



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

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PARISH NEWS

5th July, 2020

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Dear Friends,

As you will see, this week's edition contains the full Letter issued by the four Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England on the occasion of the news that churches may re-open for public worship. I would invite you to read this Letter carefully as it explains that whilst joyful expectations are rightly raised at such good news, this does not mean an immediate return to anything like normality.

In our Parish, the situation is that we had already applied for clearance to open for individual prayer. We have chased up the granting of that permission but as of today (Thursday), still have no reply. In fairness I believe that the authorities dealing with this are handling applications not only from our Diocese of Brentwood but several other Dioceses as well. I am aware that some people are feeling frustrated (I feel it myself) but in the meantime, we are continuing the preparations for the glorious day when we do re-open. We are now in the process of showing those authorities that we also have everything in place for the safe celebration of Mass in public. Could I refer you again to the Archbishops' Letter which clearly states that, because of the need for social distancing (and the norm of 2 metres remains), there will have to be a limit on the number of people who may attend any one Mass. In addition, I learned only yesterday that we are going to have to have contact details of those attending for track and trace purposes. At the moment therefore, it seems that the best way forward might be that if you wish to attend a particular Mass then you would ring the Presbytery and we will take your name and contact details and book you in for that Mass. If the limit for that Mass has been reached, then you will be advised so as to consider whether to book for another Mass. This is our working proposal, but there might be alternative methods and, as we are in uncharted waters, we would have to see how things go. Furthermore, we are exploring the possibility of live-streaming for those who are unable to attend in person.

In the meantime, could I ask your prayers for those of us in the Parish who are engaged in the tricky business of getting our Church re-opened as quickly but as safely as possible. Thank you.

Fr David

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to “do this in memory of me.” We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal.'

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

"As I have loved you," said the Lord Jesus, "so you must love each other." (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ



Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster



Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool



Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham



John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

Do you know anyone who needs support; physically, emotionally or spiritually? Please contact Fr David on 01376 326779 or email: braintree@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

SICK PARISHIONERS: Please pray for all our parishioners in this uncertain time. We remember especially: Gwen Rushton, Elvira Kitteridge, Kathy McBrierty, Mary Davis, Catherine Hughes, Cecilia Omoyinbo, Val Harding, Kathleen Haigh, Mary McGrath, Mary Rooney, Megan Delaney, Isaac Barry, Sandra Gilbert, Peter Beard, Bernard Boylan, Chris Brodie, Barbara Mansell, Janet Cash, Mary Delaney, Josie Pullum, Frances Weaver, Rachel Stokes, Bob Bothello, Brenda Sewell and Maria Wray.

ANNIVERSARIES: Zenaida Pleszko, Eileen Rafferty, Valerie Baltrop, Annie Cusack, Liz Rice, Pina Haltof, Margaret Arnese, Michael Doyle, Kate Corcoran, Shannon Corcoran, Hadyn Hurdidge, Sarah Goodwin, Grace Green and Anthony King. May they all rest in peace.

A "THANK YOU" FROM MICK WETTON: Clare, Marie, Christopher and I would like to sincerely thank you all for the kind words, prayers, love and support shown to us all following Fran's passing. Fr David conducted a beautiful service at Braintree Cemetery. We were truly overwhelmed by the number of friends and parishioners who took part in one way or another. It has been a very sad time for us all but we feel very blessed to have had the support of our wonderful parish. Thank you.

OFFERINGS: If anyone would like to donate to the parish, then please email the Parish Office, to obtain the bank details. Thank you.

100 CLUB - JUNE WINNERS: Congratulations to this month's winners! First Prize (£200): **Kitty North**. Second Prize (£50): **J. Humpoletz**. For £5 per month, you have the chance to win £200. Money that isn't paid out as prizes, goes towards church funds. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the 100 Club; please contact Clare on 01376 326779.

BIBLE ALIVE: We have one spare copy of Bible Alive, for July. If anyone wants it, please email us at braintree@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

Dear First Holy Communion candidates,

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. We have greatly missed sharing our planned sessions and Masses with you.

At present, we are still unable to meet in order to continue with our First Holy Communion programme. However, we ARE able to celebrate Mass each Sunday by tuning in via YouTube or Instagram LIVE to Fr Dominic's Mass from the Brentwood Youth Service (links below).

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBuTWplUUonmBuJVIRpEzPw/featured>

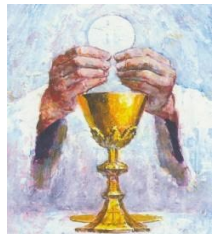
<https://www.instagram.com/brentwoodcys/?hl=en>

We would therefore like to ask all First Holy Communion Parents if they could ensure their child has access to a laptop/phone at 10.30 am each Sunday morning, so that they along with the whole family can celebrate a virtual Mass together, that would be truly wonderful.

We would also like to see and read about what each child particularly enjoyed from each Sunday's Mass. This could be in the form of a short paragraph, possibly with a picture that highlighted for example, if it was a special Saints Day and what that meant to them or something the child particularly enjoyed e.g. a favourite hymn, the Homily or a bidding prayer. This would be a little project each child could undertake and then when we can meet again, Fr David will be able to look through each child's book/folder.

We hope that we will be able to meet again soon, but in the meantime, please take good care of yourselves. You are all in our prayers.

Fr David & the FHC Catechists





MARRIAGE MATTERS



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A):
Zech 9:9-10 Rom 8:9, 11-13 Matthew 11:25-30

'Yoked' to Him we are not overburdened

A 'yoke' keeps oxen together when carrying a heavy load or ploughing a field. On the day you married you chose to be 'yoked' together 'till death us do part'. The burdens of life can lower your spirits and create a barrier to intimacy in your relationship. Jesus says: "Stay 'yoked' to me and I will help you, however heavy the load."



MASS INTENTIONS

Whilst the church remains closed for Masses , Fr David will continue Mass privately, every day, and will pray for you and your families and ask for God's protection for us all at this difficult time.

This week, Fr David will be offering the following Mass Intentions:

Saturday 4th July	Private Intention
Sunday 5th July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	People of the Parish
Monday 6th July	Private Intention
Tuesday 7th July	Ints Franciscan Sisters
Wednesday 8th July	Private Intention
Thursday 9th July	Fran Wetton RIP (Maher)
Friday 10th July	Private Intention
Saturday 11th July ST BENEDICT	Annie Wigfall RIP (Maher)
Sunday 12th July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Sea Sunday)	People of the Parish
St Francis Primary School Headteacher: Vicky Jackson Gilchrist Way Braintree, CM7 2SY 01376 320440 www.stfrancisbraintree.co.uk	St John Payne Secondary School Headteacher: Tom Coen Patching Hall Lane Chelmsford, CM1 4BS 01245 256030 www.sjp.essex.sch.uk