EASTER bulletin

EASTER SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 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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Beloved Parishioners,  
Happy Easter to you all. As we celebrate the great feast of Easter 2020 from our homes, may the blessings of our Risen Lord fill your hearts. Let nothing or any situation diminish the joy of the Resurrection in our lives and homes. Please make sure you create some Easter joy wherever you are and however you can afford. I believe that through the celebration of this Holy Season, the Risen Lord will give us new hope, renewed faith and relief from the challenges surrounding us at this time.  
Have a blessed day!  
Fr. Stan. Chukwube, CSSp.  
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**GIFT AID and OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**The envelope boxes are available at the back of Church. 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.

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday 11th April EASTER VIGIL |  |  | Missa Privata | Special Intention |
| EASTER SUNDAY, SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD |  |  | Missa Privata | Norman & Evelyn Wood |
| Easter Monday 13th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Missa Privata | Those who care for the Sick |
| Easter Tuesday 14th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Missa Privata | Health Workers of Tunstall |
| Easter Wednesday 15th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Missa Privata | Health Workers of Tunstall |
| Easter Thursday 16th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Private Celebration | Health Workers of Tunstall |
| Easter Friday 17th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Private Celebration | Health Workers of Tunstall |
| Easter Saturday 18th  SOLEMNITY |  |  | Private Mass | Special Intention |
| Second Sunday of Easter DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY |  |  | Private Mass | Calogero Taglionini |

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL** Fr. Timothy Burke and all those whose anniversary occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

EASTER REFLECTION

*“HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN”*

No other message can be greater than the message that the three sorrowful days of the stay of Jesus among the dead is over. Jesus is alive. He has conquered sin and death. Easter as a very important feast calls for great rejoicing and celebration. But how can we celebrate when we are surrounded by the cloud of sickness and death in the wake of this coronavirus pandemic? Our usual inspiring and faith nourishing Lenten observances were totally subdued as we are confined to our homes. We were reduced to web and television Christians. The usual vibrant celebrations with hugging and handshakes disappeared. But we are people of hope. The sun will shine again. Our faith and our life hinges on the resurrection of Christ. “If Christ had not been raised from the dead, then everything is in vain”. St. Paul prayed for one thing in particular: “to know Christ and the power of his resurrection”. Resurrection of Christ has power. It has power to turn our lives around.  
The resurrection of Jesus teaches us never to give up hope. Jesus was condemned for a crime he did not commit; his close friends deserted him; he died and was buried by few people. Every hope seemed to have been lost. But on the third day he rose from the dead. It reminds us that truth is immortal. We can suppress Truth, but on the third day Truth will rise again. Remember this and do not give up on Truth even when everybody seems to give up on it. Do not give up on doing what is right. True will always be true. We must learn to believe in the sun even when it is not shining, knowing that by and by it will shine again. That is why the church asks us today to rejoice and be glad. We must see beyond our present predicament to better days ahead. Nelson Mandela of South Africa said that it was optimism and vision that helped him survive in isolation for 27 years. Resurrection of Jesus helps us to be people of hope.

Today Christ is risen. In Him we shall all bounce back stronger.   
 Halleluiah, Praise the Lord!

Happy Easter to you all!

**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.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS**

**Easter Sunday**

**Acts 10:34, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 John 20:1-9)**

**Love our spouse just as they are.**

**The different behaviour patterns of Jesus’ friends are well illustrated in these Scriptures. Jesus loved each of them exactly as they were, just as He loves each of us. Our challenge is to really love our spouse, just as they are, with all the differences that we have. It’s a lifelong journey, but like Jesus’ friends, our understanding can grow.  
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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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*Please do visit our parish websites and facebook page.*

**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)**