

St Peter's Catholic Church

Abbey St. Eynsham Oxon UK OX29 4HR

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered as a Charity (234216)

*Archbishop Bernard Longley
Area Bishop William Kenney CP*

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio 01865 881613

Email : stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Eric White ericj_white@yahoo.co.uk

20th September – 25th Sunday of the Year A

THIS WEEKEND - Outside collection bag for Holy Places (Annual).

MASS TIMES SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

19th September at 5pm & 20th September at 10am

BUT WITH RESTRICTIONS

Face coverings to be worn

**The church remains closed at all times
except for weekend Masses**

*For guidelines on celebration of Holy Mass
see end of news sheet.*

For update information & support

Please visit the parish website

<http://stpeterseynsham.org.uk>

For Live-streaming Services

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/>

Next Sunday 27th September

26th Sunday - year - A

Mass Intention Sunday 27th September – Alexis Bell R.I.P. (anniversary)

Weekend Masses only

Weekday Masses: Stewards required.

At the moment daily Mass is being celebrated privately but I am hoping to resume weekday public Mass. To do this we will need stewards on hand. Most of the current (weekend) stewards are at work during the week but one or two might still be available to help out with stewarding on certain weekdays. This would involve taking contact details of those who come to Mass and for all contact details to be sealed in an envelope to be retained by me for a period of 21 days. Stewards would also be required to sanitise benches and other used surfaces immediately after the Mass. Would current stewards please let me know if they would be available to do this on any given weekday excluding Wednesdays. If there are any parishioners under 70 years of age and who are not at higher risk who would like to help out as a steward please let me know. Thank you for giving this request for help some thought.

GATEHOUSE: Helping the homeless: Any donations of tinned tuna, cheese, etc., would be welcome, but no home-made cakes or ready-made sandwiches at this time. Gatehouse are making food parcels up on site so they need something that is not fresh but in packets or tins which they can then open themselves.

Mr Leigh Waite writes: -

As promised, an update from Gatehouse as to the type of donations they are looking for on 27th September and beyond until further notice. The key things are:

*Sandwich fillers/ingredients
Shop bought cake
Bottles of water/juice
Packets of crisps
Chocolate bars*

So no homemade sandwiches or cakes for the time being. They are also requesting that we hold back on fruit for the moment as with the current numbers of people attending the takeaway sessions, they are having to throw stuff away because they have so much.

Finally, we also need, for hygiene and logistical reasons, to suspend donations of clothing though they are working on a way to make this possible again in the near future.

DATE FOR YOUR FOOD DONATIONS to GAEHOUSE: NEXT SUNDAY 27th of SEPTEMBER. Please leave in the usual place but notify the stewards.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time especially Elsie Hannon, Terrence Smith, Mary Callaghan, Patricia Wilkins, John Nolan, Cecelia Truby, & Gillian Fountain. May they rest in peace.

Prayers for the sick: Please keep in your prayers all our sick and housebound, especially Beth Barton, Linda Dongworth, Sara Ruane, Jacqui Van Cauwelaert, Frances Morill, Debbie Rooke, Valdis Culverwell, John & Kitty Jennings, Paul Coffey, Dot Walker, Paul Morrill, Frances Flatman, Philomena Knox, Risi Mohr-Knox, Colin Flett, Muriel Dell, Margaret Edwards & Pam Pineo.

News Sheet.

Although this is on the parish web page each week and can be accessed at any time, we could also send you a news sheet via email. If you would like to receive a news sheet by email each week, please would you let the stewards have your email address as you arrive for church. Alternatively, please let Marie Bridge have your email address as I am trying to create a full contact list for parishioners since I do not have everyone's email. Thank you.

Track and Trace - For the safety of all attending Mass the Government have advised that a contact phone number be taken and kept (for a period of 21 days) for everyone who comes to Mass. It will be made available to the NHS if they contact the parish and request this information. If you come as a 'bubble' only one number will be required. Starting next weekend we ask that every time you come to Mass please bring with you a slip of paper with your name and contact number on and place it in the basket in the entrance. If you would like to have your details recorded and have not written them down a steward will be able to record them for you, but please ensure that

you maintain social distancing when doing so. After 21 days all details will be destroyed. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Holy Communion to the Sick

The latest guidance and directions from the Diocese now allow us to take Holy Communion to the housebound and sick. If you fall under any of these categories please can you email me or contact me should you require a visit. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who are both able and willing to take Holy Communion, should contact their person to get permission to visit. This is essential as the sick or housebound person (or their families) might prefer that you do not visit, given the current situation with the pandemic. The Guidelines are available for Ministers to read. Please collect from Fr Mark for an e-copy. Please note that this does not include residential homes.

