

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Again this week we are asking you to book in advance for all Masses. This is particularly important for the Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass, but it also helps us with 'track and trace' which we are asked to be able to follow up should we need to.

To book your place, just click on the Mass or phone the parish office. Thank you.

### In the parish this week from 15<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday Sacred Heart no 10.00am Mass. Crematorium service for Milton Binns RIP.

Wednesday **Ash Wednesday** [Sacred Heart 10.00am Mass](#)  
(booking required – ashes will be blessed but not distributed)

Holy Saviour 11.30am Funeral Service for Francis O'Callaghan RIP  
(family priority 30 maximum)

**Ash Wednesday** [Holy Saviour 7.00pm Mass](#)  
(booking required – ashes will be blessed but not distributed)

Thursday Sacred Heart 5.45pm – 6.20pm. Exposition and Benediction  
[6.30pm Mass](#) (booking required)

Friday Sacred Heart 10.00am Mass Live-streamed only.

Saturday no midday Mass  
Vigil Mass [Holy Saviour 6.30pm](#) (booking required)

Sunday Mass [Sacred Heart 9.30am](#) (booking required)

### Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home

For those still at home and not attending Mass the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "The Lord's Day at Home", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet.

This week's Lord's Day at Home resource [can be found by clicking here.](#)

### Cafod Lenten Collection

*Family Fast Day is Friday 26 February this Lent. This year you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or you can text LENT to 70460 to donate £10. You can also donate through church by placing a donation for Cafod in an envelope, labelling it 'Cafod' and dropping it into any of the collection points in church or through a presbytery letterbox.*

*Please note that texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you will be opting in to hear more about work and fundraising. If you wish to donate without receiving marketing communication, please text LENTNOINFO to 70460.*

*You may wish to Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day for 40 days. Find out more at [cafod.org.uk/walk](http://cafod.org.uk/walk)*

### Suddenly it's LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday with a rather strange ASH WEDNESDAY. We will have Masses and the blessing of ashes, but no distribution of ashes. This is in the interest of our safety from transmission of infection. That, however, does not negate the value of the Mass on this day, nor the fact that it marks the beginning of a very important Season in the life of the Church.

Lent – you remember Lent. It's what we were doing last year when we suddenly found ourselves in a lockdown situation brought upon us by a virus which people initially thought might last a few weeks. In fact, it turned out that the whole of the next twelve months would continue to be a penitential season in the experience of many people. But Lent is more than doing penance.

The gospel for Ash Wednesday reminds us that in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus exhorted us to deepen our relationship with God (and his people) by three things: prayer, fasting (penance) and almsgiving. Perhaps we do not need to put too much effort into working out how we could do extra penance this year. Most people have had quite sufficient of giving things up to last them quite a few years. However, that doesn't substitute for the extra effort in prayer and almsgiving. During this time of isolation, which is the experience for many people, we need not be cut off from God or from our brothers and sisters in need. Churches are still functioning. The Church's liturgy is available more than ever over the internet. Informative videos about the gospels or St. Paul's journeys are just a Google away. Foreign aid is desperately needed for the poorest and most needy on our planet and food banks locally are in greater demand than ever if you can get supplies to them.

Remember: Lent is Prayer, Fasting and Alms-giving. All three.

God bless and keep safe,  
Fr. Peter