

THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Sunday 7th June 2020

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Today is Trinity Sunday. Most of the feasts of the Church celebrate either people or events. People are celebrated in the observance of saint's days. So last Friday the Church in her calendar commemorated St Boniface, a Devonian of the 8th century who left his abbey near Southampton to become a missionary to the pagan tribes of Germany where he was eventually martyred for the Faith. On Tuesday we remembered a group of Christians who shared the same fate as Boniface – St Charles Lwanga and his companions, who were the martyrs of Uganda at the end of the 19th Century. These heroes of the Faith are honoured with feasts and commemorations to inspire us in living out the Faith as we invoke their intercession.

Other feasts of the year celebrate events – Christmas, Easter, the Transfiguration, and last Sunday's feast of Pentecost - the commemoration of things that happened, moments in the story of salvation.

However, Trinity Sunday today and next Sunday's Feast of Corpus Christi, commemorate doctrines, - authentic teachings of the Church – which are to be held by the faithful as revealed truth.

Today we celebrate that God has not concealed but revealed himself. He has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – terms which speak of relationship. That God hasn't revealed himself as some distant deity - but as Father, as brother by adoption, as advocate and guide.

Sunday Mass will be available today at 11am. **On Thursday at 7.00pm** there will be Votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament and on **Friday evening at 7.00pm** there will be a Holy Hour with devotions to the Sacred Heart. All these will be available via our website and Social Media pages.

Traditionally the Solemnity of Corpus Christi was observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, linking it to Maundy Thursday and the Lord's command to 'do this in memory of me.' The Solemnity of Corpus Christi also speaks to us of that sublime truth in which bread and wine become Christ's Body and Blood, and that following the consecration during Holy Mass, as we kneel in silence before this wonderful mystery, we can say with the disciples who saw the risen Lord by the Sea of Galilee: 'It is the Lord!' As you will have seen from the pictures of the completed Sanctuary, the Tabernacle has been restored to its proper place in the

Sanctuary. This will hopefully provide a focus of prayer when people gather again in the main church. At the end of the Mass on Thursday evening the Blessed Sacrament will be placed in the new Tabernacle and the new Sanctuary lamp lit for the first time.

The stonemasons have now completed the work on the new altar, tabernacle and lectern and they are looking very splendid indeed. The stone used is Portland stone.

We were, of course, ready to welcome the Archbishop to consecrate the new altar on June 20th. This has sadly been postponed due to the restrictions presently in place. This will be rearranged when things settle down in the future.

Thanks to those who have made generous donations towards this work. We still have about £7000 to go however, so if you would like to make a contribution towards the costs of the sanctuary furniture then you are very welcome to do so. Just place your offering in an envelope and bring it to the presbytery or post it through the letterbox.

Our grateful thanks to the Fathers at the Birmingham Oratory who have provided a relic of St John Henry Newman to be placed within the altar when it is consecrated.

During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for: Patrick Walsh; Eilish Byrne (RIP Anni); Anne Moriarty (RIP); Catherine Sugrue (RIP); James and Bridget O'Connor (RIP); Alice Devaney (RIP); Pat Joe Mannion (RIP Anniv); Joan Hollington (RIP); Sean Callaghan (RIP); Tom Mulligan (RIP); Pat and Pat Nolan (Special Ints); Denis Flynn (RIP); Margaret and Anthony Morrissy (RIP); Private Intention; Imelda Delaney and Family; James Garvey; Michael Dunleavy; Catherine Sugrue; John, Katie and Samantha Byrne; Martin and Louise Doherty (RIP); Maureen Mannion (RIP).

Masses will be offered privately each day by the priests, and all intentions which have been previously booked will be honoured and fulfilled.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart focuses not only on the love and mercy Jesus has for us, but on reparation for sin. In St. Margaret Mary's visions, Christ requested that a Communion of reparation be made on the first Friday of every month. We pray that our hearts may become like the Heart of Christ.

At the moment we are experiencing an imposed fast on these two sacraments – except for the dying of course – and so this warm devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one that can bring us great strength and consolation during these days.

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing. I adore you, I love you and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Within your heart I place my every care. In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying, Heart of Jesus, help me. Amen.

On our website throughout the month of June, you will be able to find several devotions to the Sacred Heart, including an Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart; a Litany to the Sacred Heart and an Act of Personal Consecration.

There are discussions going on with the government at the moment to enable churches to open their doors for private prayer. For Catholics this is perhaps more important than for others as the church building is the place where Our Lord's real presence is found in the tabernacle.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

When we can open the churches again for individual and private prayer, we will need a number of volunteers to help with stewarding, to help with the regular cleaning and hygiene procedures, and to ensure that social distancing is observed. There will also need to be a general clean at the end of each day that churches are open.

We will need to have a rota of volunteers in place before we will be permitted to open. If you are able and willing to volunteer (and are not shielding) please either phone the Presbytery, leave a note through the door or email us leaving your name, contact number and your availability to help out.

We haven't a date yet, or whether specific churches will be chosen for initial opening as we make our way out of lockdown, but it would be good to be prepared!

