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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2020

The Bishops of England and Wales have made the very difficult decision that, for the foreseeable future, there will be no public celebrations of Holy Mass or public devotions.

The statement from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales together with a video and message from Archbishop Bernard is available on the Diocesan website. There is also more information can be found on the Diocesan website too.

I have updated our website with what we will be putting in to place for the next few weeks. There will be times when the church is open for private prayer. Holy Mass will be streamed live each day, and other devotions at other times during the week. All of the details are on our website.

Our sick and housebound will soon receive postcards assuring them of our prayers and how they, with the help of family and carers can be assisted with prayer during this time.

On Tuesday, in the church there will be cards for other parishioners who fall under those vulnerable categories. I would be grateful if our more able parishioners can post these through letter boxes of those they know, to keep them linked to the parish and our life of prayer at this time.

Whilst difficult, this is a time of great hope and faith and we will do our very best to rise to the challenge. Look after each other, look after yourselves, above let us keep praying. Pray for the dead, for the suffering, for the isolated, for those who are working in our NHS and in the healthcare professions, for those who will struggle, and for this time of trial to pass.

May Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St Christopher, St Thomas of Canterbury and all the saints, pray for us!

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds, hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from Thee. From the malignant enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to Thee, that with Thy saints I may praise Thee for ever and ever. 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)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment. Please contact Fr Craig at St Christopher's to arrange a time.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration will be live streamed on Monday and Friday evenings at 6.30 p.m. Please visit our Parish Website.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today, we remember all of our mothers and thank them for their love, commitment and sacrifice. We pray for them all and especially those who are no longer with us.

CRUCIFIX AND TABERNACLE RESTORATION

The Tabernacle and Main Crucifix at St Thomas' have now been taken for refurbishment work. The estimated cost will be approximately £4,000. Please think about whether you might be able to contribute financially to this. Every little helps! Thank you for £1650 already received!

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. Many of the ones which Fr Craig wears at St Christopher's are his own, and Fr Paul also had his own. 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

Thank you for the hard work of those who have been meeting for the past few weeks in preparation for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Due to the fact that it is very unlikely that these liturgies will be celebrated publicly this year, we have ceased the rehearsals.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR TAX YEAR APRIL 2020/2021

Are available in the porch at St Thomas's and at St Christopher's. Please call into the church to collect yours - opening times for both churches are on this newsletter and on the parish website.

CHURCH COLLECTION

In answer to a number of questions about church collections in the current situation of the Coronavirus pandemic, if you wish to continue to give to the church either by gift-aid envelopes or cash, please can you post it through the Presbytery letterbox at 115 Wolverhampton Road, (not the office side at St Christopher's). If instead you would like to consider setting up a standing order, please get in touch with the church office. Thank you.

Please would you consider our need to maintain the upkeep of our churches at this time. Thank you.

COVENANTING CHURCHES LENT LUNCH

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the decision has been taken to cancel the Lent Lunches. Please continue to pray for our local communities and the chosen charities.

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 going to be helping to care for our housebound and isolated parishioners. We thank them in advance this important task.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

All Baptisms have been suspended for the foreseeable future. If you would like your child to be Baptised, please contact the Parish Office and we will update you of the process.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION WOLVERHAMPTON DEANERY LENTEN GATHERINGS

Thank you for signing up. Unfortunately, with the current situation of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the meetings at St Joseph's on Monday 23 March and at St Michael's on Saturday 28 March have been postponed.

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REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY

Sunday 29th March is a both a personal promise of the people of our country and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in 1381. See www.behold2020.com At 3.00 p.m. please join the Live Stream on the parish website for Rosary and Benediction.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE - SATURDAY 9 MAY

It looks as though the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham will be cancelled for this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will confirm this in the coming weeks.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 23 - 29 May 2020

Unfortunately, the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes has been cancelled this year due to restrictions on travel to and from France. Please continue to keep the sick of our Archdiocese in your prayers.

ENDNOTE ...

Your Parish Priest gets two slots this week...we really must be struggling for stuff! We are going to try and keep producing a weekly newsletter in the coming weeks. It may lack something of "News", but I think that it will be a good way for us to keep in touch. Please direct people towards it - particularly those who are not computer experts!

As we begin what is going to be a very strange time, we need to keep each other in prayer. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for you, your family and your loved ones.

There may not be public celebrations of Holy Mass, and things might seem alien to us all, but we can still keep in touch. I am still available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for the Sacrament of the Sick.

I am particularly concerned for the elderly and vulnerable members of our two parish communities who are self-isolating. It is a very lonely time that we are entering into, but this shouldn't prevent us from looking after one another. If you are able to offer a listening ear, or perhaps able to do a little shopping (if people ever stop panic-buying toilet rolls!) for a neighbour, that would be a wonderful help and certainly a way to keep practising our faith. If you are happy to offer this kind of assistance, please do let me know.

I am very conscious that not being able to come to Holy Mass and receive Our Lord in the Eucharist each week/day, will be immensely difficult, and, even painful. But, be reassured that God is with you. We look forward in joy and hope to the day when things return to something of normality.

Finally, once again, let's keep praying for one another.

With my continuing prayers and best wishes,

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**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

22ND MARCH 2020

Saturday	21		Sheila and Tony Gallagher RIP
Sunday	22		Pro Populo
			John Joyce RIP
Monday	23		Thanksgiving
Tuesday	24		Peggy Moore RIP
Wednesday	25		Celebrant's Intention
Thursday	26		Bob Barrett Intentions RIP
Friday	27		Albert Birch – Birthday Remembrance
Saturday	28		John & Mary Walsh RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

29TH MARCH 2020

Saturday	28		Doreen Plimmer RIP
Sunday	29		Christine and Bert Bloxham RIP
			Pro Populo

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.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 10.00 A.M. UNTIL 6.00 P.M.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH IS OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 10.00 A.M. UNTIL 1.00 P.M.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH TO BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS.

LITURGICAL NOTES...

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

PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME...

Patrick Surgue, Sarah Payton, Edgar Caddick, John Walters, Betty D'Arcy, Milagros Rubiales, Matthew Millar, Henry Soulsby, James Threlfall, Paul Bannister, Caroline Kirwan, John Szydlowski, Sarah Edwards, Geoffrey Thompson, Jonathan Potts, Mary Sech, Desmond Hickey, Letitia Cooke, Ruby Bayliss, Frank Fowell, Carolina Lewis, Florence Argue, Esther Swift, Deacon Louis Livesey, Mgr Canon Joseph Welch.

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

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, Fr David Duggan, Chris Kennedy, Antonina Alaimo, Liliana Alaimo, Giuseppe Alaimo, Joy Westley, CHY, Eutemia Fernandes, Maisie Hargreaves, Mary Rock.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS...

14/15 Mar	Loose	Gift Aid	Gift Aid Standing Orders	Total
St Christopher	£167.90	£89.56	£276.00	£533.46
St Thomas	£105.52	£257.20	£150.00	£512.72

Thank you for your ongoing support!

DIARY DATES...

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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