Music & Singing Inside Church As Part of Our Public Worship

In two weeks' time we are hoping to introduce some organ music and singing to our Sunday Worship but on a very limited basis and which is in keeping with the current guidelines from the government and the Archdiocese. I thank Jane Shaw and Richard Briggs for their support and cooperation in making this possible for us as a parish. I would also like to thank those who have indicated their willingness to sing as part of the choir during these difficult times. Starting on Sunday 27th September at the 10am Mass, the singing will be limited to a maximum of four people (choir). Seating will be reserved for the singers at the rear of the church so as to separate them from the nave of the church and the rest of the congregation. Stewards will be on hand to guide us with social distancing should this be necessary. The congregation are invited to listen to the singing and sacred music during certain parts of the Mass. Unfortunately, singing by the congregation is not permitted at present. Only one or two verses of a hymn will be sung so that we do not overly extend the time we spend together indoors in our celebration of Holy Mass. Even though our Sacred music will be very limited, and probably not every Sunday, I think it is wonderful that we can do this as part of our collective expression of prayer and worship AMDG.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - On-Line

YouTube link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gMpS4smCUrg>

BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 2020: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: LISTENING TO THE 'CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR'.

This year the Assembly will take place ONLINE, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 September, Wednesday 30 September, Friday 2 October and culminating with an Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4 October at 7pm. Sessions include: Ecological Conversion - an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home; Prepare the Future - building back better to address the climate emergency; and Local Government Responsibilities - planning for the West Midlands. For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPasssembly2020> or email bham.jandp@gmail.com

Receiving Holy Communion Safely during Holy Mass:

Reminder for weekend Masses: Holy Communion on the hand only. Please stretch out your arm as far as possible so as to maintain safe distancing, and with your hand as **flat as possible, one upon the other**. Thank you.

READINGS/REFLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY 25th Sunday A

Human justice and divine justice often seem to be a variance. We can all think of examples of people in our lives, and even of ourselves, of whom we cannot understand why God allowed this person to die, to have cancer at a young age, to be still-born, to succumb to drug addiction, or to live in poverty through no fault of his / her own. God does not manipulate us any more than he does the weather. He expects us to embrace the inequalities which turn out to be the keys to our own grace and salvation.

Isaiah

Recently we had readings from Jeremiah and Ezekiel about the personal moral responsibility of each one of us. Today, the second Isaiah, writing around the same time, takes up the same theme but presents us with a paradox whereby God wants the wicked man to turn from his sin for God is rich in forgiveness. But for our part we have a block in that we do not see things as God sees them. For this reason we must be prepared to abandon our own ways and come to depend entirely upon His forgiveness while he is near.

St. Paul's letter to the Philippians

Paul, in captivity and near the end of his life, is cogitating as many of us will do as we get older. Knowing that our life itself is Christ, should we yearn for death and just be rid of all this world's troubles and distractions so as to be finally joined to Him forever, or should we, as long as we have life in us, continue to concern ourselves about our Christian mission to God's people of which we are still part? St. Paul seems unable to decide. Probably we will be the same.

Matthew 20:1-16

The story of the labourers in the market-place reflects our first reading from Isaiah, that God's ways are not our ways nor our ways His. In the world of modern industrial relations and trades unions it strikes a discordant note. But the story is in line with the previous paragraphs of Matthew where purely human hopes are turned upside down because they simply fulfill man's projection of equality in a world where creatures are clearly not equal, and if they were nothing would develop. So the rich young man must renounce his riches to attain the kingdom, the disciples are told how hard it will be for a rich man to enter the kingdom, and then Peter on the apostles' behalf protests, "What about us?" In short the standards of the kingdom are the ones which comprehend the world's real inequalities as they exist and turn them into sources of grace.

PREVIOUS NEWS SHEET INFORMATION

NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION

Please remember that there is still **no obligation to attend Sunday Mass** during the pandemic. This is especially important to know if you are in a vulnerable category or have been required to shield during the lockdown. Likewise, it is extremely important that you do not attend Mass if you have any sort of cold or flu like symptoms, no matter how innocuous you may think them to be.

Those who are over 70 and/or at higher risk are still advised to minimize their contact with others.

If you are coming to Mass, You will need to be aware of the following:

The church building will be opened **15 minutes prior** to the start of Mass. We are not able to open without stewards in attendance.

Hands must be sanitised on entry.

Observe the **two metre** social distancing rule.

Face masks or coverings must be worn.

Unfortunately, no one will be permitted to come into the church to attend Holy Mass without a face covering. This is to ensure that everyone in the church is kept safe and any risks are kept to a minimum. (Exemptions apply for small children and/or for health reasons)

There will be appx 35/55 seating capacity in the church depending upon households sitting together and/or those within a social bubble who can legally sit together.

