



St Christopher  
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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

Dear Parishioners,

**“A PURE HEART CREATE FOR ME, O GOD.” (PSALM 50)**

*I don't know about you, but I cannot believe that it is the Fifth Sunday of Lent already! This time last year we were about to begin the first National Lockdown and our churches were closed. The Coronavirus had completely changed all of our lives overnight, but today – twelve months on – we might not be back to normal, but there is much to be thankful for.*

*More and more people are receiving their first dose of one of the approved vaccines. Our churches – thanks be to God – are now open for Holy Mass and in the coming weeks we will, hopefully, see some more of the restrictions being eased.*

*But, as I mentioned last weekend, we need to continue to be vigilant and follow the guidelines for the time being. Thank you for your understanding last weekend about maintaining social distancing both inside and outside of our churches. I am really looking forward to the day when I can remove all of the markers, stickers and one-way systems! That day will come!*

*As we begin looking towards the Sacred Easter Triduum, we can be filled with great hope and optimism. I'm certainly looking forward to celebrating the liturgies of Holy Week with many of you in person this year – rather than being in an empty church with a camera pointing at me. It is not too late to book your tickets but be aware that spaces are filling quickly.*

*If you are unable to join us physically, then you can still be united with us in prayer via our livestreams! The liturgies of Holy Week will need to be celebrated slightly differently this year, in line with the government guidelines. I am thankful to our wonderful musicians who have been working incredibly hard to ensure that our liturgies can be prayerful and reverent whilst also being conscious of the various restrictions.*

*Last weekend I mentioned that we would be bringing back the Sunday morning Mass at St Christopher's from Easter, but due to high numbers at Holy Mass last Sunday, I have decided that we need to bring this forward by a week. So, FROM NEXT SUNDAY, Mass will be celebrated at 9.00 a.m. at St Christopher's and 11.00 a.m. at St Thomas's. Please don't get caught out!*

*Let's continue to pray for each other as we begin this fifth week of Lent.*

*With my best wishes and prayers as always.  
God bless, 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  
*The Parish office is currently closed due to the National Lockdown.*

#### 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)

After Holy Mass at the weekend.  
Also available by appointment.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday 6.00 p.m. until  
Stations of the Cross at 6.30 p.m.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 6.30 p.m.  
at St Christopher's

## WE ARE OPEN FOR HOLY MASS!

**COME:** If you have no flu-like symptoms / not shielding

**LIVESTREAM:** Will continue – now in both churches

**HOLY MASS:** Prayerful, simple, brief

**WELCOME:** Track and Trace to keep everyone safe

### CHANGES TO HOLY MASS TIMES FROM NEXT SUNDAY

We will reintroduce the second morning Mass on a Sunday from NEXT SUNDAY. But to remind you that we will be altering the times slightly.

So, the times for Holy Mass FROM NEXT SUNDAY will be:

#### AT ST CHRISTOPHER

**Saturday: 5.30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)**

**Sunday: 9.00 a.m.**

#### AT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

**Sunday: 11.00 a.m.**

### LENTEN SERVICE OF READINGS AND HYMNS

We are planning a service (a bit like the Advent Carol Service in December) to help us to enter into Holy Week. This will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m. It will be livestreamed only, so that we can sing! A sheet to help you to join in with the singing will be available on our parish website in time for the service.

### TRACK AND TRACE

The information we gather as you enter the church for Holy Mass is essential for keeping everyone updated and safe. You can also use the NHS Track and Trace App – there is a QR code at both of our churches.

### PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The pandemic has meant that we had to make the difficult decision last summer to postpone the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist for year three. The children at school are now beginning their preparation again, and we are looking at how we can continue preparing any children not in a Catholic School. Unfortunately, the government restrictions mean that this is not possible at the moment, but we are now looking to restart the preparation classes in September. If your child was taking part in the preparation classes (in either parish) please do get in touch with the parish office to let us know that you would like them to continue with their preparation. We keep them all in our prayers at this time.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The SVP at our two parishes have been supporting many in our parishes and surrounding community in various ways, including keeping them connected via phone calls, newsletter deliveries, and recordings of Mass. They have also been providing food parcels to those in need in the area.

- Are you, or someone you know, in need of support from the SVP at this time?
- Could you help with financial or food donations to help with our ongoing work?
- Would you consider joining the SVP and volunteer your time to help those in need?

If 'Yes' to any of these questions, please contact Jo Stewart 01902 845027 or Eliz Hopkins 07752380833. Alternatively, you can email [SecretaryF021402@svp.org.uk](mailto:SecretaryF021402@svp.org.uk)

Do visit the SVP page of our website to find out more information about their work and meet some of the members of our SVP conference.



### A GENTLE REMINDER...

Our churches still have to abide by the current guidelines from the government. In our churches we need to ensure that we adhere to strict social distancing measures. This means that you will continue to be **SHOWN TO YOUR SEAT** by a steward. It may not be the seat you usually sit in, but please follow the stewards' directions. **FACE MASKS** are still compulsory in Public Buildings. Please also avoid standing around on **THE CARPARKS** – we've had remarks from passers-by that it looks as though we're not keeping to the rules! It would be awful for us to be closed down at this point when we've gotten this far!

