!

STEWARDING FOR HOLY MASS

We continue to thank our wonderful! You can still volunteer to help with stewarding at Mass – please speak to one of the stewards, or contact Fr Craig, for more information!

UPDATE ON ST THOMAS'S

The decorators have now almost finished on the ceiling and Lady Chapel. They will return for the final touching up when the works are finished. One of the builders this week said that the church certainly had a 'wow factor now'! We continue to be held up by the extensive repairs required to the Parquet flooring. Four large sections of this have had to be taken up due to historic – and more recent – flooding. We have to allow sufficient time for the floor under the blocks to dry out sufficiently before the wooden blocks can be re-laid. If we don't, it will lift again. The Archdiocese has instructed that we refurbish the Terrazzo flooring on the Sanctuary rather than replacing the carpet, and this work began this week too. We are still unable to set a definite date for reopening St Thomas's, but it looks as though we will not be in a position to reopen until the beginning of October. I realise that this will be a great disappointment to many, but the wait will definitely be well worth it!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following strict government guidelines about visiting other people's homes, the Bishops' Conference has issued instructions on Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion mustn't be in a vulnerable category, shielding or self-isolating. Please speak to Fr Craig for more information before arranging a visit.

PARISH GIVING

You can still donate online through the Archdiocesan Website. Select either "Codsall" or "Wolverhampton: Tettenhall". birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work

CAFOD

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: cafod.org.uk/summerofhope

GOOD SHEPHERD RELIEF IN NEED

A number of people have been in touch to ask about donations for the Good Shepherd Relief appeals. Due to the restrictions in place at the moment, we are unable to have collections, and they are currently inundated with donations. They will keep us posted when they are ready to receive new donations. They are still doing house clearances and interested parties should ring Peter Hughes on 07889 786687. For more information, visit gsrin.co.uk

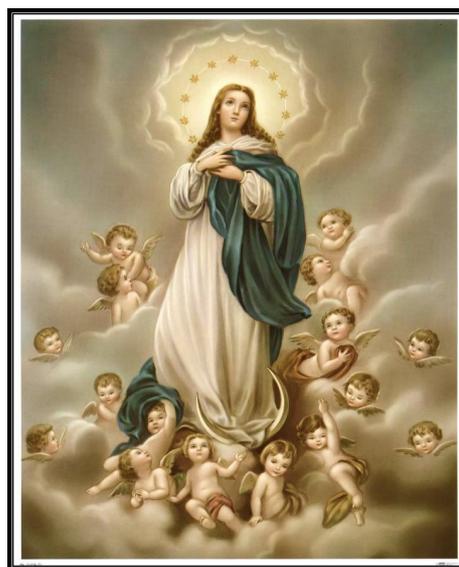
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

A continued "Thank you" to the parish SVP (and helpers) for all of their help and support of parishioners during the pandemic! It is very much appreciated.

If you, or if you know of anyone who would like some assistance from our SVP, then please do get in touch! An important task they are undertaking it to offer support to parishioners including shopping for those who are self-isolating or struggling to buy food due to current circumstances arising from the Coronavirus.

The SVP are currently providing food parcels for individuals and families in financial difficulties. If anyone is able to donate dried or tinned food, there is a blue box outside of the Presbytery for donations. Thank you for your support!

Ring Tess Fitzsimons 01902 262004/07842 383689 or Jo Stewart 01902 845027 for shopping.



All Parish groups are still suspended for the time being. This is in line with current government guidelines.

LIVE STREAM CAMERA

St Christopher's church live streams Mass and other liturgies. Please see notices in the church for more detail.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

16TH AUGUST 2020

Saturday	15	St C	5.30 p.m.	James Rooney
Sunday	16	St C	9.15 a.m.	Pro Populo
<i>For the time being, there will be no 11.15 a.m. Mass on a Sunday</i>				
Monday	17	St C	9.30 a.m.	Mary Roland RIP
Tuesday	18	St C	9.30 a.m.	Carol Whittingham
Wednesday	19	--	-- --	<i>Mass in local churches</i>
Thursday	20	St C	7.00 p.m.	Rose and Lawrence Sweeney
Friday	21	St C	9.30 a.m.	Special Intention PB
Saturday	22	<i>No Saturday morning Mass for the time being.</i>		



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

23RD AUGUST 2020

Saturday	22	St C	5.30 p.m.	Eileen Diver RIP
Sunday	23	St C	9.15 a.m.	Peter Browne RIP
<i>For the time being, there will be no 11.15 a.m. Mass on a Sunday</i>				

MASS INTENTIONS

Due to the temporary suspension of the 11.15 a.m. Mass on a Sunday morning, any Mass Intentions that have been booked for that time will be celebrated at St Christopher's. This will, where possible, be on the same weekend as requested. Thank you for your understanding.

LITURGICAL NOTE...

Monday	Feria
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	Memorial – St John Eudes
Thursday	Memorial – St Bernard
Friday	Memorial – St Pius X
Saturday	Memorial – Queenship of Mary

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...

ROSEANN POWER – *private funeral Mass on Tuesday 25th August.*

MARGARETA WALECZECK – *private funeral service at Bushbury Crematorium on Thursday 3rd September.*

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Please be aware that in line with current government guidelines, only a limited number of people can be present for funerals at the moment, and, therefore, only family members and invited guests can attend. We pray for those who have died and their families.

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES... Zofia Stanislawska, Dee Allsopp, PWB, Mary Doherty, Ian Morris, Leon Thompson, Maureen Everitt, MK, T Hill, John Lewis, Mr & Mrs JT Begue, Alexandra Marshall, Anthony Jones, Marian Allen, Jayne Wiggins, Julian Chalmers, Jane Taylor, Sister Genevieve, Jeff Gibbs, Mary Spratt, Emily Jarvis, Chris Kennedy, Antonina Alaimo, Liliana Alaimo, Giuseppe Alaimo, Joy Westley, CHY, Eutemia Fernandes, Maisie Hargreaves, Mary Rock, Margaret Davies, Brian Barnwell, Clare Fish, Bernadette Peers.

If you would like a name added to our Parish Sick List, please contact the Parish Office.

FINANCIAL MATTERS... FOR AUGUST 2020

Financial information for August will be published at the end of the month.

Thank you for your ongoing support particularly in these difficult times!

