

St John the Evangelist
Fr James Callaghan OSB

4th Sunday of Lent
22 March 2020 (Year A)

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Lynam; **Assistants:** Emma Harrison and William Scrope
Office Hours: Tuesday (busy), Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm; Friday 9:30-3:30pm.

Under normal circumstances the Church itself should be open 9:00am -5:00pm on a weekday.
Telephone 01347 821295 (In an emergency, Fr James' number at the Abbey is 01439 766016)

Safeguarding Representatives: Mary-Clare Laidlaw and Mark de Groot

easingwoldpriory@ampleforth.org.uk; Personal emails to Fr James: james@ampleforth.org.uk
Facebook and website at stjohntheevangelisteasingwold.co.uk

Mass Times this Week

Saturday 21	Passing of St Benedict, Abbot, Solemnity
5:45pm	Vigil Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 22	4th Sunday of Lent; Lætare Sunday
10:00am	Mass: <i>Venerable Mary Ward</i>
Monday 23	Feria
Tuesday 24	Feria
Wednesday 25	The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity
9:30am	Mass: <i>Vocations</i>
Thursday 26	Feria
6:30pm	Mass:
Friday 27	Feria
9:30am	Mass: <i>Health of Community, Schools and Parishes;</i>
Saturday 28	Feria
5:45pm	Vigil Mass: <i>Parish</i>

Clocks go forward

Sunday 29	5th Sunday of Lent
10:00am	Mass: <i>Jim Reilly RIP</i>

Having just celebrated our last public Mass for a time I wanted to write a few words to you all to assure you very much of my prayers for the whole Parish over the coming weeks. This is of course an anxious time but we must as Catholics remember that we are absolutely not alone - God is with us.

The Mass readings this Friday morning were indeed heaven-sent: "Israel, come back to the Lord your God" (Hosea 14:2), "A voice I did not know said to me: I freed your shoulder from the burden;.....You called in distress and I saved you" (Ps 80/81) and "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart.....You must love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:28-34).

There we have it! Over the coming weeks let us carry out both those commandments - love God in our prayer, bible-reading and meditation, and love our neighbours by praying for them and seeking out ways we may be able to help them. Above all, we must resist the temptation to look inwards and brood!

I shall be continuing to offer Holy Mass at the usual times (offering it for the Parish on each occasion), so if you would have been attending you can know that Mass is happening and perhaps set aside some prayer-time while it is in progress. There has been another communication from the bishop reminding priests not to allow anyone to attend Mass, so with great regret indeed I suppose I had better go along with this; I would hate to be responsible for helping to transmit this virus in any way!

The church will always be open at the usual times and everyone will be very welcome to drop in for silent prayer - let's remember the traditional practice of "paying a visit to the Blessed Sacrament".

And let us do all we can to help each other in whatever ways we can (assuming we are in a condition to go out of doors etc!). Please don't forget I am here most of the week (not on Tuesdays) and if I can help in any way at all you must not hesitate to contact me: my telephone number and personal email address are at the top of this bulletin and I'll always be delighted to hear from you.

We are hoping to keep the bulletin going throughout, and it will be available as usual at the back of church. In the meantime, let us look forward in peaceful prayer to the day when we can all once again celebrate Holy Mass together, and indeed our whole Parish life, rejoicing in what the Lord has done for us!

Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St John the Evangelist, pray for us.

God bless you all - and keep in touch,

Fr James.

Thought for the Week

One must not think that a person who is suffering is not praying. He is offering up his sufferings to God, and many a time he is praying much, more truly than one who goes away by himself and meditates his head off, and, if he has squeezed out a few tears, thinks that is prayer.

St. Teresa of Avila

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all Bishops of the Conference

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

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President

Information and Useful Links

Please see our website for a list of on-line resources, including churches who are live-streaming Mass, and Magnificat's offer for free on-line access during this troubled time.

If you do not already get a copy of the bulletin by email, and would like to, please give Kathryn your email address and she will add you to the circulation list.

Upcoming Events COVID-19 permitting (See Posters)

March

- Sat 21 8am Christian Men's breakfast in Kurt's Bar at the Galtres Centre.

April

- Sun 5 Palm Sunday
- Thur 9 Maundy Thursday:
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Fri 10 Good Friday:
3pm Good Friday Liturgy
- Sat 11 Holy Saturday
8:30pm Mass of the Easter Vigil
- Sun 12 Easter Sunday
10am Sung Mass of Easter
- Sun 19 Divine Mercy Sunday. St Aelred's have extra celebrations, see poster
- Thur 30 Parish Forum at 7:15pm: Details of the Summer Fayre will be on the agenda.

July

- Sat 4 Summer Fayre in the Priory Garden

Offertory Collections and Charities:

- Thank you for your generous offertory collections last week of £328.90 We also get an average of £60 per week from standing orders. Please see Kathryn for more information.
- APF red boxes: If anyone would like a red box in their home, please contact Anne on 01347 823015
- Easyfundraising this quarter has raised £42.44 for the Parish – thank you very much to those who have signed up. Please see Kathryn if you would like to donate as you shop, at no cost to yourself.

Eggs

Still available in the Porch, many thanks to Trish and Jane. £1 per box, in the Poor Box slot.

Middlesbrough Food Bank: 6 April

The MFB needs your support and continued generosity more than ever in these times of crisis when demand has already increased greatly and there are considerable shortages.

Please remember that financial donations would be an alternative if it was easier for you at the moment. There are some flyers at the back of church and donations can, of course, be made on-line. Cash donations, however small, could be handed in to St Benedict's House.

Coffee, tinned meat and rice pudding are in short supply just now, and Easter eggs, please!

If you want to keep up to date, please consult the MFB website: middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk. If you need further information or want to help, please ring: 01653 628755. God bless.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Sick, Infirm and Housebound: Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Paul Gallagher, Pat Grotrian, Catherine Harmer, Graham Harrand, Mary-Rose Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Commander Matthew Kiernan, Kay Moss, Marie Podgorski, Harrison Torr and Sophie Williams; *those who have Died recently:* Eddie Coogans, Howard Snowden and Hugh Watson *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Edgar Roe, Ann Stephenson