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ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA FROME & ST. DOMINIC'S CHAPEL MELLS

22ND MARCH 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE SACRAMENTS

MASS TIMES

Please be aware that the Masses mentioned below are Masses closed to the public. The times are given purely to facilitate those who would like to spiritually connect with the Mass from their homes. The Intentions are included for the sake of those who requested them and to offer you an Intention, additional to your own, for which to pray.

Sunday 9.30am St. Catharine of Alexandria (People of Parish)

Monday 23rd March No Mass

Tuesday 24th March No Mass

Wednesday 25th March 7.00pm Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (Trevor Daniels R.I.P.)

Thursday 26th March 9.30am Weekday of Lent (Kenneth Daniels R.I.P.)

Friday 27th March 9.30am Weekday of Lent (Richard Febrey R.I.P.)

Saturday 28th March 9.30am Weekday of Lent

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Bookings for confession can be made on an individual basis by phone or email. If you wish to call, please ring 01373 462705 and leave a message with a contact number, your call will be returned A.S.A.P. or email frome.stcatharine@cliftondiocese.com.

SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS – In the light of the restrictions imposed because of the Coronavirus you are reminded that the obligation to attend Sunday and Holyday Masses ceases because of the impossibility of attending. Please see the letter below.

YEAR OF COMMUNION – In today's Gospel, Jesus gives sight to a man born blind. First, he can see physically and then with the eyes of faith. We too, through baptism, have been given the eyes of faith, but we can struggle to see what it is that God is asking of us. Through our sinfulness, we can find ourselves overwhelmed by darkness. Jesus longs to bring us out of this darkness. He wants to open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to the compassionate and merciful love he has for us. Lent gives us this special time and opportunity for facing our darkness and seeking once more the light which heals and forgives. Walking in the light of Christ, we walk in freedom and we walk in hope.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH -if you would like to made a donation to our parish during this time, you can still do so using the donate button on our website. Please do not feel in any way duty bound to do so. We know that this current crisis will bring so many struggles, not just financial.

Parish Administrator - Anna Pang T: 01373 462705

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Find us on 

www.stcatharines.co.uk

LET US PRAY - Do join us each day in praying the beautiful, simple prayer chaplet of the Divine Mercy. We are praying at 3pm and 9pm each day wherever we are. If another time suits you best that's fine! Holy Rosary - we will be praying the Rosary each day as well as other days at different times, at home and walking around Frome. If you have a prayer request, feel free to email Kay on kaymprhodes@gmail.com or send a message or call on 07591 175774.

PRAYERS DURING A TIME OF 'FLU AND ILLNESS – the Liturgy Office of England & Wales has produced a booklet of prayers, especially relevant to the Coronavirus. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the Parish Administrator Anna Pang (contact details are at the bottom of the newsletter).

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF ALL THE BISHOPS OF THE CONFERENCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing. However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation. Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website (www.cbcew.org.uk). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us. During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too.

For your commitment to this, we thank you.

'The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.'

May God bless us all.

Archbishop

Vincent Cardinal Nichols

President

And

Vice –President

Malcolm McMahon OP

18th March 2020

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