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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It was with great joy that I heard last week that the Shrine to Our Lady in Lourdes has now reopened. For the first time in history, the gates into the Grotto were closed on 17th March as a precaution. On Saturday, they were reopened – with social distancing measures in place – for pilgrims to pray at the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette.

On Monday 18th May, St Peter's Basilica in Rome reopened its doors to pilgrims. The Basilica, along with churches across Rome, was closed on 10th March to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. The celebration of Public Mass has also been restored in Italy since Monday. This is all wonderful news!

This, I think, can offer us great encouragement. Yes, we're not reopening just yet, but we are looking towards it with great hope and anticipation. We don't know when it will be, but we will be ready when we are allowed to open the doors. I would imagine it will be for private prayer to begin with, and then later on, Holy Mass will be celebrated publicly again.

We are hearing a lot at the moment about a "new normal", and this will certainly be the case when our churches can reopen. There will be various things put in place (one-way systems, social distancing, hand sanitisers, different doors to enter and exit through, potentially limiting numbers) to protect everyone who enters our buildings. We are currently getting these things ready, and I will be letting you know how you can help in the coming weeks. One thing that we will need to do, is to clean the church (pews, doors, handles, surfaces etc.) every day and (eventually) after each celebration of Holy Mass. We will definitely be needing lots of help with this!

I know that we don't know dates or times when this will all happen, but it finally looks as though there is a light on at the end of the tunnel!

Please, let's keep praying for each other and stay safe!

God bless, *Our Lady of Lourdes...pray for us.*
Fr Craig. *St Christopher...pray for us.*
St Thomas of Canterbury...pray for us.

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our communities. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease, and assist those whose skill can put an end to this affliction. Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body. Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift, and sustain them daily in your service. May their hands bring to others the comfort of your healing touch. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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)

Please contact Fr Craig for more information.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration will be live streamed at various times during the week

Please visit our Parish Website.

THE MONTH OF MAY

The Holy Rosary will be streamed at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday evenings during May. Next Sunday (31st May) is Pentecost Sunday, and the last Sunday of May, so there will be Rosary and Benediction at 6.00 p.m.

PERMANENT CAMERA AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S

A number of people have been asking Fr Craig about the possibility of having a permanent camera installed in St Christopher's. This would enable us to stream Holy Mass on a Sunday even when the lockdown is ended. This has been something that Fr Craig has been thinking about for a while, and he is currently looking at various possibilities. Please do let him know your thoughts about this. There would, of course, be an ongoing financial aspect of this to the parish.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The SVP are continuing to do tremendous work within our parishes as they offer support to our housebound and isolated parishioners. If you, or if you know of anyone who would like some assistance from our SVP, then please do get in touch! They are currently offering support to a number of 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 842027 for shopping.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

The SVP are also helping to distribute printed copies of our weekly parish newsletter to those who are unable to access it via the internet. If there is anyone you think who might benefit from a printed copy, please do contact Fr Craig and he will be happy arrange this. We also have a mailing list to receive the newsletter by e-mail each week – you can sign up for this on the newsletter page of our parish website.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

We may be in lockdown, but works are well underway at St Thomas's! Now that the scaffolding is up, the work to the roof has begun. There have been a few issues with Asbestos, but solutions are being explored. Something is finally happening!

PARISH GIVING

A BIG "THANK YOU" to all who have signed up to new Standing Orders (Direct Debit), posted their envelopes through the Presbytery door, and to those who have sent in cheques. Please be aware, that following diocesan guidelines, cheques will be banked in batches to prevent unnecessary trips to the bank. So, please don't worry if your cheque has not yet been banked!

1. You can now donate online to either of our two parishes through the Archdiocesan Website. Select either "Codsall" or "Wolverhampton: Tettenhall" on the dropdown menu. www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work

2. Use your Offertory Envelopes each week (maybe as you watch the live stream Mass for the full Sunday experience!) and save them until we can come back to Holy Mass.

3. If you would like to sign up for Standing Order, forms for this can be downloaded from the diocesan website above and then posted to Fr Craig Szmids, The Presbytery, 115 Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PF.

3. Post a cheque - please make sure you include a name and address on the back of the cheque and if you are able to Gift Aid by writing GA. Cheques can be posted to the Presbytery.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR TAX YEAR APRIL 2020/2021

These will be available in the porch of both churches when we are able to be together again in Church!