Father Mark will set up for each Mass with no servers or sacristans required.

All hymn books, missals and other published material will be removed from the church. Please bring your own missal or print off a copy of the readings to bring with you - readings can be found on :

<https://www.catholicsstrivingforholiness.org>

The news sheet will be published on the parish web page: stpeterseynsham.org

No candles or holy water will be available.

There will be no offertory procession, no prayers of the faithful, no sign of peace. The homily will be brief.

An offertory basket will be made available on exit at the side door.

No counters will be required until further notice as the collection has to be bagged and sealed for at least 72 hours.

A maximum of four persons per bench will be allowed if not of the same household/social bubble.

You may be seated by the stewards if necessary.

One of the stewards will act as reader with the wearing of gloves as prescribed.

The communion breads will be sealed in a ciborium throughout the Mass. Father Mark will have his own chalice and communion plate.

There will be Communion under one kind only, distributed by Fr Mark.

Before Father Mark receives the Body and Blood of Christ he will say **aloud**, "The Body of Christ"- to which you ALL reply aloud - "**Amen**". And again, "The Blood of Christ"- to which you ALL reply aloud - "**Amen**".

After this Father Mark will then say the **final prayer and blessing**.

Please then come forward in ones (or twos if of the same household). **Do not queue in the aisle** as we would normally do: Each bench in turn, beginning with the front benches on either side and working our way backwards.

(There will be no formula used when you actually come forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament: This will be in silence).

Holy Communion will be distributed by Father Mark (by the **hand only**) with the communicant exiting the building **immediately** after receiving the Eucharist. Because of this it is important that no excess baggage is brought into church (handbags, etc.)

Once you have consumed the Blessed Sacrament before the priest, exit by the side door only. (If you are unable to manage the steps of the side door, please tell the steward before Mass begins and they will ensure a safe exit via the main church doors.

The stewards will usher during Holy Communion - **if necessary** -row by row.

As you exit the building you are asked to sanitise your hands.

We are united in Christ; we are united in the celebration of Holy Mass whether we are able to attend the church physically or not. Let us pray for each other, remembering especially our fellow parishioners who are frail, sick, housebound, or shielding and who are unable to attend Mass: You are one with us as we gather around the Altar of the Lord.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: 2020 - 2021

These are now available in the narthex. All boxes are named. Please collect your box as you **ENTER** the church.

Thank you for your support.

CAFOD - SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Out of love for our sisters and brothers overseas, CAFOD is inviting us to sign a petition asking the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts, as well as at home. Should you wish to sign the petition, it can be found by googling, Unite against coronavirus/CAFOD. Thank you.

Coronavirus is a crisis that affects us all. Help families in poor communities survive. Thank you for your support.

Practical Matters: -

THANK YOU for your generous financial support during lock-down.

Parish Finance Meeting and Financial Report.

Hard copies of the financial report can be made available. If you would like to receive an e-copy at any time, please email Fr. Mark. If you have any queries or need clarification please email Fr Mark or contact Margaret Allen - Chair of Finance.

Thank you for your support for the parish.

The committee also reviewed the current financial year accounts. As you know, with no public Worship over the past three months, we have not been able to have any collections nor any revenue from the hall. If you can help in any way please let us know.

I have put some suggestions of ways to help below, but you may

have some additional ideas.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

We are still not having any offertory collections taking place during Mass in keeping with current Diocesan Guidelines. However, there is an opportunity to make a donation to the church (your weekly offering) as you leave the church after Holy Communion. The offertory bag is located just outside the side door of the church.

We are now able to put another collection bag outside for compulsory 2nd Collections approved by the Archbishop. These include Peter's Pence (annual), Holy Places (annual), APF World Mission Sunday (annual).

Thank you very much for your donations received by post or bank transfer.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Those who used planned giving envelopes can put their weekly offering to one side - at home - each week. When the opportunity presents itself, you can put any envelopes through the presbytery **INNER** letter box (if the porch is open) or hand them in once public worship resumes.

STANDING ORDERS

Thank you to those of you who have created a standing order (SO) through your bank in order to maintain some income for the parish at this time. You can do this directly with you bank: Just let them know how much you would like to give each month. If you need parish Bank Account details, please email me. If you need any forms so as to Gift-Aid your SO, please let me know. I can send you an e-copy of the Gift-Aid form. Thank you.

ONE-OFF Donations: Bank Transfer: For our bank details please email stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com

CHEQUES: If you are not able to set up a SO or make a bank transfer, it would help a great deal if you are in a position to post a Cheque, say monthly, as your

contribution so that we can avoid too great a shortfall whilst the parish has no income through the collection plate and no income from the hall either.

A presentation of the parish accounts will take place once public worship is restored, and we can see what we can do together to make up the shortfall.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.