

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

News & events for the three Catholic parishes in Weston-super-Mare

CORONAVIRUS

NO PUBLIC MASS The Bishops of England & Wales have made the painful decision that it is currently unsafe to gather for public acts of worship, and therefore there will be no public Masses until further notice. The letter from Cardinal Nichols is attached.

OBLIGATION? Please note that Catholics are NOT under obligation to attend Sunday Mass whilst these measures are in force. Please feel free to contact the Parish by phone or email if you have any doubts or questions.

WEBSITE Please keep checking the Corpus Christi website for updates from Canon Tom. We'll still be uploading newsletters, and resources to help you nourish your faith at home during this time we're unable to get to Mass, including looking at the readings, and making an act of spiritual communion.

www.corpuschristiweston.org

KEEP IN TOUCH It's important to stay together as a praying community during this time of local & international need. Joseph Meigh is setting up a mailing list for those with email. You can subscribe via the Corpus Christi website, or email us and ask to be subscribed, at wsm.corpuschristi@cliftondiocese.com

For those who don't use email, please make sure we have your phone number, especially if you're self-isolating and may need assistance.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN Corpus Christi will remain open as usual from around 8am - 6pm, so feel free to go in to pray, and be with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lady of Lourdes will be open Tuesdays & Fridays, from 9am - 1pm.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT If you know of anybody who is in need of help, or are able to offer help, during this time, please let us know so that we can put people in touch with one another.

LIVE STREAMING Canon Tom will continue to offer Mass in private. We hope to be able to 'live stream' it soon! In the meantime, there are many places where



A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

"Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious.

Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together.

Strength and courage. See you soon."
--Pope Francis.

you can watch Mass online, including our Cathedral, the neighbouring parish in Nailsea, and the national shrine at Walsingham: see the website for links.

CONFESSIONS will still be available in the run-up to Easter, for those who are not self-isolating. Canon Tom will be in the churches at the following times: **Saturday 11am** Corpus Christi, **12.30pm** Our Lady of Lourdes, and **5pm** Corpus Christi. Or you are still welcome to arrange a time to come to the Presbytery.

PARISH PRIEST: **CANON TOM GUNNING**

Corpus Christi Presbytery, 14 Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW // 01934 621929 // tom.gunning@cliftondiocese.com

CORPUS CHRISTI

Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW
wsm.corpuschristi@cliftondiocese.com

01934 621929

Administrator: Tracey Nelson
(Office open: Tue - Fri, 9am-12)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Baytree Road, Milton, BS22 8HW
wsm.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com

01934 627137

Administrator: Maricris Magbanua

ST JOSEPH'S

Camp Road, BS23 2EN
wsm.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com

01934 629865

Administrator: Deacon Tom Moffatt

OTHER SACRAMENTS According to the bishops' guidelines, there are to be no gatherings whatsoever, which sadly will include First Holy Communions, Baptisms, and Marriages. Funerals will have to be held at the graveside or crematorium, with a Memorial Mass organised for as soon as possible once congregations are able to gather together again.

PARISH NOTICES

PARISH GROUPS will, very sadly, also have to be suspended, including Scripture Groups, RCIA, Prayer Groups, Friendship Club, and Stations of the Cross.

CAFOD STALL EASTER EGGS We have ordered, paid for, and had delivered more 'REAL Easter Eggs'. If you ordered one, or would like to buy one, you will be able to collect it from the Corpus Christi Presbytery. We will donate any unsold eggs to food banks rather than waste them, as their sell by date prevents them from being carried over to 2021.

WINTER WARMTH The soup kitchen has closed early this year due to the coronavirus. THANK YOU to those who have volunteered on Monday nights, and to all those who have given generous donations.

HELP FOR HOMELESS: The homeless shelter, like the rest of us, are struggling to get some essential supplies, so if we are able to get hold of things like washing powder, sugar, coffee, loo roll, ready meals, pot noodles, cereal bars, tins, and snacks - you can still leave them at the Presbytery, for Joseph Meigh to deliver.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CAN'T GET TO MASS

Reproduced from an article on CTSBooks.org

1. Make a Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable because of the distance or for some other reason. This desire to receive him through spiritual Communion is an act of love which prolongs our thanksgiving even when we are not in the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord. The wish to live constantly in his presence can be fuelled by acts of love and desire to be united with him and is a means of drawing more deeply from the life of the Holy Spirit dwelling within our souls in the state of grace. Here are two options for prayers you can say:

From St Aphonus Liguori My Jesus, I believe that You are truly 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 being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

From St Thomas More I wish, my Lord, to receive You with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Most Holy Mother received You, with the spirit and fervour of the saints. Come Lord Jesus. Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You ... give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You. And give me Your grace to long for Your holy sacraments, and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your very blessed Body, Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

2. Watch Mass Live Online See our website for links.

3. Read the Mass Readings each day

Even when the world is business as usual, it's important to read Sunday Mass readings ahead of time. If you can, try to spend some time meditating on them to discern what God might be trying to tell you through the readings. Lectio Divina is a great method of meditating on Scripture that was started by St Ignatius of Loyola and is something you might like to utilise when praying with the Sunday Gospel.

See our website for where to find daily Mass Readings.

4. Mark the Lord's Day

When you're housebound for weeks on end, or even if you're no longer commuting, you may find it harder to notice that it's a Sunday as it becomes just the same as every other day. It's more important than ever then to mark the Sabbath. You might like to make an effort to wear your "Sunday best" even if you're not leaving the house, or to have a day free from screens, pray the rosary together as a household, or something else. Perhaps, if your circumstances allow, you could make a special effort to do something nice for someone in self-isolation, whether that's a relative or a neighbour.



CLIFTON
DIOCESE

www.cliftondiocese.com
for all diocesan news and events

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph's parishes are all part of Clifton Diocese. We pray for Bishop Declan Lang, and all the priests, deacons, parishes, and people of our diocese.

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*Please follow updates & sign up to
our email newsletter at:*

www.corpuschristiweston.org



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

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.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, 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.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website (www.cbcew.org.uk). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

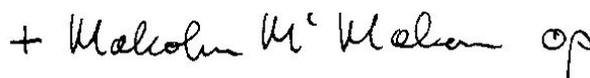
During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

*'The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.'*

May God bless us all.



Vincent Cardinal Nichols
President



Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President

18th March 2020