SUNDAY bulletin

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MaY 3rd, 2020

catholic church in burslem & tunstall

The Sacred Heart Tunstall

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**SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH FINANCIALLY**
You have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish during the pandemic. Parishes and charities still greatly need your support, even more so without their weekly congregations and visitors. We do though recognise that many parishioners may be struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so. We ask please that you do not post donations through presbytery doors as this potentially places you and others at risk. There are options which will enable you to donate and keep both you and our priests safe.

 **Giving by standing order**
Traditionally offertory was given in coins and notes as this is how we were paid, often on a weekly basis. Now most of our income is held in bank accounts, standing orders are the easiest option for your regular giving – and you will no longer need to worry about having the right cash on a weekly basis, when we’re back in our parish churches. Regular giving is the financial bedrock of your parish. It also minimises risk and costs the parish less to manage, so your money goes further.
If you have online banking you can set this up online, or you can print the standing order form and post it to your bank or parish. Visit: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work>

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| **MASS TIMES** | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph’s |  | *Mass Intention* |
| Saturday May 2nd St. Athanasius, Mem |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| 4th SUNDAY of Easter**World day of prayer for Vocations** |  |  | Mass in Private | Evelyn & Norman Wood |
| Monday 4th Feast of English Martyrs |  |  | Mass in Private | Michael Farrington RIP |
| Tuesday 5th Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Thomas Williams RIP |
| Wednesday 6th Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Winifred Moran RIP |
| Thursday 7th Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Elderly of our Parish |
| Friday 8th Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Larry Atkinson RIP |
| Saturday 9th  |  |  | Mass in Private | Sick of the Parish |
| 5th Sunday of Easter |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |

 **THE** **WORDS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
 FOR THE 2020 WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS
 3rd May 2020**

“What frequently hinders our journey, our growth, our choosing the road the Lord is marking out for us, are certain “ghosts” that trouble our hearts. When we are called to leave safe shores and embrace a state of life – like marriage, ministerial priesthood, consecrated life – our first reaction is often from the “ghost of disbelief”. Surely, this vocation is not for me! Can this really be the right path? Is the Lord really asking me to do this?

Those thoughts can keep growing – justifications and calculations that sap our determination and leave us hesitant and powerless on the shore where we started. We think we might be wrong, not up to the challenge, or simply glimpsing a ghost to be exorcised.

The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice – like marriage or special consecration to his service – calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear!” We know in faith that he is present and comes to meet us, that he is ever at our side even amid stormy seas. This knowledge sets us free from that lethargy which I have called “sweet sorrow” (Letter to Priests, 4 August 2019), the interior discouragement that hold us back from experiencing the beauty of our vocation.”

 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

 Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

Jesus left many images of himself but the most outstanding one which the early Christians valued so much is the one of the Good Shepherd. Before ever the crucifix was known they had the image of the good shepherd that takes good care of his flock. Jesus himself says, ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep. I know my sheep and my sheep know me.’

For Jesus to be a shepherd is to give your life for the other person. St Peter put it this way, “By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” A good shepherd likes his sheep. He brings them to the green pastures and fresh water. He knows them by their names. If any of them is sick he takes good care of that one. A good shepherd is like a good mother.

So, is Jesus to us. He knows each one of us by his or her name. He does not forget anybody and respects everybody. Jesus knows his own “by name”, to the core of our being – our joys and our hopes, our griefs and our anxieties and he is with us through it all. He loves and treats each as though you are the only one who existed. Even in this challenging time of coronavirus pandemic, Jesus is with us. He reclined with us in our homes. He is with all who are suffering from this terrible illness. He is with the scientists and medical workers who are trying to find a solution. He is Emmanuel: God-with-us.
He wants his work of shepherding to continue in our world and we are all called to be shepherds in different capacities. But today the Church reflects on the vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and prays that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers to his vineyard.
In our Diocese and around the dioceses in the country the Church is in dire need of young men and women who will answer the call to be priests and religious. The family as you know is the fertile ground for the sprouting of vocations. At this time, we pray for the gift of vocations. God needs your one loaf and two fish so as to feed thousands of people. The church will not end in our time. The Lord asks, “Whom shall I send.”

Let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the
priesthood and religious life.

Bless our families with a
spirit of generosity.

May those whom you call to the
priesthood and religious life have the courage to give
themselves to your Church as co-operators in your work.
 St. John Vianney. Pray for us!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Frs. Andrew Kenny, Antony Conlon Bernard O’Connor OSA,** **Bishop Leo McCartie,** **Mr Michael Farrington, Mrs Winifred Moran 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.**

 **MARRIAGE MATTERS**
 4th Sunday of Easter
 *Feeding your sheep*
John 10:10 describes us as ‘sheep’. God watches over and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God’s help we have created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the internet to protect our children from the harm done by the ‘media’ and many of today ‘addictions’. That’s being good shepherds.
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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.”
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 **PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE**We pray for all families at St. Peters Cath. Academy, who are presently experiencing financial difficulties and hardships. And thanks to the principal and staff of this school for offering them support.

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).