

PARISH CLERGY:

FR. CRAIG DAVIES
(Parish Priest)

Rev. John Higgins
(Parish Deacon)

PARISH REPS:

SAFEGUARDING:

Mr Gerry Wintrip
(01922 457471)

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Mr Phil Probert
(01922 458406)

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS



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Aldridge
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Tel:01922 452316



This Parish is
part of the
Archdiocese of
Birmingham

Registered
Charity
N^o:234216

Parish Website:

www.catholicaldridge.co.uk

Parish Email:

smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Fr. Craig's Email:

fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk

THE YEAR OF THE WORD



DATE
Sunday 22nd March
2020

SUNDAY
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday
Year A

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 4

In response to COVID-19 all public Masses and liturgies have been suspended until further notice. This church, however, will remain open every day (excluding Wednesdays) from 10.00am until 5.00pm. Each day that the church is open there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4.00pm to 5.00pm for Private Prayer.

Please Note That All Masses Will Be Said In Private

<u>Sunday 22nd March</u> Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	9.30am	Michael Lavin RIP ^(HC)
<u>Monday 23rd March</u> Lent Feria	9.15am	Int. of Sean & Rosaline Tynan ^(Sr.A)
<u>Tuesday 24th March</u> Lent Feria	9.15am	Int. of David & Rose Bunce ^(D&RB)
<u>Wednesday 25^h March</u> Annunciation of the Lord ^{Solemnity}	9.15am	No Service Today
<u>Thursday 26th March</u> Lent Feria	7:30pm	Claire Higgs ^(née McAnulty) RIP ^(SB)
<u>Friday 27th March</u> Lent Feria	9.15am	Int. of Teresa Pillion ^(Sr.A)
<u>Saturday 28th March</u> Lent Feria	9.30am	People of the Parish
<u>Sunday 29th March</u> Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Michael Lavin RIP ^(HC)

Pope Francis

In Lent we are called to rediscover what truly matters, what we really need, what helps us to live well and, at the same time, to identify what is secondary and that which we can easily do without.

Lent Alms Giving

The Lent Alms Giving: This year we are donating the money to Survive Miva. If you would like to continue your Lent giving please put the money in an envelope through the Presbytery door.

Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Council meetings are being suspended until further notice.

St Francis of Assisi College

Our next Youth SVP retreat has been cancelled.

Whetstone Over 50's

Craft and Natter

Wednesday Friends

There will be no meetings of the Whetstone Over 50's Group, Craft and Natter or Wednesday Friends until further notice.

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for all the sick in the parish, that God will bless and comfort them. Please remember especially:

Nancy Levell, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia ^(Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, Deacon John, Joan Hart, Emma Jones, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Margaret Cooper, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Pat Gray, Paul Mott, Theresa Chandler, Evelyn Hawkley, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath & Paddy Breen, Max Lewis, Alma Darby, Marguerite Baxendale, David Piggott, Mary Ellis, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Walsall Life



Walsall Life are once more in need of prams. If you have any that are no longer needed by your family, please contact Ann T or Beryl M. They will be greatly welcomed by those whom Life support.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of: **Eliz McCabe, Peggy McGill, Fr. Bob Wright & Canon Peter Taylor**; on whose souls Sweet Jesus Have Mercy. May they Rest in Peace. **Due to the cessation of Public Services Eliz McCabe will have a Private Family Funeral at Streetly Crematorium. A Memorial Mass will be offered for her soul at a later date.**

Missio (Red Box)

Collection of the money from the Red Boxes will be suspended until further notice.

CAF⁺D

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Live Simply Prayer – Week 17

Teach us, Lord, to treat our earth gently and not squander the resources you have given us.

Our gold box remains in situ for any donations of stamps, coins and broken jewellery during the current emergency.

Dear Fathers and Deacons

Dear Parishioners

I invite you to read this letter together with the two attached statements as they outline our present liturgical and pastoral practice in the light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. These cannot cover every possible situation so I would ask you to exercise prudent pastoral judgement in respect of these guidelines.

