

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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Registered Charity Number 233748.

22nd March 2020- Sunday 4 of Lent, Year A

29th March 2020- Sunday 5 of Lent, Year A



Day & Time	Mass or Service	Mass Intention	CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY Fri. 6 Mar
Sat. 6pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Joe Burton	Thank you for donations of £998.67 which will help to train and support local health workers overseas.
Sun. 10.30am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Judith Unwin	
Mon. 2pm	of Lent	Maira Newton	SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Sadly, the preparation programme is suspended until further notice due to the Covi19 outbreak.
Tue. 10am	St Turibius de Mogrovejo Bp	Eileen & Frederick Rowbottom	
Wed. 1pm	In Memory of Sr Anna	Sr Anna	
Thur. 9am	In Memory of Kathleen	Kathleen Ross	
Fri. 11am	In Memory of Edith	Edith Brain	
Sat. 6pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Stephen Burton	MASS INTENTIONS As those listed opposite will be celebrated when congregations cannot be present, every effort will be made to celebrate the intentions in the future also when the virus outbreak is over and congregations are once again permitted.
Sun. 10.30am	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Adrian Elliott	
Mon. 2pm	of Lent	Special Int'n (NM)	
Tue. 10am	of Lent	Roberto & Rafaella Salsi	
Wed. 2pm	of Lent	Fr Gerald Hargreaves	
Thur. 10am	of Lent	Special Int'n (TB)	
Fri. 10am	of Lent	Survivors of Sexual Abuse	
Sat. 6pm	Palm Sunday	Joe Burton	
Sun. 10.30am	Palm Sunday	For the People	

COVID 19 OUTBREAK

LITURGY. In line with Bishops Conference advice (see below) no congregations will be permitted in churches.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Fr John will celebrate the Sunday Masses in EM Church without a congregation at the normal times: 6pm Sat & 10.30am Sun. To view, type the following into your internet search engine:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ycN8s9aNXmFpGuzVGs4Qg>

The Church encourages the full active, conscious participation of all the faithful at Mass. So please approach any live streaming as an opportunity for prayer as an individual and especially as a family as well as maintain parish connections during these difficult times.

It is hoped that Readers will be able to participate in these services remotely ie by telephone and speaker. If anyone has further ideas on how parishioners can directly contribute to the live streams please contact Fr John.

PRAYER. EM Church will be open for private prayer 10.30am-1.30pm on each weekday, except Fri. 27th March. Before entering the church, each person must wash and dry their hands thoroughly in the parish hall before. Social distancing of 2 metres between individuals must be observed. If numbers grow to prevent such distancing, the church will be closed.

SOCIAL LIFE OF THE PARISH One of the greatest strengths of the parish will be hit hard during the virus outbreak. So please make every effort to maintain contact with one another by telephone and social media.

VULNERABLE PARISHIONERS Please keep an extra eye and hear out for any especially vulnerable parishioners at this time. The parish SVP are already doing this and stand ready to respond to any difficulties. Several parishioners have already offered their personal help as required. These kind offers will be notified to the the SVP so the parish response can be optimised.

KEEP POSITIVE There is no disguising the fact that this situation is very serious and various medical, family, social and financial consequences will affect us all. Keeping a positive outlook will be difficult. Accepting and abiding by the changed circumstances - including all UK Government restrictions - is the a vital first step. Many people are already concentrating less on what they cannot do and more on what they can do: resume a hobby like gardening/reading or develop a brand new skill in music/arts & crafts. As a worshipping community, we can seek spiritual reading and extra prayer, especially for those infected, medical staff and government leaders.

COLLECTION 8.3.20: £764.48 (£366.12 Loose, £398.36 Gift Aid) Thank you.

COLLECTION 15.3.20: £727.30 (£268.00 Loose, £459.30 Gift Aid) Thank you.

