sunday bulletin

PALM sunday 5TH APRIL 2020

catholic church in burslem & tunstall

The Sacred Heart Tunstall

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Fr Stanislaus Chukwube CSSp

Parish Priest

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**MARRIAGE MATTERS**Palm Sunday (Is 50:4-7 Phi 2:6-11 Matt 26:14-27, 66)*Challenged when we witness how others love*

St Paul recognises the amazing humility of Jesus who accepts death on the cross out of love for God and us. We wonder and are challenged by the joy of a friend who daily visits his wife who has dementia; in his great love he feeds her, puts her to bed each evening, prays with her. Could we love like this?  
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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.

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday 4th April  *Lent Feria* |  |  | Missa Privata | Pro Populo |
| Palm Sunday |  |  | Missa Privata | Andrew Ho V Sinh |
| Monday of Holy Week |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Tuesday of Holy Week |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Wednesday of Holy Week |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| Maundy Thursday |  |  | 7pm Mass of Last Supper followed by one hour watching | All Priests |
| Good Friday |  |  | 3pm  Passion of the Lord |  |
| Holy Saturday |  |  | 7pm Easter Vigil | Pro Populo |
| Easter Sunday |  |  | 9.30am  Mass of Resurrection | Norman & Evelyn Wood |

**Dear Children / Candidates for the Sacraments,**  
I hope you are all doing well in your homes with your families as we observe the necessary lockdown in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Try not to be bored, keep yourselves busy with some good activities at the guidance of your parents. Do not spend all your time playing only video/computer games. Find some ways of doing physical exercise. I am sure, with God’s help, life will return to normal sooner than expected. I am remembering you in my prayers always.  
Unfortunately, with the suspension of public church activities, you will not be able to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in May/June this year. Please do not be discouraged. As soon as the present challenges are over, we will inform you of the next step to take. Meanwhile, do not forget your religious education / catechism lessons. You ought to keep your faith strong and alive. Pray every day especially in the Holy Week and Easter Season.  
You can also benefit from some online resources for family/children. I suggest the following: <https://www.facebook.com/familyministrybrum> ; and <https://youtu.be/FFyaIYWM0m0> .  
  
Thanks for your time,  
Fr Stan

**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.

Beloved Parishioners,

Two weeks into the mandatory lockdown in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic I hope you are all managing to keep strong. This is definitely a very challenging time as the very foundation of our day to day live is challenged. Please do take care of your physical, emotional and spiritual health. I know all this will be over someday and we shall emerge from it better and stronger. God is in control.

This Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday and it marks the beginning of 2020 Holy Week. But this is a Holy Week with a difference. I will be celebrating it all alone in our church, just like other priests in our diocese and across the world. Be united with me as I stand for and on behalf of all of us in the Masses and celebrations this period. This is a new way of being a local church at this time and we have to embrace it with total resignation to the will of the Almighty Father. Our Diocese and the Vatican has been steadfast in giving us new directives and guidance on how to observe these festivities.

Palm Sunday marks Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem which begins the celebration of the last days of his life. Ordinarily this celebration begins in a place other than where Mass will be celebrated, with Gospel / homily and blessing of palms. It will be done differently this year. I will use the Third form which is simple. However, palms will be blessed at the end of the Mass for you take home when the churches are open and people are free to move around.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday and Easter liturgies will be observed, though it will just be me alone celebrating for the parish. The liturgy times are published in the Bulletin. Again, I will ask that you join me in spirit. This is a time for us to sharpen our sense of imagination and be where we used to be but cannot be now. I don’t feel I am alone whenever I celebrate Mass these days. I always imagine all of you parishioners present with me and partaking in the precious benefits of the Holy Mass. At the end of every Mass I say the blessings over the people and I am sure these blessings reach every parishioner – young and old and in every household.

Have a fruitful Holy Week!

**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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**Easter Sunday Mass on all BBC local radio stations**

Please tell all your friends and family who are not online! On Easter Sunday (12 April) BBC radio will broadcast a Catholic service celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The service for Easter Sunday will be broadcast at 8am on the local radio stations.

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**EASTER TRIDIUM CELEBRATIONS**

Holy Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 3pm  
Holy Saturday 7pm  
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)**