

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP

Email beckenham@rcaos.org.uk

Website: www.saintedmunds.net

Parish Office 020 8650 0970

Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm

Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk

Fr. Ashley Beck - 020 8650 4117 or 020 7998 5949 - ashleybeck@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Sean Murphy - 020 3490 5693 - seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk

Dean Duncan Aitkins - 07957 861404 - duncanaitkins@rcaos.org.uk

22 March 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Salesian Sisters

25 Village Way, BR3 3NA

020 8650 6313

patdevine13@gmail.com

Missionary Sisters of

St. Peter Claver

89 Shortlands Road BR2 0JL

020 8313 3915

spsc.echo.uk@googlemail.com

UNCHARTED WATERS MEANS MORE PRAYER AND GREATER FAITH

From Friday evening public liturgies in the Catholic Church ceased. This decision was made by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in consultation with the Ordinaries of the Dioceses. The reason for this decision is to protect as many people as possible from COVID-19 pandemic and to limit its spread.

As many of you are aware, priests are called to celebrate daily Mass. We will continue to do this albeit without you, the faithful. This is not ideal and not how we would wish it to be but we find ourselves - at least in recent history - in unprecedented times, where we need to protect the health and wellbeing of all those in our care, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, the President and Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference have stated the following: Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming; following the 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 Catholic Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181).

I know some parishioners will see the decision to temporarily stop the Mass and other public liturgies as defeatist and lacking in faith. However, I would urge these people to see it rather as an opportunity for us to grow in prayer, deepen our faith and to become stronger and more united as a community.

Already, a few people have come forward with ideas on how we can best reach out and support those who have decided it is in their best interest to stay at home. Thank you to parishioners Tim and Margretta for your initiatives, and to Adam offering to deliver shopping to anyone who needed it. I was greatly encouraged by your positive response. I know there are many more like you.

Recently the wife of a deacon sent me this beautiful message from Pope Francis.

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you."

Another recent message that compliments the above, this time from Our Lady of Medjugorje. *"My children, you cannot be happy if you do not love one another, if you do not love in every situation and in every moment of your life"*

Our Lady goes on to urge us, especially in times of turmoil and renunciation to seek the face of her Son, to live his words without fear, to pray and love with honesty and good deeds. This will help to change the world and draw us closer to the heart of Mary. Finally, she repeats the message of her Son: without love there is no salvation. I hope these words will not only encourage you but inspire you as we set out on uncharted waters.

Finally, two more things, 1) Don't forget to read about God's protection in Psalm 91 and 2) This Wednesday is the Feast of the Annunciation, so pray the Angelus whenever you can.

God bless, Fr Steve



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

While this is a time of great uncertainty and anxiety - with many of us worrying about our own health and that of loved ones, as well as other concerns such as job security and financial problems - as Christians we are called to serve others.

We are gathering names of people who are keen to help out possibly by collecting and delivering shopping or prescriptions for those self isolating or unwell or offering a regular telephone call to someone lonely. Conversely, we have to find those people in need of assistance or a friend.

If you would like to volunteer or know of someone who needs assistance or if you would like help please contact the parish office. A more detailed fact sheet will be circulated separately.

MASSES THIS WEEK - via Webcam ONLY

Weekday Masses will be concelebrated and Intentions that have had to be moved due to Mass cancellation will be offered on the closest possible date.

Saturday 21 March 9.00 am	Feria Cesar Ivaldo Alvarado RIP Alfred Lutz RIP
	Confessions in church 10.30 - 11.00am 6.00 pm Vjollca Loftus - Wellbeing
Sunday 22 March 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent Peggy Power Gino & Alice Secondina and Gian Bianca Rabbini RIP
Monday 23 March 9.00 am	Feria Barbara Oke RIP Margaret Wymer RIP Private intention
Tuesday 24 March 9.00 am	Feria Raymond Ford RIP Martin Leigh RIP Kit Murphy RIP
Wednesday 25 March 9.00 am	The Annunciation of the Lord Helen Rooney 90th birthday In thanksgiving - Edet & Ekong families Luzminda Eguia RIP
Thursday 26 March 9.00 am	Feria Tom Benson RIP John & Mary Hayes RIP Canon Brendan MacCarthy RIP
Friday 27 March 9.00 am	Feria Mr Kelleher RIP John Sylvester RIP Harold Lake Jr & Harold Lake Sr RIP
Saturday 28 March 9.00 am	Feria Jimmy Kavanagh RIP All persecuted born & unborn children Keith Meneaud RIP
	Confessions in church 10.30 - 11.00am 6.00 pm For the people
Sunday 29 March 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Deacon Ray Zacaroli RIP The Oshomegie family

The church will be open during the week from 10am for private prayer and devotions

There will be Adoration for one hour from 10.30am Monday to Saturday

Evening Reflection 7.30pm Monday - Friday **WEBCAM ONLY**
Songs of worship and scripture reflection with Joseph

DIARY

ALL MEETINGS AND GROUPS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HALL OR NO.11 HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

COLLECTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LONDON

Next weekend we have our regular collection of items for asylum seekers and refugees in London, living at the London Catholic Worker community in north London. This collection will go ahead and donations can be left at the church next weekend between 10.30 and 11.30am on Saturday or Sunday when Fr Ashley will be there to receive your donations.

This community relies entirely on donations to feed the many men in shelters. Please continue to give with your usual generosity.

A Prayer

Father, you know our difficulties and our needs. In your love we can overcome all things: strengthen our confidence and our faith, and let us know your fatherly care.

Grant us the grace to meet our tasks and responsibilities with calm and fortitude; consoled by you, help us bring encouragement to our brothers and sisters

*Through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

COLLECTION

The collection last week came to £1765.81 with an additional £2091.15 through standing orders and ChurchSuite

The collection for LEPRRA raised £1336.20

Readings for 5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm 129

Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

We pray for those who have died recently: Ellen McNally, Archbishop Emeritus Peter Smith, Fr Henry Reynolds, Jackie Lee and Leah Clent.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Sydney Perkins, Sadie Rance, William McDermott (Billy), Yvonne Morrison, Martin Leigh, Catherine O'Marney, Patrick Pettican, John Taylor, Beth Rose Nee, Kweku Ansah, Kath Carr, Maureen Turner.

We pray for the sick: Angela, Bernice, Rob Burns, Emma-Jane, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, John Crouch, Sorcha Davis, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Cecil Dutton, Ann Elmer, Felicity, Erika Geddes, Chris Grant, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Jerry Jacob, John, Ellie Jones, Mary McGrath, Eddie Mitchell, Barbara Moyce, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Claire Shelton-Jones, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, Siobhan, Angela Stolle, Patricia Weal, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.