

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A**  
**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

Dear Parishioners,

*As I begin my first Holy Week as Parish Priest of St Christopher's and St Thomas of Canterbury, I never dreamt that I would be celebrating it alone! But all is not lost, as I know that many of you are able to tune in for the liturgies via our Live Stream. But, I am also aware of those who are unable to access the internet, and I ask that we keep these people very much in our prayers, particularly in the coming days.*

*Whilst we might be at the beginning of the strangest Holy Week we've ever experienced all is not lost. For, just as the climax of this Great Week will be the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, the end will come to the isolation we are currently experiencing. We will come to experience the Joy of Easter in a real way, and can celebrate this together!*

*It has, again been wonderful to hear from so many of you during the past week – about what you've been up to, how you're coping with the 'lock-down' and how you are supporting each other. Please continue to reach out to one another and reassure each other by our prayers. Please do continue to get in touch with me if you need anything, or just want a chat!*

*It is very strange being Parish Priest at the moment, particularly not seeing any of you each week – but, please be assured of my continued prayers for each and every one of you!*

*We continue to commend everyone in our two parishes to Our Lady; asking particularly for her maternal protection for those who are suffering and isolated at this time.*

Keep safe.

God bless,

Fr Craig.

*Our Lady of Lourdes...pray for us.*

*St Christopher...pray for us.*

*St Thomas of Canterbury...pray for us.*



**Holy Week**

**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.

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

### RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY PROMISES

Each year, at the Chrism Mass on Holy Wednesday, priests around the world renew the promises they solemnly made on the day of their Ordination. This year, there is no Chrism Mass, and all priests have been asked to renew their promises on Holy Thursday. Fr Craig will be doing this during the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Please continue to keep him, and all priests in your prayers at this difficult time.

### THE PARISH OFFICES – CODSALL & TETTENHALL

Both of our parish offices are currently closed. We keep Anne and Linda in our prayers and thank them for all that they do.

### CRUCIFIX AND TABERNACLE RESTORATION

The Tabernacle and Main Crucifix at St Thomas' are now away for refurbishment work, with an estimated cost of approximately £4,000. Please think about whether you might be able to contribute financially to this. Every little helps! Thank you for £2050 already received!

Unfortunately, the ceiling above the Crucifix and Tabernacle in the church is starting to shed paint and plaster, so I have delayed their return until the roof replacement is completed.

### NEW VESTMENTS FOR HOLY MASS

You may not be aware, but we are very limited in the number of vestments (what the priest wears to celebrate Holy Mass) available in either parish. We have, therefore, ordered a new set for each parish. A set of four will cost £1800. Thank you to those who have already donated £1400 towards these vestments for St Christopher's and £450 for St Thomas's. Please think about whether you might be able to donate (for either parish)!

Green - £450 White - £450 Red - £450 Purple - £450

### CHOIR PRACTICES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Whilst the choir won't be present at the Holy Week and Easter liturgies this year, don't forget to join in at home. I want to be able to hear you singing from your armchair! ☺

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you have tinned/dried food, baby items, nappies, personal toiletries, gifts/toys leave them in the Hall. Thank you. Ring Tess Fitzsimons 01902 262004/07842 383689 for transport to Mass, shopping, medical appointments etc. The SVP are continuing to be of great help within our parishes as they offer support to our housebound and isolated parishioners. We thank them for this important task!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have a small team of volunteers who are doing some shopping for parishioners who are in need of help during these difficult days. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Fr Craig. Thank you to those who are helping already...it is very much appreciated!

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

A huge "Thank you" for your generosity in continuing to support your parishes – even during whilst they are closed, we still need to pay for their upkeep. A number of people have been in touch to ask what they should do with their Gift Aid Envelopes and weekly offerings during the current situation of the Coronavirus pandemic. Please do consider continuing to support your parish financially either by Gift Aid envelopes or cash. You can either wait until we are able to return to Mass, or alternatively, you can post it through the Presbytery letterbox at 115 Wolverhampton Road, (not the office side). If instead, you would like to consider setting up a Standing Order, please get in touch. Thank you.

### GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR TAX YEAR APRIL 2020/2021

Are available in the porch at St Thomas's and at St Christopher's. You will (hopefully) be able to collect these very soon!

### WALSINGHAM, LOURDES & HEDNESFORD PILGRIMAGES

Unfortunately, the annual diocesan pilgrimages to Walsingham, Lourdes and Hednesford have been cancelled this year due to restrictions on travel. Please keep the sick and young people of our Archdiocese in your prayers.

### EASTER DUTIES 2020 – from the Bishops' Conference

"Many of you will be aware of performing your "Easter Duties"; that is, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again."

### AN ACT OF CONTRITION

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

### 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*

**All Parish groups have stopped meeting until further notice due to coronavirus medical guidelines.**

**Acts29@CT – Youth Group  
ST CHRISTOPHER'S TOTS  
ST CHRISTOPHER'S CRAFT AND CHAT  
BODY IN BALANCE  
OVER 60'S – NEWMAN CENTRE  
SEWING CLASS – NEWMAN CENTRE**

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

5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

Saturday	04		Pro Populo
Sunday	05		Kelechi Oduoza
			Ann Blud RIP
Monday	06		Mary Wolverson RIP
Tuesday	07		Vincent Bresnao RIP
Wednesday	08		Eutemia Fernandes ( <i>not streamed this week</i> )

## The Easter Triduum

<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	<b>09</b>		Mass of the Lord's Supper : Queenie Webb RIP
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>10</b>		Office of Readings and Morning Prayer Solemn Liturgy of the Passion Stations of the Cross
<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	<b>11</b>		Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

## SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>11</b>		<i>Easter Vigil</i> : Pro Populo
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>		Thomas Toal RIP

**N.B. ALL MASS INTENTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CELEBRATED ON THE DATE REQUESTED.  
WHILST FR CRAIG WILL NOW CELEBRATE HOLY MASS PRIVATELY,  
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN HIM IN PRAYER VIA OUR PARISH LIVE STREAM.**

**SEE OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

<p>LITURGICAL NOTE...</p> <p>Monday Holy Week Tuesday Holy Week Wednesday Holy Week Thursday Holy Thursday Friday Good Friday Saturday Holy Saturday</p> <p>PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY...</p> <p>COLIN JAMES – funeral service at Bushbury Crematorium</p> <p><i>Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in peace. Amen.</i></p>	<p>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 &amp; 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, Fr David Duggan, Chris Kennedy, Antonina Alaimo, Liliana Alaimo, Giuseppe Alaimo, Joy Westley, CHY, Eutemia Fernandes, Maisie Hargreaves, Mary Rock.</p> <p><i>To add a name to the sick list, please contact the Parish Office.</i></p>
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FINANCIAL MATTERS...

**No financial information at this time.**

*Thank you for your ongoing support!*

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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