

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 the Apostle, Sackville Street, Thrapston
St Thomas More, Marshalls Road, Raunds

Clergy: Canon Michael Harrison, Fr David Donaghue

Tel: 01536 203121

Email: ourlady.corby@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 24th May 2020. May, the month of Mother Mary.

That “awkward” week between Ascension and Pentecost. We know the end of the story, but imagine how the apostles were feeling after the Jesus had ascended, not knowing what would happen next.

Dear Parishioners, once again, thank you for coming online to visit our parish website. We gain quite a few “hits” each week, mostly on a Saturday and Sunday, which is very encouraging. I try to upload this newsletter on a Saturday at lunchtime. There is not much news, but it is good to keep in touch. We still miss you! We know how much you all miss being able to come to church. How are you all doing? You are in our prayers everyday, especially at daily Mass.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for wanting to keep in touch with your parish. We are fine here, still locked down like everyone else. Lots to keep us busy. Our garden has received lots of attention from Fr Michael recently. Fr David enjoys cooking, baking and learning new technologies, his Young Adults Online Forum had a trial run last Sunday evening on Zoom. More details later. We have even celebrated two of our weekday Masses on Zoom (from our dining room where the wifi is stronger).

We are seriously looking into “live streaming”: Fr David is on the case, seeing which package best suits our needs; watch this space. **Our thanks** to all the volunteers in our five churches who are keeping things up and running – running the taps, mowing the lawns etc.

Reopening of our Churches. Now, this is news. When? Who knows, but we want to be ready. Nothing can happen until we receive explicit permission from the government, and then permission for each individual church from the Bishop. We have been sent a preliminary list of conditions as long as your proverbial arm, with which we must comply before we will be given permission to reopen any of our churches. Remember, this is just reopening for private prayer, not for the celebration of public Mass which is still further down the line. Sadly, we may not be able to fulfil all these conditions in all of our churches but let’s be optimistic for now. The first thing is to enlist a bank of Stewards; thank you to those who have volunteered so far: we still need many more volunteers before we can even think of reopening. Your job will be to guide visitors and to ensure antisocial distancing is observed. We envisage opening up for an hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday morning for people to pop in and pray before the Blessed Sacrament for a few minutes. If you can help as a Steward, please let us know by email: ourlady.corby@yahoo.co.uk. Sadly, offers to steward cannot be accepted from those who have reached 70 years of age or have health issues.

Our Doors are Closed but the Church is Going!

To prevent further spread of the Coronavirus we are obeying government instructions. As you know, we celebrate Mass in Our Lady's church every day usually at 8.30am, but behind closed doors for the intentions booked by parishioners (see below). We have five Paschal Candles in church. At each Mass we light the one of the particular church(es) in which we would be ordinarily celebrating Mass that day. On Sundays we light all five. Fr Gerard Byrne's Masses are available from St Brendan's and St Patrick's to view via Facebook and you can see our own Fr David gives us daily reflections on YouTube. Also, many of us enjoy Mass live-streamed from our Cathedral uniting ourselves with our new Bishop David at 11am each Sunday (or 8.30am with Canon Mark Floody).

When Bishop David invites you, make an **Act of Spiritual Communion** please recite 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."

Or, why not try this beautiful prayer: **Prayer To Our Guardian Angel When We Cannot Attend Mass.**

***O HOLY ANGEL at my side,
Go to Church for me.
Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass.
Where I desire to be.***

***At Offertory, in my stead,
Take all I am and own.
And place it as a sacrifice
Upon the altar throne.***

***At Holy Consecration's bell,
Adore with Seraph's love.
My Jesus present in the host,
Come down from heaven above.***

***Then pray for those I dearly love,
And those who cause me grief.
That Jesus' blood may cleanse all hearts
And suffering souls relieve.***

***And when the priest Communion takes
O bring my Lord to me.
That his sweet heart may rest on mine,
And I his temple be.***

***Pray that this Sacrifice Divine
May mankind's sins efface.
Then bring me Jesus' blessing home
The pledge of every grace. Amen***

Our Lady's School is preparing to reopen on 1st June for limited year groups. We wish them well. They will be making use of the entrance behind our church car park. Our gates will be open for pedestrians only, not cars. This is to prevent accidents in the queue, as everyone keeps their antisocial distance.

Is Your Relationship Under Stress During the Lock-down? Smartloving Breakthrough is there to help. A three-hour session to take simple steps to heal wounds and restore hope. Cost: £24 (financial help is available via mfinrcd@gmail.com). See <https://smartloving.org/bto-uk> Private, confidential and effective.

Visits. Sadly, we cannot administer Holy Communion at this time. Your priests are able to make essential visits only to private homes. We wear the appropriate protective apparel including mask and gloves. We anoint by way of cotton wool, to avoid making physical contact. Please feel free to ring us on 01536 203121.

Hospital: Thankfully Kettering General is allowing priests to visit, many hospitals are not. Our rota to provide call-out care from priests 24/7 is still operational, and I thank the local clergy for their support: Fr Gerard in Corby, Fr Paul in Wellingborough, Frs Michael and David here and Fr Gregory in Kettering who takes the lion's share of calls. For Hospital cases, please ask the ward staff to contact switchboard who know which priest is on duty each day. Many Care Homes are allowing no visitors at all.

