SUNDAY bulletin

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 19th , 2020

catholic church in burslem & tunstall

The Sacred Heart Tunstall

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**QUEEN OF HEAVEN**  
V. Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.  
R. For he whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia.  
V. Has risen as he said, Alleluia.  
R. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.  
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.  
R. For the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.  
Let us pray.  
O God, who through the Resurrection of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, did vouchsafe to give joy to the world; grant, we beseech you, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Regina Caeli* - Queen of Heaven, replaces The *Angelus* during Easter Season. This prayer is said 6am, 12noon and 6pm daily).  
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 **KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE**  
I know we are already doing a lot of prayers as a faith community from our homes. Do not give up. Keep on praying the 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet especially on this Divine Mercy Sunday (Plenary Indulgence today for those who confess and receive communion – even spiritually at this time) The 9.45pm daily rosary is highly encouraged and I am happy more parishioners are signing up for it. Follow your preferred online liturgy and visit our parish websites and Facebook page for some additional resources and reflections.

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday 18th *Easter Saturday* |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| 2nd SUNDAY of Easter  DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY |  |  | Mass in Private | Calogero Taglionini |
| Monday 20th  *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| Tuesday 21st  *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| Wednesday 22nd  *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| Thursday 23rd  *Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England.* |  |  | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| Friday 24th  *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | God’s Intervention for COVID-19 |
| Saturday 25th   *Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist* |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| 3rd Sunday of Easter |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |



On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very depths of My tender mercy are opened.

I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.

On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. ofStFaustina, 699)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL** of the COVID-19 deaths and all those whose anniversary occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Second Sunday of Easter

Today is the last day of Easter Octave and the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast is mostly attributed to a polish mystic St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (died 1938). She received extraordinary messages directly from Jesus. The messages are on the immensity of God’s Mercy. It is not a new revelation. Of course, there cannot be, because Jesus had already revealed everything that needed to be revealed 2000 years ago. He reminded the world through St. Faustina of the Mercy of God. He says, "Now is the time of mercy … I want to pour out My Mercy in a big way." We need God’s Mercy now more than ever. St. John Paul II explained that as there are many blessings in our world, evil has equally increased. However, he admonished us ‘not to be afraid’, because as St. Paul would say, “where sin has increased, grace abounded all the more” (Rom 5:20). Jesus is the hope of humanity and there is nothing his mercy cannot penetrate. When Jesus offers us God’s Mercy we are filled with his peace.  
In the Gospel reading of today’s Mass Jesus appears to the fear-stricken disciples; he offers them his peace and asks them to forgive the sins of one another. Peace is a special gift of God. And Mercy is offered to a peaceful people. The fruits of mercy, peace and love is the flowering of community; and Jesus is present in the world through the worshipping community.

The early believers lived together, shared whatever they had and went as a body to the temple every day. But they gathered afterwards in their homes for the breaking of bread. Therefore, the temple and their homes are the two important places of worship. Presently, we worship in our homes because of the necessary lockdown. We ought to realise that our homes are the domestic church. ‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them’. Bear in mind that most of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus were in the homes of his disciples and wherever they gather, rather than in the temples. We are more blessed when every home becomes a place of special encounter with the Risen Lord. An altar or a special place of prayer in your home is encouraged.

Let this Easter celebration stir up our faith.  
Happy Divine Mercy Sunday!

**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.

**MAKING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS /   
 DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

**Our Diocese has worked out a system through which we can keep on supporting our parishes financially especially during this Lockdown. The link below can guide you.** <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work> **.If you go to the donate button you can specify the Parish you wish to donate to, in this case it is Stoke-on-Trent Burslem or Tunstall. If you wish to set up a standing order to the Parish, please inform Carol at the Parish Office. Thanks for your continued support to our Parish.   
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**MARRIAGE MATTERS**

***Togetherness***

**Our ‘togetherness’ in what we do and say is a ‘sign’ of our love and a source of joy for us. Sometimes, like Thomas, we can be stubborn, with an attitude of ‘I’ll believe it when I see it’ creating a sense of separation and distance. But together we have the power to stop, reflect, be forgiven, and begin again  
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**DAILY MASSES**  
Our daily Masses (9.30am Weekdays, 11 am Sundays) is celebrated for you and on your behalf. Please join me in spirit. Be assured that you are being prayed for at these Masses.

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).