



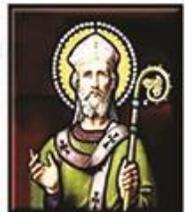
The Sacred Heart

www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk



Diocesan Shrine, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Anselm

www.ourladyandstanselm.org



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25th/26th April 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Although public celebrations of Mass are suspended, Mass intentions will continue to be offered at private Masses celebrated daily by Fr Jerry. This week's Intentions are listed below:

Saturday	Golton and Harrison families
Sunday 26 th April	Emma and Albert Phillips R.I.P.
Monday	Mrs Doherty R.I.P.; Iolanthe Mary Clarke R.I.P.
Tuesday	Margorie Golton R.I.P.; De Bless family
Wednesday	Bernard Hennegan R.I.P.
Thursday	Michael McCarthy R.I.P.; Carlos Munos Rodriguez R.I.P.
Friday	Andrew Golton (sick)
Saturday	Chinwe Anachbe (birthday); Leon Lagodinski R.I.P.
Sunday 3 rd May	Bishop Leo McCartie R.I.P.

Anniversaries: Eileen Clark, Charles Rowland, Patricia McKillop, Charles Drummond, Kath Mullen, Godfrey Finn, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Charles McCarthy, Derek Humphries, Joan Piri, James Ingram, Josie McGirr, Connie Davis. R.I.P.

Please pray for all our sick.

Pope Francis' Special Intention. April: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Next Week's Liturgy of the Word: Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Ps 22:1-6 r. 1, 1 Peter 2:20b-25, John 10:1-10.

Michael McCarthy R.I.P. Please pray for the soul of Michael McCarthy, a parishioner at Our Lady's, who died earlier in the month. Please keep Michael and his family in your prayers.

Edna O'Malley R.I.P. Please pray for the soul of Edna O'Malley, who had been a parishioner at Sacred Heart, who died last weekend. Please keep and Edna and her family in your prayers.

Bishop Leo McCartie R.I.P. Bishop Emeritus of Northampton died on the evening of Thursday 23rd April in St Joseph's Home in Birmingham, aged 94. Last July, Bishop Leo celebrated 70 years of priesthood. He retired in 2001 having reached the retirement age of 75 after 43 years as an active Bishop. He was the oldest living Bishop in England and Wales.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Funerals. Just a reminder that the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales guidelines state that until further notice no funeral services can be arranged in our churches, but services can be organised at crematorium or graveside, by arrangement with Funeral Directors and Fr Jerry. Mass will be offered privately for the deceased, with the opportunity of a Memorial Mass at a later date.

Deacon Peter. Some of our eagle-eyed parishioners may have spotted Deacon Peter's name on the sick list last week. He is now, thankfully, much better. From Deacon Peter: "After a difficult three weeks that have included stays in hospital and a lot of tests, a diagnosis has been made and I am now on the right treatment. Thank you everyone for your concern and prayers especially for the work of a young doctor at the hospital who really sussed out what was going on." Please keep Deacon Peter in your prayers as he continues to recover.

Reflection from Fr Jerry: Third Sunday of Easter. Theme: *“They recognized Christ at the breaking of bread”*

The story of the resurrection is unfolding and quite interesting. On the third Sunday of Easter, the Church wants us to reflect on our personal Eucharistic encounter and Witness.

We read about the first public speech of Peter after the resurrection in the first reading. In the presence of the crowd and the Eleven, he declares “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.” St. Luke reminds us through the voice of Peter that the Witness to the resurrection is by no means limited to him, or to the twelve apostles. He emphasizes “WE ALL” are the witness. Indeed, God has poured his Spirit on all his servants- it is to enable the disciples to communicate to every nation under heaven. More importantly, the spirit is a prophetic spirit. This indicates that the message is meant for a universal audience. By the virtue of our baptismal character, we have been empowered to bear witness in this world through service of “breaking of bread”.

The gospel reading is about the eucharistic encounter on the way to Emmaus. The Emmaus story could be perceived in two perspectives. The first perspective narrates the journey of the two disciples heading out of Jerusalem. The journey of the two disciples heading out of Jerusalem. The number two (2) is typical of Luke’s gospel. Biblically, the number two (2) signifies witness. Sometimes we wonder why Jesus sends the disciples out two by two.

The second perspective describes the personal encounter with the Risen Jesus. The climax of the encounter is clearly in the breaking of the bread. However, before the breaking of the bread, there were other important elements which are the basis of our eucharistic celebration. Initially, there was Scripture which the Risen Christ explains to the disciples. Jesus patiently explains the Scriptures to them. The disciples remarked, “Did not our hearts not burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scripture to us.” This is the basis for our liturgy of the Word. For this reason, the church has always venerated the Scripture as she venerates the Lord’s Body. In every Eucharistic celebration, she never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body (CCC#103). We are reminded to read the Sacred Scriptures not as a human word, but as what it really is, the word of God. (CCC#104)

Also, there was a Fellowship and a sense of belonging. The disciples and the Risen Christ stayed together. In every eucharistic prayer, the church prays for Unity and peace for the community. We ask Jesus Christ not to “look on our sins, but on the faith of your church, and graciously grant her peace and unity.” (Communion rite)

Additionally, there was prayer, that is Eulogeo, which means praise. Jesus said the blessings before breaking the bread. As a family of God, we are reminded to say grace before we enjoy our meals as a way of gratitude to God.

