

Due to the ongoing coronavirus emergency, and the need to avoid having large numbers of people together in one place, it is with deep regret that we are unable to hold public celebrations of Mass at this time. However, our priests will continue to celebrate Mass every day, even in the absence of a congregation. Mass will now be live streamed from the Cathedral on the Cathedral website (www.cliftoncathedral.org), in order to enable parishioners to join the celebration of Mass, albeit remotely. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am every day, including Sundays. 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. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 22nd March – Fourth Sunday of Lent People of the Parish
Monday 23rd March Francis van Neste RIP
Tuesday 24th March Ialeen Gibson-Cowan RIP
Wednesday 25th March – The Annunciation of the Lord Frank Sidoli RIP
Thursday 26th March Tony Stephens RIP
Friday 27th March Holly Marsden RIP
Saturday 28th March Maurice Keane RIP
Sunday 29th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent People of the Parish

PRAYER MATTERS

Please pray for the sick of our parish and for all who are unwell: Edmund Richardson, Gabriele Green, Mary Peacock, Jane Cooper, Ann Fletcher, William Gregory, Clem Cox, Jess Cox, Judy Haworth, Eliza James, Clare Coyle, Lorretto Coyle, Jenny Coyle, Ken Wright, Adam Walker, Sheila Daly, Andy Dawes, Chris Vigers, Pat Kissane, Dolores Kennedy, Sylvia Hambidge, Allan Liversedge, Julia Cross, John Hunt, Irene Seeley.

For those who have passed away recently: Fr Maurice Kean SJ RIP.

And for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Deacon Peter Doran, Sr Kathleen Ireson, Sr Mary Marcella, Mariella Berni-Birrell, Edward Fitzgerald, Jean Rose, David Cook, Marie Griffiths, Shaun Holman, Chris Sharp, Mai Lang, Vincent Gomez, Louis Sherwood, Tom Barrington, Tony Morris, Mary Harris, Danny Iago, Terence Brady, Stefek Zaba, John Grogan, Patricia Thomas, Micho Martinovic, Amy Concannon, Tom McDonald.

Please pray too for all those who work in schools, care homes and hospitals during these difficult times.

Baptism: Congratulations and welcome to Milo Timothy Edward Jenkins, recently baptised here at the Cathedral.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Even outside of the exceptional times in which we find ourselves, there are occasions when people are unable to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, through illness or due to their personal disposition. With the suspension of the public celebration of Mass in our churches however, we now all find ourselves unable to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. However, even though we may not receive 'sacramental' Communion, all are united in some way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional idea of 'spiritual' Communion is an important one to remember and reaffirm. A deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. When joining the Mass 'remotely' via live streaming, when spending time in reflection before the altar, or simply during everyday prayer, parishioners may find these words helpful:

*Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things, and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul,
so that I may unite myself wholly to you, now and forever. Amen.*

*Lord Jesus, I turn towards the holy tabernacle where you live hidden for love of me.
I love you, O my God. I cannot receive you in Holy Communion.
Come, nevertheless, and visit me with your grace. Come spiritually into my heart.
Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto your own. Amen.*

When people are not able to attend Mass, because of sickness or for some other reason, they worry that they are committing a sin. As Catholics, we know that attending Mass on Sunday is an obligation – indeed, the Church tells us that failure to attend Sunday Mass is a grave sin. However, this obligation does not extend to those who are unable to get to Mass through no fault of their own. In other words, if you are unwell, if you are in self-isolation, or if (as is now the case) public celebrations of Mass have been suspended, then you are not committing a sin by failing to attend Mass, because in those instances you are not required to attend Mass. It is important to understand that, in these emergency circumstances, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is 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. There are many reasons why you might not be able to get to Mass, but please be assured that when you are unable to attend Mass through no fault of your own, it is not sinful. God is a Father who loves us dearly, and will provide for our every need.

MASS ONLINE: Whilst there will be no public celebrations of Mass at Clifton Cathedral for the foreseeable future, there will nevertheless be a celebration of Mass here at 9.30am every day of the week. This will be live streamed on the Cathedral website at www.cliftoncathedral.org. Parishioners may also like to know that they can find live broadcasts of Mass from a number of churches around the United Kingdom and Ireland at www.churchservices.tv or from churches all around the world at www.mass-online.org.

MASS INTENTIONS: All Mass Intentions that had previously been entered into the Cathedral Diary for 7.30am weekday Masses and the 10.30am Saturday Masses will be transferred to the 9.30am Masses on the same date as they were originally planned. The 9.30am Sunday Mass every week will be celebrated for the People of the Parish, and there will therefore be a small number of Intentions that had originally been listed for Sunday Masses (including Saturday evening Vigil Masses) that will need to be assigned new dates. These Intentions will be added to the diary on dates as close as possible to those originally planned. Any parishioners who have any concerns, or who would like to discuss alternative dates for Intentions, are asked to contact Cathedral House.

PASTORAL CARE: The Clifton Cathedral Pastoral Care Team will remain active during the coronavirus crises, albeit in a slightly different way to normal. Any parishioners who have needed to self-isolate and who need anything delivered to them, or who would simply like to receive an occasional telephone call to maintain contact with the outside world, are warmly invited to contact Cathedral House on 0117 9738411. If nobody should be available in the office to answer the telephone, please do leave a message and somebody will get back to you. On the same subject, any parishioners who would like to volunteer their time to run necessary errands for those in self-isolation, or to join our list of people willing to help maintain telephone contact, are asked to contact Cathedral House, again leaving a message if nobody is available to answer the call.

UPDATES: As the national situation develops, new information will be added here, on the 'Newsletters' page of the Cathedral website. The website of Clifton Diocese will also be posting regular updates on their news page at www.cliftondiocese.com/news. Parishioners may also wish to keep abreast of the updates being posted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales on their website at www.cbcew.org.uk.

ST JOSEPH'S HOME: The Little Sisters of the Poor have been advised not to allow anybody to come into St Joseph's Home, so as to minimise the risk of the coronavirus being brought into the Home, where many elderly and vulnerable individuals are resident. Therefore please do not go to St Joseph's for Mass until further notice.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SS PETER & PAUL

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