### CONTACTLESS GIVING

You can now donate using our contactless machine located at the entrance to both of our churches. You can, of course, continue using your Weekly Envelopes, Standing Orders, or the collection bags at the end of Holy Mass. If you are joining us from home you can also donate online, visit our parish website, or click the link below the YouTube video.

### GIFT AID

The new boxes of Gift Aid envelopes are now available to collect - please speak to one of the Stewards. There is also a letter for everyone who donates by Envelopes or Standing Orders to confirm that we have your correct address on file and that you are still a UK Taxpayer.

### THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU...

Confession will be available in a number of churches around the deanery on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 6.30-8.00 p.m. Please see the poster for more details.

The churches where Confession will be available are: St. Michael's (Penn), St. Anthony's (Fordhouses), St. Christopher's, (Codsall), St. Joseph's (Wolverhampton), Our Lady's (Cannock Road), Ss. Mary & John's (Snow Hill), & St. Patrick's (Heath Town).

### LITTLE ENVIRONMENT GROUP - FOSTER AN OAK TREE

LEG (based in Tettenhall) has been involved in local tree planting projects over several years, with the most recent in February 2020. They have recently begun nurturing Oak trees for planting in 2022. If you would be able to foster a tree and look after it, please contact: [anja.leg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anja.leg@hotmail.co.uk)

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021

Due to the continued restricted numbers in our churches, and to ensure everyone's safety, we will need to use tickets again. If you would like to attend **The Mass of the Lord's Supper** (Holy Thursday), **The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion** (Good Friday) or **The Easter Vigil** (Holy Saturday) then you will require a free ticket. No tickets are required for either Mass on Easter Sunday.

Tickets can be booked by calling: **CAROL RODRIGUES** on **07810 333057** during daytime hours. Ticket lines will be open until 12.00 noon on Palm Sunday. To avoid disappointment or lost messages, bookings are not available by e-mail or text message.

#### HOLY THURSDAY

7.00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Thomas's

#### GOOD FRIDAY

3.00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at St Thomas's

6.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St Christopher's

#### HOLY SATURDAY

8.00 p.m. Easter Vigil at St Christopher's

#### EASTER SUNDAY

9.00 a.m. at St Christopher's

11.00 a.m. at St Thomas's

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

### 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

Saturday	20	St C	5.30 p.m.	Pro Populo
Sunday	21	<b>N.B. There is no 9.15 a.m. Mass for the time being.</b>		
		St T	11.15 a.m.	John Joyce RIP
Monday	22	St C	9.30 a.m.	Rose & Lawrence Sweeney RIP
Tuesday	23	St C	9.30 a.m.	Sr Philomena Cardoza RIP
Wednesday	24	--	-- --	<i>Mass in local churches</i>
Thursday	25	St C	7.00 p.m.	Frank Kearney RIP
Friday	26	St C	9.30 a.m.	Robert Barrett
		St C	6.30 p.m.	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday	27	--	-- --	<i>There is no Saturday morning Mass for the time being.</i>



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

### 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

Saturday	27	St C	5.30 p.m.	Private Intention (H.M.)
Sunday	28	St C	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	Pro Populo
		St T	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	Edgar Caddick

#### LITURGICAL NOTE...

Monday	Lent Feria
Tuesday	Lent Feria
Wednesday	Lent Feria
Thursday	Solemnity-the Annunciation of the Lord
Friday	Lent Feria
Saturday	Lent Feria

#### PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...

GRAZIA TROIA – *Funeral service 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021*

MOLLY HARRISON

CAROL JOHNSON

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

*In line with government regulations, a maximum of thirty people are currently allowed to attend a funeral Mass / funeral service. Therefore, for the time being, attendance at funerals is by invitation only. We continue to pray for those who are mourning the death of a loved one at this time.*

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES...

Antonina Alaimo, Giuseppe Alaimo, Liliana Alaimo, Marian Allen, Dee Allsopp, PWB, Kathy Barnwell, Mrs JT Begue, Julian Chalmers, Margaret Davies, Mary Doherty, Maureen Everitt, Clare Fish, Sister Genevieve, Jeff Gibbs, Nicholas Graham, Maisie Hargreaves, MK, T Hill, Emily Jarvis, Anthony Jones, Chris Kennedy, John Lewis, Mr & Alexandra Marshall, Ian Morris, Bernadette Peers, Mary Rock, Maura Smith, Mary Spratt, Zofia Stanislawski, Jane Taylor, Leon Thompson, Jayne Wiggins, CHY.

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

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS... FOR MARCH 2021

Financial Information will be published at the end of each month.

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

#### LIVE STREAM CAMERA

Our two churches livestream Holy Mass and other liturgies. Please see notices in the church for more detail.



*Celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord*