



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AE

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT A (LAETARE)

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT: 22nd – 28th March 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week IV)

<u>Saturday 21st March:</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent: A (Laetare)</i>	<p><u>PARISH</u> <u>FINANCES</u></p> <p>14th / 15th March 2020</p> <p>Envelopes: Loose Plate: Standing Orders: TOTAL: Chad: Intercare: SVP:</p> <p><i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.</i></p> <p><i>British Summer Time begins next weekend. Clocks go FORWARD one hour at 2:00 am on 29th March.</i></p> <p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Breeda Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Maria Sawicki, Simpson Family and Evelyn Venning.</p>
Mass; Bob Solloway RIP (Curtis)	
<u>Sunday 22nd March:</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent: A (Laetare)</i>	
Mass; Catherine Broomhead Birthday Intentions	
<u>Monday 23rd March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	
Mass; Private Intention	
<u>Tuesday 24th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	
Mass; Special Intention	
<u>Wednesday 25th March:</u> <u>The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)</u>	
Mass; Sick of Our Parishes	
<u>Thursday 26th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	
Mass; Private Intention	
<u>Friday 27th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	
Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Saturday 28th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	
Mass; Celebrant's Intention	
<u>Sunday 29th March:</u> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent: A</i>	
Mass; David Russell RIP (Russell Family)	
<p>THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY AS ALL PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!</p> <p>All advice given in this Newsletter will be reviewed and developed as necessary on a weekly basis.</p>	
<p>The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall and the Church of St Francis of Assisi and the Parish Hall are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</p> <p>For enquiries or to book a Mass, please also do this via the telephone. Stipends can be posted or given at a later date, but for the foreseeable future if you book, or have already booked a Mass Intention, then this Mass will be Celebrated in private.</p>	

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses, it has been agreed that the cessation of all public Liturgies should begin on **Friday 20th March 2020**. Because of the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed, until further notice. Please help us to pass this information to Parishioners and your family members as soon as possible, especially those who are elderly or in a vulnerable group and have no internet access, so that they do not feel anxious or worried about not attending Mass.

St Barnabas Cathedral, the Mother Church of our Diocese, will be open daily for private prayer or to light a candle for a period of time throughout the day. If you do visit the Cathedral at any time you are asked to please use the hand sanitiser before you enter and as you leave and to make sure that social distancing is taking place.

The Cathedral will close during the week between the hours of 12:30 pm and 1:45 pm for Private Mass to take place. Any members of the public in the Cathedral at this time will be asked to leave and the doors will be closed. This will enable the Mass to be streamed live. There will also be a Private Mass said at the Cathedral at 10:00 am on Sundays. This Mass will be recorded. You can watch all Masses and Recordings via the Cathedral Streaming Service on their website: www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk.

Bishop Patrick has also created a YouTube channel, so that during this time Mass and other devotions will be live – streamed from the Chapel at Bishop's House. This can be found by searching for "**Bishop Patrick McKinney**" on **YouTube** and it will also be linked to the Bishop's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Sunday Mass will be streamed at 10:00 am this coming **Sunday, 22nd March** and each Sunday during this period. Other devotions will be advertised on the Bishop's social media channels.

Access times to both the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Church of St Francis, for individual private prayer, will be arranged, when and if, we can provide proper hand sanitising equipment.

Confessions are available by prior appointment by telephone and agreed hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed.

Further updates will be made available by CBCEW (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales). Please visit their website; <https://cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines> for details. Information will also appear on the Nottingham Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk>

Please pray especially that all communities, in this time of trial and testing, may be spared the worst of this illness and continue to love one another and be patient and kind. We pray for all the sick of our Parishes. We remember all those who are in hospital or are having treatment and those who are in nursing homes or being cared for at home. We also remember those who have died recently and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time.

ADDITIONAL HELP AND SUPPORT: A group of Parishioners are forming a Community Support Group for the Parish to help people out during the Coronavirus outbreak. This will be coordinated via a **WhatsApp Group**. If you think you might need support over the coming weeks with shopping for groceries, collecting prescriptions, swapping library books etc., then please contact the number below and we will do our best to help you. If you would like to offer your support please contact the number below and leave your name and number and we will add you to the WhatsApp Group. You can also join one of the local community groups on Facebook. 07729 150771

FIRST CONFESSIONS AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The date and times for these Celebrations, in both Parishes, has been cancelled. A new date and time will be arranged, possibly early in the new academic year, when it is safe to do so. Similarly, the preparation classes will be suspended until further notice.

SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH CLUB: planned for this coming Thursday and for subsequent months will unfortunately have to be cancelled. Lunches will resume as soon as it is safe to do so and any tickets you have brought for this month will still be valid.

POOR CLARES: I am visiting the Sisters **THIS Monday, 23rd MARCH 2020** – a week earlier than usual and then again during Holy Week to ensure the Sisters have our donations and gifts in time for their Easter celebrations. Our support is a huge help to them especially at this time and now there are so many more of them at Bulwell. Any donations can be handed into to me or Fr Christopher. – *Diane Wilson*.

RCIA PROGRAMME AND FAIR TRADE: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE; **FRIDAY LENTEN SOUP AND EASTER CHOCOLATE RAFFLE:** CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Given the COVID-19 situation, we are limiting our presence at Stapleford Care Centre. We will now be there only on **Tuesdays** and **Thursday 6:00 am – 6:00 pm**, when the BPAS abortion clinic is open. On other days, our prayer vigil continues in our homes and in churches where possible. Please see our full statement on our website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/nottingham>.

On Thursday 19th March 2020, the following letter was sent to all Catholic Churches in England and Wales.

Catholic Bishops' Conference (England and Wales)

Letter on public acts of worship in Catholic Churches in England and Wales in light of COVID19



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, 20th 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). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

“The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.”

May God bless us all.

Vincent Cardinal Nichols President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP Vice – President