Do you want a Chat with Canon Michael or Fr David? Would you like us to pray with you? Please feel free to phone 203121, even just to say "hello" and let us know how you are.

Do You Hear our Church Bells on Thursday night at 8pm? They rang out the tune of "Hail Queen of Heaven the Ocean Star", all along Occupation Road and beyond into the nearby housing estates. We applaud the NHS and all key workers.

May They Rest In Peace.

This week we have funerals for

Mae Fullerton, aged 95, late of Glenmoor House, formerly of Eskdale Avenue, Corby

Tim Cornes, aged 63, late of Linslade, Beds

William Clenaghan, aged 79, late of Finland Way, Danesholme

Margaret McGowan McCabe, aged 76, late of Grendon Avenue, Corby

All are private funerals with limited numbers, with the option of a Memorial Mass in church at a later date.

Mass Cards during Lockdown: we are here in the presbytery and you are welcome to come for a Mass card as long as we keep our antisocial distance. You may wish to ring us on 203121 to ensure we are in, before setting out. You can book an Anniversary Mass over the telephone or by email. There is now no waiting list for Mass intentions, although some weekends have been booked for some time.

New Date for Confirmation. Bishop David Oakley will come to Confirm our young people on Thursday 15th October at 7pm.

No New Date Yet for First Holy Communion. We will wait until we are open for Masses again before we settle on a date for First Holy Communion; we don't want to give a date and then have to postpone, just in case families book flights etc in vain.

Fr David on YouTube! Fr David posts daily videos with a thought for the day, currently going through the titles of Our Lady. To find the channel simply search for "Fr David Donaghue" in YouTube. Fr David comes across extremely well and gives us some food for thought.

Want To Learn More About Blessed Peter Wright, our Local Martyr from Slipton? Fr David has an excellent presentation on his YouTube Channel. In his day it was a capital offence to be a Catholic Priest on English soil. Let us praise God through the faith of the martyrs that we have the liberty to practice our Catholic faith in England, free from persecution.

With Regret All Weddings and Baptisms are all postponed until we are given permission to celebrate them. Our prayers are with couples and families whose plans have been disrupted in a huge way. Don't worry, we will celebrate all the more when we are permitted.

Our Corby Catholic Youth Worker, Rick Netherwood, is furloughed at present like many others. His job was created thanks to the funding of his salary for two years by the Holy Cross Sisters who used to have their convent in Rutherglen Road. We thank the Sisters for their generosity to the young Catholics of Corby whom they served so faithfully for many decades. Believe it or not, that two years was up last month. Thankfully, we have secured the Youth Worker salary for a further three years from the funds of the sale of the land of Our Lady and Pope John School which was reserved specifically for the Catholic education of youngsters in the town. The balance of the sale proceeds is funding projects in our three Catholic Primary Schools including the brand new Reception Block at Our Lady's School, to be seen at the entrance gate.

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

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|------------------|------------|---|
| Saturday | Our Lady's | Betty Dwyer A / Vincent, Edith and Maureen Hull RIP / Steve McIlvenny RIP |
| Sunday | Our Lady's | Kay Trigg A / Valda McClafferty RIP |
| Monday | Our Lady's | Bill Davy RIP / David Gollogly RIP |
| Tuesday | Our Lady's | Tim Cornes RIP / Mae Fullerton RIP |
| Wednesday | Our Lady's | Tom Feely RIP / Teresa Hopkins RIP |
| Thursday | Our Lady's | Agnes Casey RIP / Tess and John O'Connor |
| Friday: | Our Lady's | SVP Helpers / SVP Donors |
| Saturday | Our Lady's | Bridget Killeen RIP / McClafferty Family Int |
| Pentecost Sunday | Our Lady's | Private Intention / All Parishioners |

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

And Finally,

Supporting Your Parish Financially. Thank you to those who have been concerned about how your parish can keep going financially without the regular income from the collection. There is a variety of ways to help.

1/ Firstly, just save up all your envelopes until such time we can gather again at Mass.

2/ You may wish to donate/set up a standing order to your chosen parish via the Diocesan Website northamptondiocese.org, the same website you use to follow Mass with Bishop David (just click on "Donate").

3/ More immediately and conveniently, you can do a bank transfer to your parish account:

Account Name: Our Lady of Walsingham; Account No: 91052165; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

St John Ogilvie; Account No: 82644993; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

St Paul the Apostle; A/c No: 65068874; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

Most Holy Name of Jesus: A/c Number: 46714626; NatWest Corby Branch: 60-06-11

4/ If you would like to speak to a human being, use the new initiative by our Diocese called **"Giving Tuesday"**.

Each Tuesday, between 10am and 4pm, you can ring 01604 712065 to donate to your specified parish. Have your debit or credit card handy. If engaged, just ring back as there is only one person "manning" the line.

These are difficult times for everyone, so thank you for thinking of your parish.