



St Christopher
Wolverhampton Road
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St Thomas of Canterbury
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Tettenhall
WV6 8RF

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www.catholicparishes.org.uk

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parishioners,

What an exciting week it has been at St Thomas's! On Wednesday a priest friend came to help me to put the Stations of the Cross back up, and move the furniture back on to the Sanctuary. The new rooves on the Church and entrance are now complete and the buckets have been officially put away! The church really does look remarkable.

Thank you to everyone who got in touch after Holy Mass last Sunday about the issue with the drains. The information about this not being a new problem, but one which has happened before, was most helpful. A drain expert is due to visit very soon to inform us what the problem is. I am hoping that this will not delay the opening of our church. I hope to announce the opening of St Thomas's in next weekend's newsletter – this depends on the completion of the Risk Assessment for our insurers.

Last Sunday, the church celebrated a truly momentous event. In Assisi, Italy, a young man called Blessed Carlos Acutis (d. 2006) was beatified. Despite only being 15 when he died, he spent the last few years of his life telling the world about Eucharistic Miracles. We seek his intercession today, particularly for an increase in devotion to the Eucharist.

It has been a strange week this week following the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday about changes to the lockdown. As the new 'three tier system' comes into force, I am conscious that our two parishes are in different tiers! Codsall is in Tier One (Medium) whereas Tettenhall falls into Tier Two (High).

As a result of these changes, we are being reminded constantly by the Director for Public Health of the need for Place of Worship to continue to maintain good practice. This means being sensible and ensuring that everyone is safe when they enter our site. I remind us all, once again, of the need to maintain social distancing even on the carpark!

The Blessing of Graves will need to be delayed this year due to the current pandemic. The clergy of the deanery are exploring different ways which we can still mark the month of the Holy Souls, and I will share this with you once I have more information.

We continue to pray for each other!

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 Alphonsus De'Liguori

KEY CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Craig Szmidt BA STB

The Presbytery

115 Wolverhampton Road

Codsall, WV8 1PF

01902 842891

pp.stchristopher.codrill@rcaob.org.uk

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev Mr Steve Walters

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Allen

PARISH SISTERS

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Tarbes

33 Alameda Gardens

01902 751614

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.

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. We continue to follow government guidelines on Track and Trace. More information is available on our website and on the noticeboard in church.

NHS TRACK AND TRACE APP

If you have downloaded the *NHS Track and Trace App* on your mobile phone, there is a QR code for you to 'check in' to St Christopher's each time that you come to Holy Mass. The QR Code is located at the entrance to the church.

RCIA / JOURNEY IN FAITH

It is not too late to join our online RCIA Course. This is aimed at those who would like to explore the Catholic faith in more detail, with the possibility of becoming a Catholic next Easter. It is internet-based and will be run jointly with other parishes in our Deanery. The sessions will take place weekly from 7.45 until 8.45 p.m. on a Thursday evening. For more information, please contact Fr Craig.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November it is traditional to pray for those who have died within our parish and our families. There is a purple box at the entrance to St Christopher's for the names of those you would like people to be remembered during the month of November. Please bring the names of those you would like included in our Books of Remembrance on a piece of paper and leave in the box.

READERS FOR HOLY MASS

I am thankful to those who have already volunteered to read at Holy Mass. If you were on the rota and would like to read again at Mass, please do get in touch. If you've not been on the rota before, and would like to help, please think about it. Proclaiming the Word of God at Holy Mass is such an important ministry.

ALTAR SERVERS

It has been nice to begin to reintroduce some Altar Servers at Holy Mass. There is only be space for one server (or two if they are siblings) and jobs will be limited...but we miss you! If you would be interested in joining the rota for this, please get in touch with Fr Craig.

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.

HOLY MASS AT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

The building works to the inside of the church are now finally completed, and Fr Craig has begun the work of preparing the church for reopening. This requires the church to be marked for Social Distancing and guidance from the government and Bishops needs to be followed. There is also a hefty Risk Assessment which has to be completed. Only when all of this is in place, will we then be able to open for Holy Mass. To begin with, this will just be on a Sunday morning, with weekday Mass continuing to be celebrated at St Christopher's. We will need volunteers to help with stewarding if the church is to open for Holy Mass. Thank you to the four people who have come forward to help. If you are able to help, please do get in touch. Without sufficient stewards, we will not be able to open.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The traditional Blessing of Graves will be delayed this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We will look at rescheduling this for Spring 2021, depending on the restrictions in place.

PARISH GIVING

It is difficult to talk about money when things are so uncertain, but your parishes are struggling financially too. The usual expenditures (utility bills, building and liability insurance, etc) continue and we are still required to pay our levies to the Archdiocese. I was hoping to speak about this at Holy Mass, but then the Coronavirus came along! I will speak about this in the New Year, as I think it is important that you have an understanding of where money is spent. We are very thankful for your ongoing financial support! There is a **DONATION BOX** at the entrance to the church for your weekly offerings. And it is not too late to sign up to pay by Standing Order rather than by cash each week. For more information, please do speak to Fr Craig.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents of children who are due to start primary school in September 2021 are reminded that they must make an online, or paper, application through Staffordshire County Council between 1st November 2020 and 15th January 2021. A copy of the child's Baptism certificate should be sent directly to the school. Any queries, please contact the school office, 297820. Places are also available in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.

MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS

In these strange times, collection of boxes has been difficult. However, if you would care to bring them to Mass, they will be isolated in accordance with Government guidelines and then will be collected and counted. *Missio*, like all Charities, has suffered from lack of funds during the Coronavirus. **THIS SUNDAY (18 October)** is *World Mission Sunday* to which you can contribute. For further information, please refer to the website: missio.org.uk. Any queries, please call Nick Jarvis on 07973 746914 or 01902 747995.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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 Eliz Hopkins 07752 380833 or Jo Stewart 01902 845027 for shopping.

SVP Christmas cards

The SVP are, once again, selling Christmas cards to raise money for their work locally. There will be information on the Parish Website and eventually on our Parish Facebook Page. For more information, or to place your order, please contact Jo Stewart.

SVP Page on our Website

Please do visit the new SVP page on our parish website.

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.

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

18TH OCTOBER 2020

Saturday	17	St C	5.30 p.m.	Quinn & Bayley Families RIP
Sunday	18	St C	9.15 a.m.	Leslie White RIP
<i>For the time being, there will be no 11.15 a.m. Mass on a Sunday</i>				
Monday	19	St C	9.30 a.m.	Betty Cotter RIP
Tuesday	20	St C	9.30 a.m.	Private Intention (WN & TN)
Wednesday	21	--	-- --	<i>Mass in local churches</i>
Thursday	22	St C	7.00 p.m.	Sr Anselmina
Friday	23	St C	9.30 a.m.	Pro Populo
Saturday	24	<i>No Saturday morning Mass for the time being.</i>		



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

25TH OCTOBER 2020

Saturday	24	St C	5.30 p.m.	Dorothy Stephenson RIP
Sunday	25	St C	9.15 a.m.	Patsy Lennon 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 Feria
 Thursday Memorial of St John Paul II
 Friday Feria
 Saturday Feria

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...

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, Shirley Brookman.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS... FOR OCTOBER 2020

THERE IS NO FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT THE MOMENT

RETIRING COLLECTIONS:

TODAY: WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

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