It is with great sadness that funerals cannot be held in churches at the moment. Until such time as the present restrictions are lifted, the Archbishop has stated that funeral services must be held at the graveside or in the crematorium chapel with close family. On the day of a funeral the Priest will offer a Requiem Mass privately for the deceased. As soon as we can gather once more, there will be an opportunity for a public Requiem Mass with family and friends at request.

As a parish community it is particularly sad when we can't be present at the Funeral Masses of those whose who have been part of the fabric of our parish and express our sorrow and affection. However, do please then make a special effort to bring them in prayer to the Lord in whom we are all one.

The dates below in brackets are the day of the funeral. This is so that those, apart from close family attending, can remember them in their own prayers that day.

We pray for those who have died: May Shuttleworth (1st June), Darren Carlin (2nd June), Michael Cumiskey (3rd June), Renate Helga Jona (8th June), Mary Treanor (11th June), Catherine Culhane (19th June), Maureen Power, Jean Prosser.

Our prayers are also asked for Sr Margaret Gabriel (Kathy Pye's sister) who died on 4th June. Many of you may remember Sr Margaret from her visit to the parish last year, when she also spent some time in the parish schools talking with the children. In 2019 Sr Margaret celebrated her 50th Anniversary of Profession as a Little Sister of the Poor.

A Prayer written by Bede Jarrett, a Dominican friar:
We seem to give them back to Thee, O God who gavest them to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world giveth, givest Thou O Lover of souls. What Thou givest Thou takest not away, for what is Thine is ours also if we are thine. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee. And while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where Thou art we may be also for evermore. Amen.

Care Homes in the Parish: If you have a family member in one of the Care Homes in the Parish, and they need a visit from the priests in an emergency, this needs to be requested through the staff at the care home.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: If you, or family members are in hospital, please let the ward know that the chaplain is notified. In these high-pressured times, he won't have the time or freedom to go around searching. People will be missed if the hospital staff are not informed. In non-urgent cases you can leave a message for him on 0121 371 4568.

Baptisms: due to rules concerning gatherings, baptisms (apart from those in *periculo mortis*) are to be delayed until such a time as the church building reopens.

Weekly offerings can be posted through the St Dunstan's Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'.

Standing Orders or Paypal donations are a great way of giving in times such as these which helps us to keep paying parish bills. Details available on our Parish website. Thank you for all those who are continuing to support the parish during these difficult times.

If you need to speak to either one of the priests, it is encouraged initially to do so via a phone call or email. Similarly, if you should require a priest in an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Presbytery.

The Bishops of England and Wales have made an initial response considering the recent Government announcements and documentation on the reopening of our churches.

"The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this. The Government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship. In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer. The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship."

You are more than welcome to write to your local MP (Hall Green: Tahir Ali, Maypole: Steve McCabe) - regarding the importance of open churches especially at this time. For more information please visit please visit the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website www.cbcew.org.uk

Congratulations to Fr Giles Goward who has been appointed the Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott, in succession to Bishop David Oakley.

There are also three deacons of the diocese who are due to be ordained priests this coming July –Benedict Skipper who was with us for part of the last year will be amongst them. Obviously, these are difficult times to make definite plans, but please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for their ordination – whenever it will be!

Magnificat Magazine is an excellent resource for us currently. Each edition contains the prayers and readings for Mass each day, a meditation on the theme of the readings each day, a shortened form of Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, and a number of articles concerning our faith, the Saints, and Christian art. It is a monthly publication and can be delivered directly to your home. To subscribe, you can phone 020 7448 3607.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2020: Sadly, the shrine has announced that they are unable to open the pilgrim accommodation during the pandemic and will remain closed until at least the end of July. This means that our pilgrimage will not now be able to go ahead. Although we have paid just the deposits, they will carry these over to the following year. Thanks to Isobel O'Connell for all the work she has done in organising the pilgrimage – and we look forward to returning to Walsingham again!

Also, the priests and friars based at the shrine at Walsingham do live stream Mass and devotions each day. If you google 'Walsingham National Shrine' you should find a link.

Let us pray for one another at this time, and especially for the sick and those in our hospitals, care homes and local surgeries who car for the sick: that through the prayers we offer both privately and individually, we may soon be united once more together around the altar of God.

An Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

A parishioner has passed on to us a prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence: O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilent and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

An Act of Spiritual Communion: 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.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass: O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'



READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4-6,8-9

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there. He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another

10th Week of Ordinary Time

Psalter Week 2

Monday 8th June *Feria*
1 Kings 17: 1 – 6; Ps 120; Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Tuesday 9th June *Feria*
1 Kings 17: 7 – 16; Ps 4; Matthew 5: 13 – 16

Wednesday 10th June *Feria*
1 Kings 18: 20 – 39; Ps 15; Matthew 5: 17 – 19

Thursday 11th June *St Barnabas*
Acts 11: 21b – 26; 13: 1 – 13; Ps 64; Matthew 5: 20 – 26

Friday 12th June *Feria*
1 Kings 19: 9, 11 – 16; Ps 26; Matthew 5: 27 – 32

Saturday 13th June *St Anthony of Padua*
1 Kings 19: 19 – 21; Ps 15; Matthew 5: 33 – 37