



PARISH BULLETIN

The Catholic Parishes of
St Augustine of Canterbury, Meir
St Filumena, Caverswall
& St Mary, Cresswell

5th April 2020

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
YEAR A**

14/2020/KS

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Parish Priest: Fr Kazimierz Stefek *OSPPE* - *mobile: 07939 205515*

Parish Deacon (Meir/Cresswell): Rev Trevor Borthwick (*retired*)

Parish Deacon (Caverswall): Rev Peter Bowyer

Parish Catechist Gabrielle Halliday - *mobile: 07764 245344*

Safeguarding representatives: (*for Meir*) Rachel Davies - *mobile: 07815 647060*
(*for Caverswall*)

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A PRAYER BEFORE MASS

(by St. Thomas Aquinas)

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation.

Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament.

O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members.

O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

- The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses (that is, our Archbishop Bernard Longley has decided that all public liturgies (all Masses with the presence of the faithful) should be suspended, beginning **from Friday evening 20th March 2020** until further notice. Because of this situation the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday and Holy days of Obligation is removed.

As a result of this decision of the Bishops' Conference and Archbishop Bernard Longley,

there will be NO Masses in our three churches in the presence of people.

- JOURNEY IN FAITH and SESSIONS OF PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS for Children in Non-Catholic Schools and non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools wishing to become Catholics – **SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**
- LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES – **Cancelled**

Parish Giving

Thank you to parishioners who have signed up to standing order and to those who have sent in cheques. Below are some suggestions given the circumstances.

1. Use your offertory envelopes each week and save them until we can come back to Holy Mass.
2. If you would like to sign up for payment by standing (bankers) order even for a short time, you can download the standing order form on the diocesan website - <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk>
3. Post a cheque to the Parish Office- please make sure you include a name and address on the back of the cheque and also, if you are able to Gift Aid, by writing GA on the back.

PLEASE PRAY

For those who are ill, especially: Pauline Adams, Janice Austin, Fiona Borthwick, Joan Brindley, Ruth Brock, Pat Bromfield, Egidio Coronato, Eamon Dooley, Pat Porter, Leon Stefek, Lisa Swift, Doreen Thomson, Pauline Tranter, Michele Yon, Evelyn Young, Beatrice Wright.

† † †

For those who have died recently – especially the victims of the coronavirus, and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

This week, we continue to pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to pray for those who are suffering, those who are dying. We pray for the souls of those who have died, often without the comfort of family presence. We pray for those who are caring for the sick at this time.

May the graces of this week bring healing and comfort to all. On Good Friday, there is a special 'Solemn Intercession' for the current pandemic. As we commemorate Jesus going to his death for our salvation, we pray particularly for this crisis to pass.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Dear Parishioners!

During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem on Sunday. The Lenten season lasts until the Thursday of this week. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

This year's Holy Week will be observed in very different circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic. People will experience Holy Week at home during these days. Public gatherings, including Masses, have been banned. While the current lockdown will keep you from celebrating the Easter Triduum in your Parish Church, there are still possibilities to use this worldwide tragedy as an opportunity to grow in faith. Although safety and cooperation with civil authorities is necessary, we must do everything we can to have access to what is essential for our faith and our spiritual lives.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the health of the world and the salvation of souls depends upon the sacraments. The sacraments are the spiritual P.P.E., 'personal protective equipment' of Catholics and enable us to be in the field hospital of the sick and dying, alluding to Pope Francis' metaphor for the Church.

The timing of the lockdown during the Holy Week is a call to prepare for Christ's resurrection in your own home. In the absence of rites, of physical participation, we must find in these circumstances a profound way of getting into the greater intimacy with the Lord. This is the time of penance, the time to return to God, whoever we are, the just and the less just, sinners, all of us must do penance. This unusual Lenten season has left us with an abundance of time for prayer, adoration and reflection. Modern technology (streamed-live transmissions) allows us to live in communion with the Church and 'participate' in Holy Masses and other prayers celebrated in either in local Catholic church or in Birmingham Cathedral or even in Rome. Although it is only virtual participation, it can be seen as a means that the Holy Spirit uses to pass through these things in today's world, to speak to our hearts and to speak to our consciences, giving the grace of consolation to those afflicted by illness and pain, the strength of spirit to all who help them and blessings to those who, in various ways, guarantee a constant service for the common good.

During this Holy Week let us be in touch with friends and loved ones in order to create a beautiful network of faith that unites us in this moment.

I believe and I pray that the Holy Spirit will give the grace to all of you, dear Parishioners, so that you may experience a beautiful and profound Holy Week, even in the sadness of mourning, loneliness and a tragedy of which we do not know the extent and, especially, the duration.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taken upon Yourself our weaknesses and sufferings, and delivered us from the oppression of evil through Your passion, death and resurrection.

We entrust to You mankind, struck by this evil, and we pray: deliver us and protect us from all dangers. We ask you in a special way for the afflicted: comfort their hearts, give them hope, revive their faith.

We beseech you, hide us in the shadow of Your hand so that we may experience the power of Your love which triumphs in every situation. Make us witnesses of Your infinite mercy that redeems and saves us. To You be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(Cardinal Gerhard Müller's prayer)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

HOLY MASSES WILL BE SAID AT ST AUGUSTINE'S WITHOUT PRESENCE OF PEOPLE

	St. Augustine's MEIR
5th April PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Year A	<i>Mass Intention</i> – Mary, Elijah & Dianah Doyle
6th April Monday <i>of the HOLY WEEK</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i> – Mary & Frank Simcox RIP
7th March Tuesday <i>of the HOLY WEEK</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i> – People of the Parish
8th April Wednesday <i>of the HOLY WEEK</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i> – Geraldine Murphy Int
9th April MAUNDY THURSDAY	NO morning Mass EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER <i>Mass Intention</i> – Durkin Family
10th April GOOD FRIDAY	NO MASS SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
11th April HOLY SATURDAY	NO morning Mass EASTER VIGIL MASS <i>Mass Intention</i> – Maurice Deakin RIP
12th April EASTER SUNDAY SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	<i>Mass Intention</i> – Sean Maloney RIP

MASS INTENTIONS

**PLEASE HAND IN AN ENVELOPE
TO A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**