The second perspective of the gospel reading is the breaking of bread. This aspect of their encounter is the basis for the liturgy of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the heart and summit of the church’s life, in it, Christ associates his church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his Father. It is by this sacrifice Christ pours out the graces of salvation on his body which is the Church. (CCC#1407)

The panic and the conspiracy of coronavirus and sudden lockdown could blind us to the beauty of life. Some of us may be distressed and disappointed like the disciples who were wallowing in their despondency about Jesus. They considered him as a failure as the Messiah. They indicated that “our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free.”

Sometimes, we all feel very dejected and disappointed because our expectations in life have not been met. Do we sometimes think of taking an Emmaus’ walk expecting Jesus to be our travelling companion? The risen Jesus makes himself our travelling companion as we go on our way, to enkindle the warmth of faith and hope in our heart and to break the bread of eternal life. Parents must patiently journey with their children in this life. Teachers must journey with all students with love and patience.

Unless we are prepared to welcome the Risen Jesus into our hearts through our little acts of charity, he may walk away from him unnoticed and unwelcomed. Christ always gives us evidence of his presence in our lives through the events of life, the reading of Scriptures, celebration of the liturgy and the Sacraments and works of charity. “I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you with you, and you with me” (Rev. 3:21). May the Risen Jesus give us life through the Holy Spirit.

The Regina Caeli. During Eastertide, the Regina Caeli replaces the Angelus. The Angelus honours the Incarnation by commemorating the angel's greeting to Mary and her free acceptance of her destined role in the salvation of mankind. It is traditionally said at 6am, noon, and 6pm.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia

Has risen as he said, alleluia

Pray for us to God, alleluia

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Mass during lockdown. Although the obligation has been lifted for Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays, the obligation to keep Sunday as the Lord’s day has not been. You are encouraged as a household, to take time to watch and participate in Mass online. If you are unable to then take some time on Sundays to stop and read through the Mass readings together, and to reflect upon the Word of God. It is a good and pious act to make a Spiritual Communion.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion for use when not able to receive our Lord physically:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Walsingham livestreaming. As well as Sunday and daily Masses, Walsingham have now launched a 24/7 livestream schedule which includes: morning prayer, morning Mass, a talk, morning Rosary, midday Angelus and Mass, Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, spiritual reading, Vespers, evening Angelus and Mass (often in Latin, novus ordo), evening Rosary, Compline and meditation, and all night Exposition. For further details of the times of the various Masses and prayers, and to view the live stream, use the following link: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Care and Call Scheme. Many of the most vulnerable members of our community will be confined to their homes for weeks if not months and are in danger of becoming really isolated, or even worse, becoming neglected. The scheme brings together volunteers with those needing some contact or practical help. During this difficult time for all our parishioners and those in the community, we are here to help in whatever we can. Please text or ring our phone if we can help in any way. Sacred Heart SVP: 07504 465707 or Our Lady & St Anselm SVP: 07568 313234.

Parish offertory. Thank you so much to all the parishioners who have continued with their standing orders, set up new standing orders, posted cheques or donated via the online donation. It really is appreciated and will help the parish to pay for the cost of upkeep of the churches whilst they are closed. All of the usual orders have been cancelled (candles, etc.) so our expenses are significantly reduced but utility bills, insurance, etc. will still need to be paid. Alternative ways to contribute to the financial support of the parish are:

Online Donation. The diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section which parish, including the parish name and area that you would like your donation to be attributed to.

Standing Order via donor's own bank. You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. Please see the bank details on the left. Any donations to the parishes are very gratefully received.

Schools. It has been the first week back to 'school' for the children of our parish. There are lots of resources on social media, Twinkl and White Rose Maths to enable parents to support their child's learning. CAFOD is helping to provide Children's Liturgy resources with livestreaming each Sunday and on the Sacred Heart website, you will also find the 'Look' worksheet with some fun activities. If your child is worrying about coronavirus, the following link might be helpful: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/calming-kids-on-coronavirus/>. Please keep the children in your prayers as they deal with huge changes in their lives. Please also pray for the wonderful teachers and staff at St Gregory's and Thomas Becket schools who are not only helping to support many children virtually but also those children who are still attending school as they are vulnerable or are children of key workers.

Diocesan newspapers. There are diocesan newspapers from across the country available online on <https://www.churchpaper.co.uk/>. Use the link and then on the left hand side of that page, you are able to scroll through the different newspapers. The Vine is at the end of the list.

Hope Centre. The needs of the homeless are not changed during this emergency. Please see the Hope Centre website <https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/> to make continued donations.