SUNDAY bulletin

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MaY 10th, 2020

catholic church in burslem & tunstall

The Sacred Heart Tunstall

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 **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY**
During this technical age, please consider setting up a **standing order**. It is very straightforward and simple to do and gives you control over how much you give and the frequency. It is a method of giving that can continue into the future, replacing the need to bring in your offertory donations when Masses resume. It is also the preferred means of depositing our offertory donations in the bank; and it also helps the Parish budget for the future, knowing that money is still coming in. We can still claim **Gift Aid** on your donations. If you don’t have online banking, standing orders can still be set up, we can email you a form to print and fill in, just email the parish office.

Our websites now host a **Donate button**. This gives you the opportunity to help the parish during this time, with a **one-off donation**, once again, if you are online, it is a very quick and straightforward means of getting money into the parish accounts.

Parishioners can save their offertory donations until restrictions are lifted and then bring them in. However, since the Parish still has continued financial commitments even during this lockdown, we are taking **cash and cheque** donations at the Presbytery.
Thank you for supporting our Parish at this difficult time.

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday May 9th *Easter feria*  |  |  | Mass in Private | The Sick of the Parish |
| 5th SUNDAY of Easter |  |  | Mass in Private | Margaret & Patrick Horan RIP |
| Monday 11th *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | Residents and Carers of Scotia Heights Care Home |
| Tuesday 12th *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | John Brittain RIP |
| Wednesday 13th *Our Lady of Fatima* |  |  | Mass in Private | Dorothy Steventon R.I.P |
| Thursday 14th *St. Matthias, Apostle**Feast* |  |  | Mass in Private | Keith Jackson RIP |
| Friday 15th *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | Anne Platt |
| Saturday 16th *Easter feria* |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| 6th Sunday of Easter |  |  | Mass in Private | Intentions of Margaret Brittain |

 **TO OUR PARISH ALTAR SERVERS**

Dear Altar Servers:
*Alex, Blessing, Ash, Alyssa, Mary, Emmanuel, Steve, Abisha, Rihanna, Elem, Ivy, Angelina, Justin, Chanelle, Austin, Ellie, Sharon, Logan, and others*
It was on Sunday 15th March that we had our last public Mass before the lockdown. I had hoped that together we would celebrate the Easter Season with its inspiring and beautiful ceremonies, but because of the Stay At Home order it was not possible. I hope you are all doing well in this period of uncertainties.
At this moment that you are not able to perform those privileged and honourable tasks of serving at the sanctuary of the Lord, handling sacred vessels and vestments, let me remind you that service is not only done in the Church. The Handbook for Altar Servers observes that, “The gifts the Holy Spirit gives us are not just for Mass and the other celebrations in the Church. He wants us to put them to work in our daily lives as well. The work of Jesus is going on all the time.” I urge you, therefore, to serve wherever you find yourselves, even in your homes. The more you serve others the closer you are to Jesus. Don’t forget to study hard. Also, you have to be faithful in your prayer life. You are remembered in my daily Masses. I hope to joyfully welcome all of you back soon.
May St. Stephen the patron saint of Altar Server’s Guild, St Thomas Moore, Pope St Pius X, and Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for you and protect you. Have a joyful Sunday!
Fr Stan Chukwube, CSSp.

 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

 Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

“Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1a).

The disciples were worried that Jesus will leave them; and they were not prepared to face the world alone. Jesus knowing their anxiety tells them that they have to master their fears. What reason does Jesus give them? It is both simple and profound: “You believe in God, believe also in me” (14:1b). Faith helps us to conquer our fears. It is taken for granted that the disciples believe in God, the challenge is for them to also believe in Jesus. He has given them life and hope, and assured them of his love and support. They have seen his miracles, and they know that he is the Messiah, but yet they could not put to use all they have gotten from him. They forgot that when Jesus goes to his heavenly Father, his Spirit will still be at work in them. The efficacy of Jesus does not depend on his physical presence. From a distance he can still perform wonders. Moreover, Jesus lives in and through the disciples. He is Emmanuel, God-With-Us. He lives in you; he lives in me.

It is easy to believe in God, a spiritual being that we cannot see. The challenge is to believe that the all-powerful God is present and active here and now. Jesus is trying to convince them that if God could work through him, then God could as well work through any other human being. Jesus places himself on the same level with them so as to make them believe that God can use them and work through them in spite of their human deficiencies. “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (verse 12).

Today, many of us are like Philip; our prayer is, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied” (verse 8). Show us that God is with us in the church. Show us that God is alive and actively involved in events in our world today. What does Jesus answer? “How can you say, 'Show us the Father?'” (verse 9) when God is so deeply involved in the events and crises of the church and of the world. You see, the incarnation (God becoming flesh) has removed the wall of division between the divine and the human. The history of God and the history of humanity have become inextricably intertwined. The story of the kingdom of God, which Jesus came to inaugurate, cannot be told apart from the story of the church in the world. God took a risk when he decided to become human. Whether the divine risk will result in success or failure is up to us.

When we see things happening in the church or in our world the way they should not, it is not time to blame God for abandoning us to our own whims and caprices. No, God is always with us. When things go wrong, it is a time for serious soul searching, a time for us as individuals and as a group to ask ourselves: Where did we miss it? How can we get back on God’s track? What is God saying to us in these events and crises? Meanwhile, we should not let our hearts be troubled.
May all of us be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we may become instruments of the presence of God in our community. Through us may the world be filled with hope and love today and always.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Mr Michael Farrington, Mrs Winifred Moran, Fr. David Duggan and all those whose anniversary occur at this time. May they rest in peace.**

**BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE**

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

**PRAYER A DAY FOR VOCATIONS**

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

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY**

**For Deacons: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** *Please pray for:*
1. The recently bereaved families due to
 COVID-19
2. The elderly of our Parish, especially those
 who are finding it difficult to understand
 the closure of churches due to
 coronavirus pandemic.
3. All the sick of our Parish
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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.
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 **MAY DEVOTION**
MAY is a special month of Mary. Daily recitation of the Rosary is highly encouraged. Pope Francis encourages “everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.”
 
 THE GROTTO AT SACRED HEART

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).