



ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. MARY'S



PARISH GAZETTE

The Archdiocese of Cardiff, Registered Charity no. 242380

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A) - Laetare Sunday March 22nd 2020

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13.	God gives Samuel a special insight to choose Jesse's son David.
Ps 22. Rv. 1	<i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14	God has brought us out of darkness so we can live in the light of the Lord.
Acclamation: Jn 8:12	<i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>
Gospel: John 9:1-41	A blind man is healed and, in the face of opposition, comes to faith by seeing Jesus as his saviour.

You can view the full readings online at <https://universalis.com/20200322/mass.htm>

CORONAVIRUS – MASSES CANCELLED.

The Bishops of England and Wales have issued the following advice for the Church in the face of the Coronavirus Pandemic we are currently enduring. The Public celebration of Mass should cease from the evening of 20th March 2020. This includes Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. The obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on these days is removed until further notice, owing to the extraordinary circumstances. Priests may continue to celebrate Mass privately without a congregation.

The churches of St. Joseph's, Penarth, and St. Mary's, Dinas Powys will open at selective times for PRIVATE PRAYER in accordance with the Coronavirus guidelines against large groups of people gathering together. These times are posted near the door of each church.

CORONAVIRUS AND THE SACRAMENTS.

Baptisms should be deferred until public health advises accordingly.

Individual confessions will be heard on request, as long as the necessary hygiene and distancing requirements are observed.

First Holy Communion celebrations are to be postponed during the crisis.

Confirmations should be postponed also.

There are other directives concerning marriages and funerals and other restrictions relating to Pastoral Visits to the Sick. These guidelines will be further reviewed by the Bishops in the light of the developing situation.

THE CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

In St. Joseph's, the doors of the church will be open daily for PRIVATE PRAYER from 9am until 12 noon (Saturday only

4.00pm until 6.00pm). In St. Mary's it will be Sunday only from 10am until 1.00pm). Please observe social distancing regulations and keep space between you and other people. A few hard copies of the newsletter will be placed inside the door of the churches week by week. They can be picked up during the open periods.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCH GEORGE.

Archbishop George has written a Pastoral Letter to all of us as the Coronavirus Crisis intensifies. He roots his message in the context of Lent and the suffering of our Lord. He reminds us that the only route to Easter is through Good Friday. The two are inextricably linked and cannot be separated. The message of Easter is that suffering and death do not have the last word – but Good Friday had to be part of the equation because it is part of the victory. It is a message we need to hear at this difficult time.

CORONAVIRUS PRAYERS.

Accompanying the Pastoral Letter are two prayers appropriate to the situation we now find ourselves in. One is a Coronavirus Prayer, and the other is a Prayer to Our Lady attributed to Pope Francis. Copies of these will be posted on our web site and hard copies will be available in the church.

CATHOLIC PAPERS.

The Catholic Papers are being produced and delivered as normal. Because the Piety Shop is closed for now, the papers will be laid out on the table at the back of St. Joseph's and payment can be made through the appropriate slot in the wall opposite.

MASS INTENTIONS. Mgr. Joe will continue to say Mass in private and his Masses will be said for the intentions set out on the back page.

St. Joseph's Church Wordsworth Avenue PENARTH CF64 2RL	Parish Priest: Monsignor Joseph Boardman Tel: 029 2070 8247 Permanent Deacon: Rev. Elfed Jones Tel: 07950 013224	St. Mary's Church Edith Road DINAS POWYS CF64 4AD
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TIMES OF MASSES AND RECONCILIATION

WEEK COMMENCING SATURDAY MARCH 21ST / SUNDAY MARCH 22ND 2020

Saturday March 21st			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Louise Daly (Louise Jones) 664
Sunday March 22nd 4th Sunday of Lent (A) Laetare Sunday			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Raymond Mathias (Stella) 661
Fourth Week of Lent			
Monday March 23rd Weekday, 4th Week of Lent			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Anna Mahoney (Paul) 566
Tuesday March 24th Weekday, 4th Week of Lent			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Holy Souls (anon) 668
Wednesday March 25th The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Albert Stimpson (Pat) 622
Thursday March 26th Weekday, 4th Week of Lent			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Priest's Intention
Friday March 27th Weekday, 4th Week of Lent			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Mary Patricia Jones (Diane) 669
Saturday March 28th Weekday, 4th Week of Lent			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Priest's Intention
Sunday March 29th 5th Sunday of Lent (A)			
MASS IN PRIVATE			Terry Jones (Kathy) 655



THE YEAR OF GOD WHO SPEAKS

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.

