



St Christopher
Wolverhampton Road
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St Thomas of Canterbury
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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this week, I cannot believe that I have just turned the calendar over in my office and that we have begun the month of October. I don't know about you, but despite these uncertain times, the summer months seem to have passed by so quickly.

The month of October is traditionally the Month of the Most Holy Rosary, and I think it would be good for us to pray this together. Usually we have prayed the Rosary before Mass, but this will be more difficult this year due to the restrictions in place and stewarding. So, we will pray one decade of the Holy Rosary together at the end of Mass each day during October. Of course, we will all have our own intentions for this decade, but perhaps we could also pray particularly for those suffering at this time due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We can also pray for an end to this pandemic.

Beginning the month of October also means that Autumn has arrived, and the weather has begun to get much cooler and wetter! Please do remember to come prepared to Holy Mass. As I said a few weeks ago, if it is cold outside, it will be cold in the church. This is due to us having to keep the windows and doors open for ventilation – this is part of our 1m + policy. As soon as we are able to change this, we will. But, for now, we need to be prepared for chilly conditions!

As mentioned inside the newsletter, there will be a box at the entrance to St Christopher's from this weekend for the names of those you would like to pray for during November, the month of the Holy Souls. This year, we will have a memorial book containing the names of those we remember in both churches. We are currently awaiting guidance on whether the annual Blessing of Graves can go ahead this year due to government restrictions. I will keep you posted as soon as I know anything.

It was lovely to welcome our school community to Holy Mass on Friday morning as they joined us 'virtually' via the live stream. We continue to keep them – and all the young people in our parish – in our prayers

Let's continue to pray for each other, and 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 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.codsall@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
Tetterhall: 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

We have now begun our online RCIA Course for 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. The first session is taking place on Thursday. For more information, please contact Fr Craig via e-mail with your contact details.

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 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.

CAFOD FAST DAY

Next week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable in the world *survive, rebuild and heal*. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at [CAFOD.org.uk/give](https://www.cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of the envelopes. You can also give easily via text. **Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.** *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to donate £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see our privacy policy: [cafod.org/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](https://www.cafod.org/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)*

HOLY MASS AT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

As soon as the works have been completed, Fr Craig will then have to spend some time putting the various restrictions required into place i.e. one-way systems, social distancing etc. There is also a hefty Risk Assessment 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. If you are able to help, please do get in touch. Without sufficient stewards, we will not be able to open.

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

The Archbishop has asked us to rebegin the compulsory Second Collections. These will take place as Retiring Collections at the end of Masses at the weekend. For details of what these are, please see Financial Matters section at the end of the newsletter each week.

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 is 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 for lots of information about the SVP, about their work and how you can become involved.

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

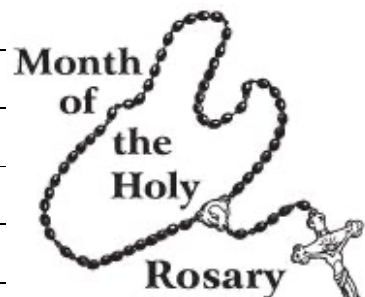
LIVE STREAM CAMERA

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

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

4TH OCTOBER 2020

Saturday	03	St C	5.30 p.m.	Sheila and Tony Gallagher RIP
Sunday	04	St C	9.15 a.m.	May and Albert Birch RIP
<i>For the time being, there will be no 11.15 a.m. Mass on a Sunday</i>				
Monday	05	St C	9.30 a.m.	Josephine Savage RIP
Tuesday	06	St C	9.30 a.m.	Matthew Bowen
Wednesday	07	--	-- --	<i>Mass in local churches</i>
Thursday	08	St C	7.00 p.m.	Pro Populo
Friday	09	St C	9.30 a.m.	Rose & Lawrence Sweeney
Saturday	10	<i>No Saturday morning Mass for the time being.</i>		



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

11TH OCTOBER 2020

Saturday	10	St C	5.30 p.m.	Mike Hassman RIP
Sunday	11	St C	9.15 a.m.	Fr Gerry Fitzsimons 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 – Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Feast – Saint John Henry Newman
Saturday	Feria

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...

ROGER JOHNSON – *private funeral service on Friday 16th October at Telford Crematorium.*

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 SEPTEMBER 2020

	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Total
St Christopher	£2806.00	£415.01	£3221.01
St Thomas	£1748.00	£220.00	£1968.00

RETIRING COLLECTIONS:

TODAY: PETER'S PENCE (USUALLY ON GOOD FRIDAY)

NEXT SUNDAY: CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2020



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