SUNDAY bulletin

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 26th, 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 25th |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| 3nd SUNDAY of Easter |  |  | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| Monday 27th  Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Rosary Prayer Group |
| Tuesday 28th  Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Rosary Prayer Group |
| Wednesday 29th  St. Catherine of Siena, Feast  Patron of Europe  Day of Prayer for Europe |  |  | Mass in Private | Sick of the Parish |
| Thursday 30th  Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Elderly of the Parish |
| Friday, May 1st  Easter feria |  |  | Mass in Private | Rosary Prayer Group |
| 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 |

To register for this free online THEOLOGY OF THE BODY COURSE, go to the link below:

<https://www.tobvirtualconference.com/?fbclid=IwAR1PC8KM40hHBNOK4wXR3_ko00OwFRxCpeJM7QnXAbze4ePB1dtFmP0tRXY>



**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. 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 my daily reflections.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 14: 22-23; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24: 13-35

In this era of social media, you can chat with somebody for weeks (maybe months) before you meet him or her in person. That first meeting is always dramatic. Though you may have seen his or her online picture, that may not be enough for you to recognise that person when you meet physically. There is often something that sets the recognition process in motion. It could be the person’s voice or some other thing.

Mary Magdalene recognised the Risen Lord by his voice when he called out ‘Mary’. Thomas recognised him by the wounds in his hands, feet and side. But the most concrete way the disciples recognised him was at the breaking of bread. The two disciples on the way to Emmaus didn’t know he was the ‘stranger’ who joined them on the way. When he explained to them God’s love and mercy in the scriptures, from Moses through the prophets, their hearts were set on fire, but they did not recognise him. It was at the breaking of bread that their eyes were opened and they recognised him. The breaking of bread did the magic and it is akin to the Holy Eucharist we celebrate as a community of faith. Whenever we break the bread during the Eucharist celebration, Jesus is present to us in the words of consecration and in the species of bread and wine. The Eucharistic community is a place of encounter with the Risen Jesus. Though we need to have a personal relationship with Jesus, the church is essentially communitarian.

Unfortunately, at this time of lockdown we cannot gather as a church. Many of the faithful have no option than to resort to following online liturgy, prayers and faith-based initiatives. These can be very enriching but they do not alter the intrinsic communitarian nature of the Church. Pope Francis lamented the present predicament the Church finds herself and says it poses danger of people living their faith only for themselves, totally detached from the sacraments, the Church and the people of God. According to him, “the ideal of the Church is always with the people and with the sacraments – always” (CNS, April 17, 2020).

May the Risen Lord continue to reveal himself to us so that our hearts will glow with his light and love. Rather than a setback, may the present temporary closure of churches be a spring boat for a more authentic faith in the Risen Lord.

**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**   
 3rd Sunday of Easter  
 *How well do we listen to each other?*  
As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief. An important part of our relationship is listening. We may disagree with our partner’s thoughts and judgments but they are part of who this person is. We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.  
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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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 **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).