



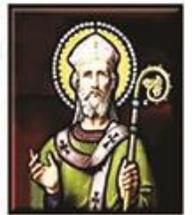
The Sacred Heart

www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk



Diocesan Shrine,
Our Lady of
Perpetual Succour
& St Anselm

www.ourladyandstanselm.org



Priest in Charge: Fr Jerry Manomey
priest@sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk
Emergency only: 07756 678442

Deacon: Peter Hurrell 01604 811432
topcroft@ebarton.co.uk

Admin Assistant & Parish Safeguarding
Representative: **Lorraine Foster**

Youth Co-ordinator: **Rae Green**

Joint Parish Office:
Pyramid Close, Weston Favell,
Northampton NN3 8DP
Tel: 01604 402301
sacredheartccchurch@btconnect.com

Sacred Heart SVP: 07504465707
Our Lady SVP: 07568 313234

www.facebook.co.uk/
SacredHeartNorthampton

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of
Northampton, Reg'd Charity No: 234091

Parish offertory. You can set up a standing order for donations with the details below to your parish using your online bank account. Any donations to the parishes are very gratefully received:

Parish donations:
Account name: RCDN Sacred Heart Parish
Sort code: 60-06-11
Account number: 46714596

Account name: RCDN Our Lady's Catholic Church
Parish Sort code: 60-06-11
Account number: 46714464

Payment Reference: Parish name and area.

2nd/3rd May 2020

Fourth 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	Chinwe Anachbe (birthday); Leon Lagodinski R.I.P.
Sunday 3 rd May	Bishop Leo McCartie R.I.P.
Monday	Priest's Intentions
Tuesday	Dolores Behan R.I.P. (1 st Anniversary)
Wednesday	Laurence Forsythe R.I.P. (Anniversary); Fr Jordan
Thursday	For the parish
Friday	Herbert & Vera Barber R.I.P.
Saturday	Margaret and Matt Kavanagh (Birthdays)
Sunday 10 th May	Arthur Mawby R.I.P.

Feast days and Holy days. Monday - The English Martyrs.

Anniversaries: Mary Yates, Margarita Scott, Philip Kelly, Fred Fuller, Genevieve Chaffey, James Wisener, Cathie Clifford, Jane Mackey, Elsie Crawford, John Dorothy, Michelle Diccico, Joseph Scanlon, Lee Evans, Jack Osborne. R.I.P.

Please pray for all our sick.

Pope Francis' Special Intention. May: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

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.

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 period of lockdown, we are here to help in whatever we can, for parishioners and those in the community. 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.

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 take place at crematorium or graveside, by arrangement with Funeral Directors and Fr Jerry. Mass will be offered privately for the deceased, with a Requiem or Memorial Mass at a later date if families would like one.

Please note that baptisms, marriages, First Holy Communion and Confirmations are **postponed until further notice.**

Please remember to follow the government guidelines on **staying home and social distancing.** It is great news that the number of cases and deaths are slowly decreasing, however it is important that the restrictions are still adhered to so that the reductions can continue.

Pope Francis. There is a letter from Pope Francis for the month of May available on the parish websites: <https://ourladyandstanselm.org/> and www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk/welcome

From Fr Jerry: Fourth Sunday of Easter. Theme: *I am the gate of the sheepfold*

This week's Easter liturgy focuses on the leadership of Jesus as the Shepherd and the preaching of St Peter. In the preaching of St. Peter, he reminds us of the Promise of God. This promise is for "you (immediate Jewish and Gentile people) and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself" (Acts 2:39). Peter insists the call is to ALL. The promise is for all ages and for people everywhere.

In the gospel reading, Jesus suggests that there are two types of leadership. We have false leadership and good leadership. The intentions of the false leader are malevolent. Firstly, their entry into authority is wrong since they do not enter the sheepfold through the gate but through some other way. Secondly, false leaders' voice cannot be recognized since they do not have the spirit of intimacy and friendship with the flock. However, the good leaders or shepherds enter the sheepfold through the gate. The leader has an intimate relationship with the sheep; they hear the voice of the leader and one by one the leader calls the sheep and leads them out to pasture.

Jesus describes himself as the gate to the sheepfold and focuses on the relationship between the sheep and the shepherd. The church reminds us that there is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray "in the name" of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is, therefore, the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father (CCC#2664).

Our roles in the Kingdom of heaven can be compared to the attitude of a sheep. The attitude of a sheep towards the shepherd is presented in two specific verbs; "to listen" and "to follow". Do we know the voice of the shepherd in this secular world? Are we following the Good shepherd or other shepherds to reach our green pastures? John clearly insists that Jesus is the only source of salvation. Those who came before him purporting to give life are described as thieves.

In the year of the Word of God, we are encouraged to listen to the voice of God in the scriptures. Indeed, Faith comes from hearing. It is through the Word of God that faith is born and by which faith is nurtured. According to Pope Benedict XVI, only those who are attentive to the Lord's voice can assess in their own conscience the right decisions for acting in accordance with God. When we have listened prayerfully, then we can follow him courageously. On this Sunday, let us pray to God for the pastors of the church and those who are training to become priests (The CTS New Daily Missal. pg#373). May the Holy Spirit assist young people to discern in their lives the voice of God that will lead them to a happy life.

