

**Our Lady of Beauchief & Saint Thomas of Canterbury**

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**Chapel of Ease: English Martyrs, Baslow Road, Totley S17 4DR**

**Parish Priest: Father Augustine O'Reilly**

**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

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**The Month of March is devoted to St Joseph**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Sunday, 22 March 2020 Psalter Week 4**

**Saturday**

(Totley)

**No Mass**

**Sunday**

10.00am

Eileen and Matt Henderson and  
The People of the Parish

**(No  
Congregation)**

**Monday**

*Lenten Feria*

**No Mass**

**Tuesday (Totley)**

*Lenten Feria*

**No Mass**

**Wednesday**

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE  
LORD**

**No Mass**

**Thursday**

*Lenten Feria*

**No Mass**

**Friday**

*Lenten Feria*

**No Mass**

**Saturday**

*Lenten Feria*

**No Mass**

***Please pray for:***

**Our sick:** Cath Robbins, Sheila Ryan,  
Katie Glackin, Peter Baines, Breda  
Packenham, Neville Garratt, Roy Longdon,  
Pauline Souflas, Lucia Fojut, Linda  
Costello, Catherine Mary Tetzlaff, Linda  
Costello and Edward Keeffe.

**Lately dead:** Pasquale Marcone **RIP**

**And let us remember in our prayers**  
Zisimos Souflas who is missing.

**There will be  
no Confessions, Exposition  
or Benediction until further notice.**

**Sunday Collections**

**If you donate** using weekly envelopes please  
hold on to them and post them through the  
presbytery letterbox when it is safe to do so.

If you normally donate by loose plate, why  
not take this opportunity to change to a  
standing order? This will not only allow us to  
plan our expenditure, as we will have a better  
idea of what to expect, but will also help us  
through this current absence from Mass.  
If we do not receive the monies from the  
weekly loose plate this will cost the parish  
between £2000 - £2500 per month.

If you would like to start donating by standing  
order please email the parish and form will be  
sent to you as soon as possible.

**Mass will be said** everyday at 10.00am including  
Sundays until the end of this crisis.

It will be celebrated without a public congregation.

Registered Charity No 512021

This is the statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website ([www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

*'The Lord is my shepherd,  
There is nothing I shall want.'*

May God bless us all.

Vincent Cardinal Nichols  
President

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP  
Vice-President

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### **Taken from a commentary by Fr Dennis Billy CSsR on St Alphonsus' visits to the Blessed Sacrament.**

##### **Spiritual Communion**

After his introduction, Alphonsus gives a brief description of the act of spiritual communion, one of the central features of a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. His intention here is simply to explain what it is and what its effects might be. To do so, he incorporates into his explanation the insights of a number of holy men and women. He refers to such saints as St. Thomas Aquinas (ca. 1224-1274) and St. Jane of the Cross (1666-1736), as well as other saintly figures such as Bl. Peter Faber (1506-1546), the Dominican nuns Paula Maresca (d. 1657) and Blessed Agatha of the Cross (1547-1621). All of these people had a deep devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and made frequent acts of spiritual communion. In offering us this array of witnesses, Alphonsus emphasises the importance of this practice as a way to holiness. He believes that a sincere act of spiritual communion can bear just as much fruit in the life of a believer as the actual reception of communion itself. It can be done at any time and at any place and without the period of fasting normally required for receiving Holy Communion. What is more, it should intensify our love for Jesus and increase our desire to receive him sacramentally.

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to have you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally come, at least, spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as having already come and I unite myself and entirely to you. Never let me be separated from you.*

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.

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](http://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

18th March 2020

#### 4th Sunday Lent Year A.

Before Jesus began speaking in parables, he praised his Father for having revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom, which were hidden from the wise and learned. Likewise, Jesus acts in this way when he heals the man born blind, because he has come into this world so that those without sight may see, and those with sight turn blind [Jn9:39]

In the view of Christ, the Light of the world, men take sides for or against him. Some pretend to see and know, but they are limited by a purely human range of vision and they assess the works of the one sent by God to the measure of their own cramped wisdom. Since they refuse to believe in him, they can only say, in the blindness of their hearts, 'we don't know where he comes from' [Jn9:29]

But the man born blind knows only one thing: he knows the man who gave him sight could only come from God: a humble conviction on which all life depends. In spite of opposition, the new-sighted man must yet focus his vision and see beyond the human prophet to the Son of Man, the Lord. Only the free prompting of Jesus would lead him to this personal vision of faith: 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you' [Jn9:37]

By baptism man, the sinner, is reborn from darkness into the enlightenment which is Christ. But he must further learn to see all things with eyes of faith. Hence the entire life of a Christian is a catechumenate – a gentle ascent through the light and shade of this world from that initially glimpsed light into the full light of the Day of the Lord.

We, blind ones finally healed, lights born of the Light – we shall then be able to prostrate ourselves before him.

**Father Gus** will be at home and will be available to receive phone calls and respond to emails.

#### **Please note - All parish activities are suspended.**

Lenten Lunches are cancelled  
Lunch Club is cancelled  
Ampleforth is cancelled  
Youth Pub is cancelled

#### Prayer for the Week

#### **The European Conference of Bishops has published the following prayer:**

*God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us  
You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies,  
look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief,  
deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all evil.  
We ask this of Thee, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever.  
Amen.  
Mary, mother of health and hope, pray for us!*

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

#### **Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

#### **Next Weekend's Readings Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**First Reading:** *Ezekiel 37:12-14*

**Responsorial Psalm:** 129

**Second Reading:** *Romans 8:8-11*

**Gospel:** *John 11:1-45*

**A National Call to Prayer** - In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Presidents of the Churches Together in England are asking for the nation to light a candle of hope in their homes at 7.00pm this Sunday in a national call to prayer.



#### Receiving Holy Communion

In these troubled and troubling times, the question of the reception of Holy Communion is naturally uppermost in some people's minds. C920 makes it clear that once admitted to Holy Communion a Catholic is only obliged to receive this at least once a year. The preferable time for this is during Easter but the canon notes that for a good reason this obligation can be fulfilled at any time of year. For this reason the directive of C935 is to be observed in this Diocese, i.e. it is not lawful for anyone to keep the Blessed Eucharist in personal custody or to carry it around unless there is an urgent pastoral need and the prescription of the Diocesan Bishop gives permission. Even at this time, if it is desirable for anyone to receive viaticum or the Sacrament of the Sick, this can be arranged taking account of current health care advice.