THE PARISH OFFICES – CODSALL & TETTENHALL

Both of our parish offices are currently closed. Both parish telephone numbers currently ring St Christopher's – so don't be confused. Please be aware that Fr Craig is busy between the two sites at the moment due to the building works at St Thomas's. If you ring, and he doesn't answer, please leave a message and your contact details, and he will get back to you as soon as he can.

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2020

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this year's Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes had to be cancelled. All, however, is not lost! This year, we are having a Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and you are invited to join together with the diocesan family. There is a varied programme with Mass, Virtual Torchlight Rosary Processions, Stations of the Cross, and a CJM Concert, just to name a few. You are invited to join Archbishop Bernard Longley for the Opening Mass streamed from St Chad's THIS SUNDAY (24th May) at 3.00 p.m. For the full programme, and for more information, please visit: birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

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 Liguori

During the Easter Season we don't recite The Angelus, but instead we sing the Easter Marian Anthem, the Regina Caeli. Hopefully, you're beginning to pick it up!

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as he said, alleluia.


Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Ant.
6.
R E-gi-na cæli * læ-tá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui-a
quem me-ru-ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surréx-it,
si-cut dix-it, alle-lú-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um,
alle-lú-ia.

All Parish groups have stopped meeting until further notice due to government guidelines.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

24TH MAY 2020

Saturday	23		Fr John Kearns
Sunday	24		Peggy Moore RIP
Monday	25		Mary Birch RIP
Tuesday	26		John & Maureen Mason RIP (Anniv.)
Wednesday	27		Adrian Anslow RIP (<i>not streamed</i>)
Thursday	28		Paddy Moore
Friday	29		Lawrence Sweeney RIP
Saturday	30		Pro Populo

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST – YEAR A

31ST MAY 2020

Saturday	30		Rufus and Mignone Fernando (Wedding Anniv.)
Sunday	31		Kelechi Oduoza RIP

N.B. All Mass Intentions will continue to be celebrated on the date requested.

Whilst Fr Craig is now celebrating Holy Mass privately, you will be able to join him in prayer via our parish live stream. The times for all Live Streams can be found on our parish website.

LITURGICAL NOTE...

Monday	Memorial – St Bede the Venerable
Tuesday	Memorial – St Philip Neri
Wednesday	Feast - St Augustine of Canterbury
Thursday	Easter Feria
Friday	Solemnity of the Dedication
Saturday	Easter Feria

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, Margaret Waleczek, 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.

To add a name to the sick list, please contact the Parish Office.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...

FR DAVID DUGGAN

Private burial at Danescourt Cemetery at 12.00 noon on Friday 29th May (only 10 mourners will be allowed to attend). A Memorial Mass will follow once we are able to celebrate Holy Mass together.

PAUL MACKERNAN

CLARA BRYAN

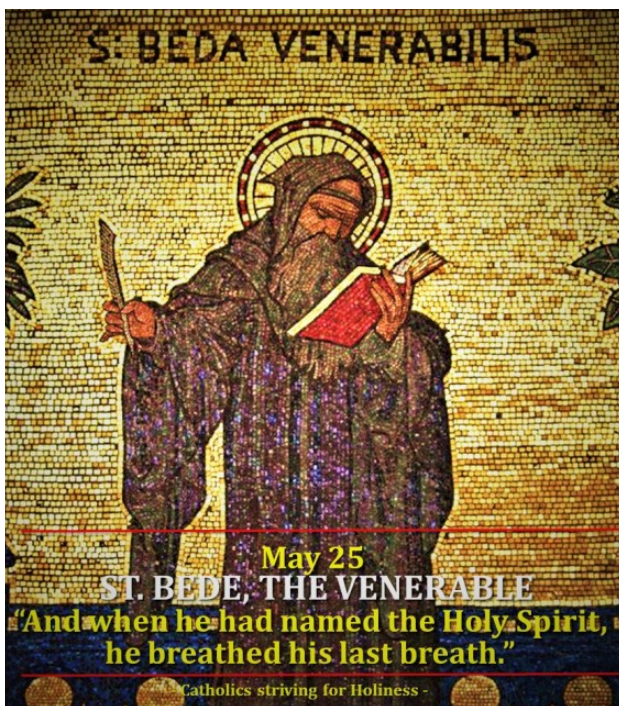
Funeral service at Telford Crematorium

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS...

THERE IS NO FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT THE MOMENT.

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



DIARY DATES... *Something for us all to look forward to...!*

Sat 17 October	Holy Mass to celebrate the Opening (20 years) and Consecration of St Christopher's (10 years)	St C	5.30 pm
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