Messages to the young people of our parish From Bishop David:

To candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Dear young friends,

I wonder how you were feeling during your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation? Were you excited and wondering how the gifts you are to receive from the Holy Spirit would work in your life? Were you looking forward to this celebration when you would receive the final sacrament of initiation into God's Church? And now the whole journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation has been put on hold because of the Coronavirus lockdown! I wanted to send you a message of encouragement in these difficult days. Even though the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation has been delayed because of this crisis, please know that your new Bishop is very much looking forward to meeting with you. Try to be patient and faithful to meeting with Jesus in prayer. Ask the saint whose name you are choosing to pray for you. Pray to the Holy Spirit that you will be even more ready to receive the gifts which will be poured out on you when you are Confirmed. We will soon celebrate that Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon our world. And finally, please spare a prayer or two for the new Bishop! I send you these words together with my blessing for yourself and your families.

✠ David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

To candidates for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Dear boys and girls,

We have not yet met in your parish or school. I am very much looking forward to that opportunity. In the meantime, I wanted to write a few words of encouragement to you. You will have been preparing to celebrate your first Holy Communion this term. It is such wonderful moment for you and your family, and there is often a lovely party to celebrate this day when Jesus first comes to you as the Bread of Life. If we don't have food we become hungry! What we eat gives us energy for all the things we have to do in our day. When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, he gives us the spiritual energy to live as his follower in our lives. I hope and pray that this day will come for you soon when we are allowed to celebrate with you in church. May Jesus, the Bread of Life, bless you always.

✠ David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

CAFOD. CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal. Please give whatever you can. We are always so very grateful for your continued generosity and support.

What can Catholics do to protect their mental health during the lockdown?

Mental health and your spiritual life

A healthy and nourished spiritual life is central to mental health and wellbeing. For Catholics, attending Mass on Sundays and during the week is a source of mental and spiritual strength, as well as a social and community activity. As public Masses were suspended in England and Wales until further notice, it will obviously be a cause of distress and disruption to Catholics, but we are lucky to live in a time when technology can be a great help for the development of our spiritual lives.

There are several ways in which you can nourish your mental health and spiritual life during this time.

- Make a Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable because of the distance or for some other reason.
- Watch Mass. Many dioceses are providing information about livestreamed Masses in parishes. See our parish websites for links.
- Read the Mass readings of the day. When you can't attend Mass, you can follow the prayers and readings of the Mass at home. Torch is a website by Dominican Friars and has weekly homilies. <https://www.english.op.org/torch#jump>.
- Meditate on the Mass readings. Spend time meditating on the Mass readings and discerning what God might be telling you through them, using Lectio Divina, an ancient method of prayer. There is a guide for how to do this on www.IgnatianSpirituality.com
- Watch a video of a priest preaching on the day's Gospel. New ministries are coming to light during this uncertain time, and one of those is Lent in Isolation, where you can listen to the day's Mass readings and hear a priest give a homily.
- Join an online community praying together daily. It is more important than ever to join together in prayer and utilise technology to form communities so that no one is isolated. The CTS will be posting prayers every day on Hozana: <https://hozana.org/en/communities>
- You can use the resources on the parish websites which provide ways in which to pray at home.

As Catholics, we know the importance of going to Sunday Mass which is why the Church tells us that not going is a grave sin.

However, this does not include those who are physically unable to get to Mass through no fault of their own. This means if you are unwell, in self-isolation, or for some other reason you cannot get to Mass, you are not committing a sin because in those instances you are not required to attend Mass.

Marriage and family life. SmartLoving BreakThrough Online is for anyone whose relationship is going through a period of stress and disillusionment. It's from the providers of the SmartLoving Marriage Preparation Course that currently runs in several of our Pastoral Areas. BreakThrough is an online course that teaches participants how conflict arises, and how to take simple steps to heal the wounds and restore hope. It is private, confidential and effective and can be worked through in three hours. Currently there's a reduced price of £24: if that cost is prohibitive for you, and we know that finances are a major difficulty just now for so many people, email mflnrcd@gmail.com as we will be able to offer some assistance for those in greatest need and we will send you one of those access codes. For more details, go to <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

School prayer chain. A group of lay chaplains from across the OLICAT (the new Trust - which brings together Catholic Academies - nine Primary Schools and two Secondary Schools within the northern part of the diocese) have been working together in recent weeks to organise a 12 hour chain of prayer for this Friday 1st May. Prayer can and does work. All prayers are answered, sometimes in the way we have asked, or in other ways.

Every hour on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/OLICATchaplains>, between 6am to 6pm on Friday, a member of the Trust Chaplaincy Team will commit to praying in their home, for an hour, for you, your family and all the Trust community. The name of the lead prayer will be posted at the top of each hour on Twitter - some of the names will be familiar to you. You are invited to join the prayer chain for a moment of prayer during the twelve hours. Just come as you are, in your own way. You can choose to join the prayer chain at any time, for just a few minutes, or longer.

When you join the prayer chain, please do feel free to 'like' the prayer chain post running on that hour, so that we know you are praying too. You are also welcome to post a comment or prayer intention (mindful that this is a public platform and everyone will see it). There are some prayer resources that you might like to use at:

<http://www.nores.org.uk/SCHOOLLEADERSHIP/COVID/tabid/172/Default.aspx>. We have chosen this date because in the Catholic Church, the First Fridays of the month are traditional days of prayer and intercession. Thank you for joining us in prayer at this time.

