

Newsletter for the Catholic Communities Of:
Our Lady of Walsingham, Occupation Road, Corby
St John Ogilvie, Copenhagen Road, Danesholme, Corby
Most Holy Name of Jesus, Stoke Hill, Oundle
St Paul, Sackville Street, Thrapston
St Thomas More, Marshalls Road, Raunds

Clergy: Canon Michael Harrison, Fr David Donaghue

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Sunday 19th April 2020

Dear Parishioners, thank you for reading this newsletter and for wanting to keep in touch with your parish. There is not much news to report. In compliance with the Government's instructions all our churches remain closed to the public for another three weeks at least. This is very sad for all of us, but we comply with the instructions which are in place to benefit us all.

Today is Low Sunday, more recently known as "Divine Mercy Sunday". Fr Gerard had planned a full day of devotions at St Patrick's church, which were all looking forward to supporting. Instead, for obvious reasons, we must pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at home, uniting ourselves with the millions of other Catholics throughout the world who are praying together at the same time.

We are celebrating Mass in Our Lady's church every day behind closed doors. It is disturbing for any priest to celebrate Mass in this way. We were ordained to serve the people; the priesthood makes little sense without a people to serve. As we look out from the sanctuary, gazing down at 21 rows of empty pews plus the gallery above, we pray for the parishioners who would ordinarily be sitting there and who would dearly love to be praying there right now. Last Easter Sunday people could not even get in the doors, such were the crowds. Please God, we will fill those pews again for Mass before too long. Meanwhile, keep praying at home, and watch daily Mass online from our cathedral:

(northamptondiocese.org) with Bishop David, from Walsingham, on EWTN or wherever, and make an **Act of Spiritual Communion** in these words:

"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 myself to be parted from you. Amen."

Prayer in Time of Pandemic: *"Let us pray for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families, and salvation to all the victims who have died.*

Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died, and throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN"

The Presbytery is sadly still closed to visitors, but we are still inside, pottering about, keeping things ticking over. Maggie our parish secretary, Cath our housekeeper and Rick our youth worker are off work; Fr David is in London working with the homeless. Fr Michael is manning the house, answering the phone and responding to emails and doing what admin he can to keep the parish ticking over until normality reigns. Your priests are not able to visit other than in a life-or-death scenario. However, if you are lonely or just want to speak with a priest or pray with him, please feel free to ring 01536 203121. For Hospital cases, please ask the ward staff: switchboard will call the priest on duty.

Please do not forget the **Food Bank** at this time. Rather than bring your foods here, take them directly to: St Peters and St Andrews, Beanfield Avenue, NN18 0EH (Mondays 13.30-1500 and Fridays 11.30-13.00) or St Columba, Studfall Avenue, NN17 1LG: (Wednesdays 10.30am-12.00).

If you know if anyone in need of the Foodbank, please let them know of these times.

Our Lady's Catholic (aka "The K.K.") Club is closed at this time. Our thanks to stewards Bridie and Bernard and staff. We are taking the opportunity of having the club hall refurnished with brand new tables and chairs. It is a fine hall, ideal for your parties, "do's" and special occasions, available for booking via the club (264753). We all look forward to enjoying such "do's" again.

May They Rest In Peace.

This week we held funerals for Thomas Slevin, late of Granby Court and Ann Cheatham, late of Drifffield Grove.

This week we have funerals for Philip Jones of Raunds and Fiona Rippie of Willowbrook Road.

Next week we have funerals for James McLarty, Thomas Murphy, Kevin Leese, Margaret Garvey, Andrew Flynn and Carmel Gallagher. All are private funerals with the option of a Memorial Mass in church at a later date.

Please keep all the families in your prayers.

This is a time of sorrow for many: we hold in prayer the souls of those who have died and their loved ones. Yet, out of every tragedy comes light: much spiritual good is coming out of this sad time as we have more time to stop, think, pray and reassess what is important in life. People are being more community-minded, more conscious of the needs of their neighbours. Our care-workers, service personnel and key workers are becoming the new heroes. Those who serve others are held in the highest esteem. We have reassessed our value-system, cherishing service, family, friends, home, health, our environment. We are developing a sense of gratitude to God for what really matters in life, not taking things and people for granted. The healthy and well-off are making huge sacrifices for the good of the vulnerable and elderly: could there be a more Christian act? Does God not work in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform?

Please keep an eye on those who are self-isolating; keep prayerful yourself, keep faithful. Look after yourself and, more importantly, look after one another. We are living in mysterious times. God will see us through.

No Public Masses at Present. Priest's Private Mass will be for the following pre-booked Intentions

Saturday	Our Lady's	William Currie RIP / Vincent and Peter Reilly A
Sunday	Our Lady's	Margaret Smith A / John Fox A
Monday	Oundle	SVP Beneficiaries
Tuesday	Raunds	All Parishioners
Wednesday	Our Lady's	Kevin Leese RIP
Thursday	Our Lady's	Andrew John Hendry A / Pat McLaughlin A
Friday	St John Ogilvie's	Agnes and Michael Gallagher Int
Saturday	Our Lady's	Hugh McAteer A
Sunday	Our Lady's	Danny Chapman Int / Joe Moone A / St John Ogilvie's Intention

Wishing you a Happy, Joyful Easter, Canon Michael & Fr David