

**“Be strong
and take heart
all who HOPE
in the Lord”**

(Psalm 31:24)

The Sacred Heart & Our Lady

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5th July 2020

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Welcome to our Parish Newsletter

Hello everyone! This Sunday's Gospel includes an intriguing statement made by Jesus; it is also to be found in the Gospel of Luke, "Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do." The prophet Isaiah spoke of God's ways being so high above our own (see Isaiah 55:8-9), but Jesus shows us that this is not because His ways are without real commitment or knowledge, but rather that God is a gracious Father. God is always looking for our good, and even if we cannot understand his plans in the present moment, God the Son in Jesus shows us that childlike trust always turns us toward praise and appreciation of a Father who truly loves us.

At times, life can be difficult and complicated. Let us offer up to the Lord all our troubles and cares of our hearts; asking that we be granted that special knowledge of the Father's gracious will. May remember that as a result: 'I am loved, and all is working toward my final good'. This is taking on the "yoke" of Jesus; this is the childlike trust in Him who is a sure resting place for us all.

With every blessing for this coming week!

Fr James

For the younger members The Parish website has "child-friendly" bulletins and worksheets for you to either download (visit <https://sacredheart.btck.co.uk/> and scroll down "Main News Page"), or contact Fr James for an electronic copy to be sent to you, by email.

Welcome to July! Bishop David has written a short spiritual reflection for this new month, entitled: *The precious Blood of Jesus*. A copy of the Bishop's message is available on our website.

Thank you for your understanding and patience in relation to the decision to delay opening our churches for public Mass. It has been good to see individuals using the church for times of private prayer: they have been blessed times! Mass will re-start once we are satisfied that we have done everything we are required to do to ensure people's safety and well-being in the face of the virus confronting us at this time. We will keep you updated!

Essential to the re-establishment of Masses in church will be the role of volunteer stewards, and technically we need stewards at every Mass. As it is, and with the Parish demographics being as they are it may not be possible to have Mass every day. So, if you meet the criteria and feel you can support the parish as a steward, please step forward and offer your services. Please contact Fr James (contact details at the head of the newsletter). One thing is certain, the 'new normal' will be quite different to what we have been used to and we look forward to your co-operation in making it work. Until advised otherwise private prayer arrangements remain in place as current: Saturday 10.30am-12 noon and Sunday 2.30pm-4.30pm. **The dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation remains in force**, and those who are shielding or vulnerable should not come to the church at present, and neither should any who feel unwell, particularly suffering from Covid-like symptoms. Churches that live stream or record their celebrations of Mass and upload on to social media have been asked to continue this for this time being. **If you are not able to come to Church** at this time, on medical or other official advice, please do not feel excluded! If you would like to offer up a prayer in Church, let me know and I will ask one of the stewards to light a candle on your behalf and your prayer request(s) will be placed upon the altar.

Sacrament of Reconciliation If you wish to celebrate this Sacrament, then please contact Fr James and together we can establish how and when best this wonderful Sacrament can be celebrated.

Mass Intentions Just to remind you that if you would like a Mass to be said for any intention, please either telephone or email Fr James with your request or put an envelope with the request and any Mass offering in the post or through the Presbytery door.

St Mary's RC Primary School: www.stmarysrc-astonlewalls.co.uk

Tel: 01295 660258

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Sally Doran 07866 701666

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST-REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 234091

Windows Update The replacement and refurbishment of the top-floor windows on the Presbytery which began just before lockdown, and then had to cease, will resume, and be completed, hopefully on 16th/17th July! Hurrah!

Parish Finances Many people are facing an uncertain future, both socially and financially, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. That said, many people have still enquired as to how they can continue to support the ministries and the good work that happens within their local parishes. As always, we are extremely grateful for all that you can give - we can only continue the work given to us by Jesus Himself with your prayers and your generosity. We continue to be grateful for the financial support received by bank transfer, standing order or other online facilities. For those who are able to give, there are a number of ways in which this can be done: If you wish to send a cheque donation, please make the cheque payable to the Parish, not Fr James. There are online facilities to make individual donations through *Virgin Money giving*, or an online standing order direct from your bank account. Please see the "Money Matters" section of the Parish website for more information. If you don't use online banking, then there is another way – called 'Giving Tuesday'. All you need to do is phone 01604 712065 and donate to our Parish. You will need a credit or debit card to hand and you will be able to make a one-off donation to cover missed Sunday offerings or simply call each week to make an offering. Patience may be needed, as only one person will be taking these calls, but if you leave details on the answer machine someone will get back to you!

Thank you to those who donated to parish offertory or mass intention income this past week either when coming for private prayer, or generally through the presbytery letterbox: £115 was received

Please pray for: Jeffrey & Terence H, Rev Stevie C, Fr Euan OP, Tess K, Tony B, Carmel R, Sarel S, Averil M, Bernard B, Paul C, Herman L, Colm E, Joy B, Catherine R, Joan T, Alan and Jean R, Josie M, Eileen E-L, Michael B. We enfold in prayer all those suffering with COVID-19 and all working within the NHS, Care Homes, hospices, our schools and all key workers.

In Memoriam: Let us pray for all whose anniversaries occur in July, including Brig. James "Andy" Anderson, Janina (Jean) Dyndor, Jim Collins, Betty Furminger, Jean Gainey, Arthur Green, Franciscus Kuypers, Sarah Neal, Francis Reynolds, Beatrice (Betty) Rittener, Matthew Stroud, David Taylor, Mgr Pat Corrigan, Bernard Jones, Cylla Wiggins, Fr Anthony Maguire, Huw Davies, and Mary Wiggins. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

**This Sunday's
Entrance Antiphon**



*Your merciful love,
O God,
we have received in the
midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like
your name, reaches the
ends of the earth;
Your right hand is filled
with saving justice.*

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are 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, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(Prayer of St Alphonsus)



Food for Thought...

*Jesus says:
"... for I am gentle
and humble in heart,
and you will find
rest for your souls."*



*"So, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray; but keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, just for today."
(Sr M Xavier, 1877)*