

The Parish of the Good Shepherd

22nd March 2020

4th Sunday of Lent

Parish Priest: Monsignor Peter Wilkinson

Parish Office: Sacred Heart Presbytery

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Sadly, all Masses are now to be celebrated with the church doors locked and without a congregation.

Our Masses will be celebrated for the Parishioners of the Good Shepherd Parish and the Parish of St. John Southworth, Nelson, in Sacred Heart Church so that they can be live-streamed, and we invite you to participate on-line with these Masses. Father Gerard and myself will ensure that there is Mass each day, at 9.30am on Sundays and 10.00am Monday to Saturday. Sacred Heart church will be unlocked after the Mass and will remain open for private prayer until 6.00pm each day. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, as usual, and we invite you to make use of this opportunity to enter into a place of prayer and peace with the Lord. May God bless you and keep you safe.
Fr Peter

Mass Offerings This Week

Sick:

Donald Mitchell Monica Whitehouse

Jennie Gardiner

Latently Dead:

Patrick Garaghty Tom Woodward

Kathleen D'Arcy Christine Black Pat Garaghty

Anniversaries:

Margaret and Fred Garaghty James Kelly

May Fothergill Terry Ryan

Geoff and Irene Stott

Special Intention:

Donor's Intention

Combined Collection: £826.57

The Angelus

V The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary..

V Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary..

V And the word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary..

V Pray for us. O Holy Mother of God,

R that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray,

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, Your grace into our

hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your

Son, was made known by the message of an Angel,

may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory

of His Resurrection, through the same Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

Parish Notices and Information

Church Closures and Mass Update:

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Parish,

It is very strange to face a Sunday without a congregation, especially knowing that I will have a camera at the other end of an empty church transmitting and recording me. Preaching is going to be a strange experience with no reactions to watch! However, I am fortunate, because I will still be able to stand at the altar and celebrate these awesome mysteries of our God who comes to us in Word and Sacrament. I cannot imagine how it will be for you, not just deprived of the opportunity to partake in Holy Mass on Sunday, but to face an uncertain future for an unknown period of time without the experience of the Church around you.

Please set time aside for God, however you might arrange it, and make use of the many resources which are being made available. There are a number of resources on the diocesan website. I have provided a link to these on the coronavirus update page on the parish website. There is also an excellent downloadable prayer card for a Liturgy of the Word for this Sunday which you can use as a family or for yourself. You might be able to download it and print it off for people living near you who otherwise would not have access to it.

Now is also a good time to open the Bible and particularly the New Testament and just accept the Word of God as it jumps out at you. Perhaps you might make time to go for a walk and simply talk to God as you walk through the countryside - weather permitting.

You will find a prayer of Spiritual Communion in several places on the website, but I'm also including it here. It is important to remember that the Holy Eucharist, even when we are unable to receive it, is still our most tangible link with the God who is made flesh and lives among us.

Please make use of the webcam in Sacred Heart church. I am delighted that Fr. Gerard Kelly from St. John Southworth Church will be joining me to ensure that you have access to a live Mass each day at 10.00am, (9.30am on Sunday, which is also recorded and available to view later).

I also commend to you regular use of The Angelus. You will find it on this newsletter. It is the great prayer celebrating Mary saying, "Yes," to God through the angel Gabriel, as a result of her, "Yes," the Word, (Christ our Lord), was made flesh (a man) and lived and still lives amongst us.

We need to keep saying, "Yes," to God and telling him that he is still wanted to be here with us, his people, and to make his home with us.

A Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly 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,
please come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

May God bless you and keep you safe,
Fr. Peter