100 Club: 8.3.20 K. & S. Dunsire (98); **15.3.20** Finnerty/Heaton (15)

GIFT AID: If you pay tax you can make a Gift Aid Declaration. Tel. Martin Nicholson 868743

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Liturgical Advice for the Bishops of England and Wales in the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 18th March 2020

This advice will be reviewed and developed as necessary weekly

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses, has agreed that the cessation of public liturgies should begin from Friday evening 20th March 2020. Because of the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.

The following instruction is now given for the celebration of the Sacraments and sacramentals of the Church at this time.

Celebrations of Holy Mass

Priests (parish priest and assistant priests) who hold parochial office should continue to celebrate Mass in a church within their parish without the faithful on a daily basis. Other priests (i.e. retired from office or entrusted with a non-parochial ministry) may celebrate Mass without the faithful in a church, chapel or their private home. Deacons should not participate in these celebrations.

The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (1364): *As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which 'Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out.* Daily liturgical resources for those at home, including those for making a "Spiritual Communion" with the priest, will be available on the CBCEW website.

Information about the live-streaming of the celebration of Mass will be made widely available in our dioceses so that the faithful can participate in the prayers of the priest at Mass at home. A fine example of this is from The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will continue its full liturgical programme and this will be available to all via the Internet (www.walsingham.org.uk)

Wherever possible, during this period, churches will remain open, especially on Sundays, for individual private prayer, without any organised services, and offering prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Baptisms

Baptisms should be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can gather safely. In case of necessity, baptisms should be celebrated with all the hygiene precautions that have been laid down by the Church in its COVID-19 advice.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed (eg a physical barrier between the penitent and the priest such as a grille and cloth). The use of Rite II and Rite III of the Rite of Penance is not permitted as this, by necessity, requires the gathering of people in our churches.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

These celebrations should be postponed until a time that allows for families and friends to gather safely within our churches.

Confirmation

The celebrations of Confirmation should be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can resume public worship.

Matrimony

If possible, the celebration of the sacrament of Matrimony should be deferred until such time that people can gather in numbers safely. However, if this is not possible and only in the most pressing of circumstances, then those present for the marriage should be restricted to the celebrant, bride and groom and immediate family, and if necessary, the legal Registrar.

Anointing of the Sick

No pastoral visits should be made to people who are self-isolating until the isolation period ends. However, do offer phone support. When anointing the sick, the Oil of the Sick can be applied using a cotton bud which can be burned afterwards (one end for the head and the other for the hands) and the priest extend his hands over the sick person for laying on of hands, without physical contact. This has been confirmed as a valid mode of celebrating the sacraments which involve "laying on of hands." Visits to people in care homes or hospitals should follow advice from the staff on infection control.

Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil

This will be dependent on the forthcoming decisions of the Bishops for the Holy Week ceremonies.

Funerals

There must be great pastoral sensitivity to this issue. The funeral service should take place at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities.

Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated *in memoriam* when congregations are allowed to gather.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas
General Secretary



Bishop of Middlesbrough, 20 March 2020

Clarifications on liturgical actions, in response to recent questions

Funerals. The rule on cessation of public acts of worship applies even to funerals which are already booked to take place from this weekend onwards. In this case a conversation will be needed with the funeral director and the family. Explain that this directive has come from the Bishop, and that the funeral will have to be carried out either at the crematorium or the graveside, according to the rules of the crematorium/cemetery. Nonetheless, it is important that numbers even at the crematorium/graveside are kept to a minimum and should involve the participation of family only. Offer to celebrate a Mass in private, and so without the family, for the deceased, but also offer to celebrate a public Mass/service for the deceased when restrictions are lifted. I know this could cause some upset and disruption but, unfortunately, it is important that we are faithful to the directive which was issued on Thursday. The Deans will aim to keep funeral directors informed.

If you are experiencing new flu/cold-like symptoms you should not carry out any funerals, at the crematorium or the graveside.

Communion to the sick. Communion should only be given to the sick in danger of death.

Mass and Eucharistic Services in care homes. I would ask that Mass and Eucharistic Services do not take place in care homes until restrictions are lifted.

Religious communities. Private Masses are to be celebrated without the physical presence of the faithful. This means that deacons, the lay faithful, and consecrated religious are not to be present.

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