I ask all recipients to share this information as widely as possible. I also urge clergy to make copies of this email and accompanying statements available for those who do not have access to them electronically and to leave them at the back of their churches.

Each bishop has been asked to write to his own diocese and so I offer the following guidelines as a clarification of the national guidelines for the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The measures outlined may seem very drastic but they are a necessary and proportional temporary response to protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

O God, come to our aid;

O Lord, make haste to help us!

Care for Priests and Deacons

Those who are over 70, and those with significant underlying health issues, should take particular care at this time not to make themselves vulnerable to any risk. General contact with parishioners should be minimised so that the risk of transmission of the virus is significantly reduced.

Celebrations of Holy Mass

As of Friday 20th March, a major change is that the celebration of Mass will not be public in any setting. Can clergy please put a notice on their church door notifying people of this change, especially in time for this Sunday.

Priests will celebrate Mass privately each day. As they do so, the church will remain closed to the public – which includes all

parishioners.

Mass intentions attached to these Masses will be honoured. As priests will only be required to celebrate one Mass each day, some Mass intentions will need to be postponed to a later date.

In line with the Bishops' Conference guidance, only priests may be present for the celebration of Mass. As even Deacons are not permitted to be present, I need to emphasise that nobody else may be present for the celebration of Mass.

The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation is removed until further notice.

Since all of the faithful will be asked to make a Spiritual Communion (rather than receiving Holy Communion) during this time, those confined to home who normally receive Holy Communion from Sunday Mass will also be asked to make a Spiritual Communion. This will mean they will not receive Holy Communion regularly as at present. Clergy may make visits to sick parishioners in accordance with the guidelines already given. Care should be taken to ensure social distancing of the most vulnerable is maintained, including the welfare of those who visit. I draw priests' attention to specific guidance already given on the anointing of the sick.

Live-streaming of Masses is advertised on the Diocesan website:

(www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

and we expect the number of these live-streams to grow, including at St Chad's Cathedral in the near future. If clergy could inform the Communications team at Cathedral House if they can add to the facilities already listed, that would be appreciated.

At other times and wherever this is possible, churches should remain open for private prayer. This may include periods of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament but the emphasis must be on private prayer and not gathering the people. I ask that there is no Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament since this constitutes a public service.

Baptisms, Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Matrimony

Please follow the guidelines given in the Bishops' Conference Liturgical Advice document.

Funerals

Regrettably, while public Funeral Masses must also cease, it is recommended that on the day of a Funeral, a Mass without the faithful may be offered by the priest for the intentions of the deceased and the family. This will be of some consolation to the family in the absence of a public Funeral Mass. I recommend that a later Mass with the faithful be celebrated when restrictions are lifted.

We live in difficult and unprecedented times. I, together with my brother Archbishops of England and Wales, will be reviewing these guidelines regularly and taking into account best advice. I shall update you on any changes that are necessary. In all we face, we know that the Lord never abandons his people.

In conclusion, as a Catholic community, we must treasure the power of prayer during these days: prayer for the world and its needs; prayer for our country at this time of uncertainty and sickness; prayer for the families and communities to which we belong, not only in terms of health but also for the many concerns of livelihoods affected; prayer for ourselves.

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assuring you all of my prayers for you at this time and asking for your prayers for me and those who work with me for the good of the Archdiocese.

Yours devotedly in Christ



+ Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

The two statements mentioned at the beginning of the Archbishops letter can be found either by visiting either the Home Page of our parish website (details on the first page of this newsletter) or there will be hard copies left in the church porch.

And finally: Following the recent announcement by the Government and the Bishops' of England and Wales, we realise that for many this time could be a difficult and trying time for those who may have to self-isolate. Here at St Mary of the Angels we are putting into place a system where we can offer assistance to those who are most in need. If, for any reason, you as one of our parishioners, are in any kind of need, whether it be the need for some shopping to be delivered, or simply the sound of a friendly voice at the end of the phone, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Craig on the Presbytery phone number (01922 452316) and he will pass your details onto a wider support team who will do all that they can to help. If you know of anybody who might be in need of this support please pass on the above phone number.

May God bless you all. *Fr. Craig*