Collect Fourth Sunday of Lent



PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP GEORGE STACK

19 March 2020 – The Feast of St. Joseph

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

We are living in strange and worrying times. Who would have thought that, following the natural disasters of recent months, we would now be facing the dangerous realities surrounding the coronavirus pandemic? Yet this is the new reality with which we have to live. We have to adjust our everyday patterns and lifestyle to these very challenging circumstances. I want to write personally to each person in the Archdiocese of Cardiff as we face these difficulties together, and in support of others in our local community.

Good health is a precious gift. The advance of medical science and the development of our National Health Service over the years have ensured that the quality of our lives has rightly improved. “Life is precious. Handle with Prayer” read a Wayside Pulpit some years ago. These words seem particularly relevant during the health crisis we now face. I have attached two prayers which you may find helpful to use personally whether self-isolating or trying to go about the daily business of life.

Prayer and good works are the hallmark of the follower of Jesus Christ. We do pray for all those who have been infected by the virus, especially those with underlying health conditions which make them even more prone to serious illness. As good citizens, it is essential that we heed government and medical advice, whether it be self-isolating or not gathering in big numbers in addition to undertaking the basic hygiene instructions. Working from home where possible, avoiding non-essential travel, limiting social outings. All of these measures have their place in helping to avoid infection as well as the danger of cross contamination. They may also contribute to our Lenten discipline. The 8.8 million people in this country over the age of 70 must obviously have our special care as we are particularly vulnerable in this pandemic. A significant proportion of our clergy also fit into this category. In the Church, we have a good network of outreach to the elderly, sick and housebound. At this time, the good neighbour will ensure that those living alone should be contacted and reassured that help is near at hand, should it be needed.

Bearing in mind what I have written, you will know that the Bishops of England and Wales have implemented the decision to suspend the public celebration of Mass in our churches on Sundays and Holy Days. This decision includes a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass because of the danger of these times. This cessation includes weekday Mass as well, although the priest may celebrate Mass privately without a congregation. Our churches will remain open wherever possible in order that people may use them for private prayer and devotions. The essence of these measures is that people must not gather in groups with all the dangers of cross infection this entails.

This decision has not been taken lightly, recognising that the Mass is the hallmark of Catholic faith and practice. A number of churches have the capacity to ‘live stream’ the

celebration of Mass in the absence of a congregation. It would be good to view these transmissions and join in the prayers with missals, the scriptures and other worship aids. Failing that, traditional Catholic practices such as the Prayer of the Church, Lectio Divina, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and the desire to make a spiritual communion. These actions will join us together as members of the Mystical Body of Christ. We may be physically more separated at this time, but we remain united through faith and baptism in bonds which cannot be broken. No one is forgotten in the prayers of the Church.

I want to assure the priests and people of the Diocese of my prayers for you and your loved ones, and for your parish community. I am grateful to those who have worked hard to provide information and help not least through the Archdiocese website, social media and "The Catholic People". These days of Lent are a time of testing as we follow our suffering Lord Jesus to Calvary and beyond. The suffering of the cross to which we attach ourselves cannot be avoided in the painful circumstances of our lives. These are not of our choosing. The cross cannot be avoided. It has to be embraced in faith and lived through in order to catch a glimpse of what lies beyond. Although our celebration of this Easter may have to be more muted than in past years, the truth it celebrates will never diminish. "Life and death contended. Combat strangely ended". Our belief is that life will triumph over death. That light will conquer darkness. The words of St. John Paul II are profoundly significant at this time:

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song".

With every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+George Stack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

+George Stack

Archbishop of Cardiff

A CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

O Mary

You shine continuously along our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope

We entrust ourselves to you.

Health of the Sick,

who at the Cross were near to the pain of Jesus

Keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the people,

Know what we need, and we trust that

you will provide for those needs so that,

as at Cana of Galilee

joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial

Help us.

Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the will of the father

and to do what Jesus tells us,

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,

and took up our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross,

to the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection,

O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas.

We who are put to the test

And deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis