sunday bulletin

FIFTH sunday in lent 29TH  march 2020

catholic church in burslem & tunstall

The Sacred Heart Tunstall

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Saint Joseph’s Burslem

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Fr Stanislaus Chukwube CSSp

Parish Priest

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**GIFT AID and OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**The envelope boxes will be available at the back of Church from this weekend. If you are a tax payer, please consider signing up to give Gift Aid donations to the Church (it won’t cost you anything extra but makes a big difference to the Church) alternatively if you are part of the ‘cashless’ movement, standing orders combined with Gift Aid are the most financially beneficial to the Parish. For additional information please contact the Parish Office.

**NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS**The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed two new auxiliary Bishops to serve the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The two new Bishops-elect are Canon David Evans and Canon Stephen Wright. Following their episcopal ordination at St. Chad’s Cathedral at 12 noon on Wednesday 10 June, Canon David will have pastoral responsibility for the deaneries of Birmingham and Worcestershire, while Canon Stephen will have pastoral responsibility for the deaneries of Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and the Black Country. We pray for the two new Bishops-elect

 **Joined to**

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday 28th *Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | Pro Populo |
| FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT*Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments* |  |  | Missa Privata | Andrew Ho V Sinh |
| Monday 30th *Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Tuesday 31st *Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | The Sick of Our Parish |
| Wednesday 1st*Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | For All the Elderly |
| Thursday 2nd *Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Friday 3rd *Lent Feria*. Lent Fast Day. A Day of Fasting and Abstinence  |  |  | Missa PrivataStations of the Cross in private after Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm | Special Intention |
| Saturday 4th*Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Palm Sunday*Prayer day for Candidates for the Sacraments* |  |  | Missa Privata  | Special Intention |

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND

The 2020 rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary was supposed to be held simultaneously in the Walsingham shrine and in all churches and cathedrals in England Sunday 29th March. But with the closing of all churches, the rededication will now be an individual event taking place in hundreds of thousands of homes up and down the country. We are all invited to follow the event on [www.behold2020.com](http://www.behold2020.com).
Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: “What can I contribute to that Dowry? It will be different for each one of us. It might be our patience, our dependency on God and on others that I can offer; Or the skills and efforts of my work. Or I may make a special gift to her of my best attempts at prayer, or at the service I give to those in need. We are Mary’s Dowry! Please enrich that Dowry by offering to her the best that you can give. She will stretch her protective mantle over our land and over all who live here.”
I will be offering special rededication prayers at the 9.30am private Mass for our Parish. May we all join together in saying the Angelus by 12.00 noon as part of this prayerful event.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL** of Peter Joseph Dale and all those whose anniversary occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all keeping well in this period of uncertainties as we deal with the Coronavirus pandemic. I know it is a very difficult time for many people but we must hold unto our faith which makes us a hopeful people knowing that God does not forget his own.

Unfortunately, the situation is yet to improve. Following the Prime Minister’s directives, Archbishop Bernard has instructed that we “ensure that the doors of all churches and chapels in the Archdiocese are closed to the public and that they remain permanently locked until these restrictions are lifted. In this way we shall continue to play our part within every parish in fighting the Coronavirus and to show our solidarity with all those who are striving to overcome the current pandemic.”

Consequently, our two Churches will not be open for private prayers from this Sunday until further notice. However, I will continue celebrating the 9.30 am daily Masses. Though we can’t transmit these Masses live, be united with me in spirit and make spiritual communion. I always have every parishioner in mind whenever I am celebrating these daily Masses. I take along your intentions and the intentions of the larger society.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. I will bless enough palms for you to take home when the churches are opened again for public worship. You can also collect yours earlier through special arrangement.

At this time, we must be committed to our prayer life. I thank all those who have joined in the daily recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm. I recently joined a region based 9.45pm Rosary prayer group organized by Helen Farrell. Many parishioners have joined too. How lovely it is to know that at a particular time we are all praying together from our homes. Please consider signing in. Other such initiates are encouraged.

In the wake of the “Stay at Home” rule and some form of isolation, which for some people is already enough penance, let us not forget our usual Lenten Observances – fasting/abstinence, prayer, and almsgiving. Please pray with me the Stations of the Cross this Friday following the Chaplet of Divine Mercy by 3pm.

Let us continue to pray for one another and may the grace of God see us through these difficult times.

Fr. Stan

**BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE**

For all enquiries for Catholic Marriage and Baptism, kindly contact the Parish Priest at the parish office.

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**PRAYER A DAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Please email or Facebook Carol to choose a day in April to pray for vocations during the month on behalf of the parish.

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR**

**APRIL**

**Freedom from Addiction**
We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

 **LENTEN CONFESSIONS**
Since most Christians will not be able to go to auricular confessions this Lenten season we take the advice of the Holy Father, Pope Francis that people should talk to God direct and ask forgiveness. You can then go to confession after the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.
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 **GRATITUDE**
Bishop David McGough expresses deep gratitude to all parishioners for the great support given to him during his recent priestly Golden Jubilee anniversary. He assures us of his continued prayer for each and every one of us.
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**EASTER TRIDIUM CELEBRATIONS**

Holy Thursday 7pm
Good Friday 3pm
Holy Saturday 7.30pm
Easter Sunday 9.30am
Easter Monday 9.30am

**This Parish is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity 234216. Served by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers (SPIRITANS)**