

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
3rd Sunday Easter Year A – 26th April 2020

<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u>		<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>
<u>Mass without congregation</u>			
Sat 25th	<u>Mass (not live-streamed)</u> Bill Allinson RIP		
Sun 26th	<u>10:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)		
Mon 27th	<u>10:00am</u> Brian Finn RIP (WJ)		
Tue 28th	<u>10:00am</u> Catherine & Leo Ross RIP		
Wed 29th	<u>10:00am</u> Richard Pulfrey RIP		
Thur 30th	<u>10:00am</u> Brian Houseman RIP		
Fri 1st	<u>6:30pm</u> Brian Alderson RIP (MB)		
Sat 2nd	<u>Mass (not live-streamed)</u> Tommie Ansboro RIP		
Sun 3rd	<u>10:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)		

Week by week, each day will have a theme to help us to pray for those affected by Covid-19:
Please keep these themes in your daily prayers.

<u>Sunday</u>	will be Pro Populo	<u>Thursday</u>	for Young Families
<u>Monday</u>	for the Bereaved	<u>Friday</u>	for The Government and Scientists
<u>Tuesday</u>	for Hospital Staff	<u>Saturday</u>	for All Areas National and International affected by Covid-19
<u>Wednesday</u>	for the Sick and Housebound of our Parishes		

Feast Days this Week:

Tuesday: St Peter Chanel P, M & St Louis Grignon de Montford P
Wednesday: St Catherine of Siena V, D Patron of Europe
Thursday: St Pius V Pp
Friday: St Joseph the Worker
Saturday: St Athanasius Bp, D

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available **by appointment.**

Bulletin Items: If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com by **Wednesday evening** at the latest. Alternatively, post through the letterbox at English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's Presbytery. Please remember to add your contact details in case we have a query

HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeffrey Dodds
 Deacons: Jeffrey Parkes, Paul Hargreaves
 Retired Priests: Fr. Denis O'Mahony, Fr. Pat McKenna

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am til 2.00pm

Contact: Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469

Email: parishfamilystockton@gmail.com

Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC

Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk

3rd Sunday of Easter Year A – 26th April 2020

Reflection - 3rd Sunday of Easter Year A

We've heard some tremendous stories of heroic journeys this last week or so.

Who cannot have been moved by Captain Tom Moore, the 99 year old war veteran who decided that he wanted to walk 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday in order to say thank you to the NHS for his treatment and to raise a bit of money whilst doing so. As at preparation of this reflection, Captain Tom had raised more than £27 million for the NHS, a staggering sum by any measure.

No less impressive is the effort made by cancer patient Keith Farquharson to cycle the equivalent of the Tour de France - over 2,000 miles - on a static bike at his home just up the road from us in Heaton. He's doing this in order to raise money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and St Oswald's Hospice - and he too has already exceeded the target he set himself to raise.

I'm sure there are other examples that are just as worthy of our praise.

There's another journey to reflect upon in today's Gospel, a seven mile walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus undertaken by Jesus and two of His disciples, who for some reason don't recognise Him at any point during that walk.

At first, we might think this to be ridiculous and simply impossible to credit - how could those disciples not recognise their Risen Lord?

But think again - how often do we fail to recognise Jesus as we go about our daily lives? How often do we let Him into our lives at all?

Just like Captain Tom and Keith, all of us are capable of remarkable things when we put our minds to it.

So, as we reflect on the efforts made by them, let's make an effort ourselves as we live our daily lives to look out for Jesus, so that we too like the disciples on the road to Emmaus might encounter our Risen Lord.

By Deacon Paul Hargreaves.

Parish News

Sick and In Need of Prayer: Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family who are ill.

Recent Bereavements: Please pray for all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen

Parish Family: Supporting Each Other: Times are challenging, and it is important that we keep in touch with each other so that we can keep cheerful, help each other, and pray together. Members of our Parish family from the Eucharistic Ministry Teams have volunteered to ring people who we know are self-isolating so that we can offer them a hand of friendship and faith. If you haven't heard from us yet and you are self-isolating, or you are on your own and would like a friendly chat, or if you know of someone in our Parish family who is lonely, please let us know so that we can arrange to contact you.

Ring or text: St Bede's - Karen 07939 495837 or Bernie 07922 154863

St Joseph's - Mary 07523 861661

English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul - Joan 07528 523873

St Anthony, patron of the elderly, Pray for us. St Rita, patron of the lonely, Pray for us.

Newsletter Distribution: Many people are able to look at the Newsletter through the parish website, but if you know of someone who doesn't have the internet and would like to have a copy of the Newsletter please ring or text the name and address to Colette 07849712694 and a copy will be posted out. Let's keep in touch as a Parish Family.

SUNDAY LUNCH: Parish Family Stockton are offering a **FREE** weekly Sunday Lunch home delivery service to anyone in the local area who is self-isolating at home alone during the lockdown period. If you would like them to drop one off at your house please text or call Damian Blackwell with your address details, **by Thursday evening at the latest**, on 07931 474235. Thanks.

IMPORTANT: CENSUS FORM: Would every parishioner, including those who are housebound, complete and return a CENSUS FORM. The completion of this form will help us to comply with GDPR legislation but most importantly, in light of the COVID-19 restrictions, this information will be used to help us communicate better as a parish family. You can find the form on the Parish Website under Parish News, Extra Parish Events at the top of the Coronavirus update page www.parityfamilystockton.org.uk Please print parityfamilystockton@gmail.com. Thank you.

CATALYST - Stockton based Charity: Have volunteers who can collect prescriptions, deliver food etc for all who are socially isolating and in need of assistance. The contact telephone number is **01642 524500**.

How to keep busy and amused in Covid-19 Times:

Minute to Win It games are great fun for children and adults alike using things from around the house you can challenge each other and laugh a lot. <https://challengestodo.com/minute-to-win-it-games/>

National Trust have a Spring guide to bird song and bird spotting to help you to identify the feathered friends visiting your garden, see www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Getty Museum Challenge – recreate your favourite piece of artwork using three items from your home, google it to see what people have come up with and maybe even have a go yourself.

If anyone would like to share any other ideas, please email paritynewsletterstockton@gmail.com

Foodbanks: As a result of social isolation, distancing and supermarket shelves laying empty, food banks in our borough are experiencing a significant shortage of supplies and are struggling to support those most in need. You can help by donating money which will enable the foodbanks to buy supplies. Go to **Gofundme.com** and search for Emergency Appeal for Foodbanks in Stockton-on-Tees.

Partnership News

We continue to pray for our Partnership of St. Hilda that we will continue to support each other not only at this time but in the future as we face the aftermath of the Covid-19 virus. May our parishes here in Stockton work together to build up God's Kingdom in our own area.

Diocesan News

Please be aware of the developing situation regarding the Coronavirus.

After the evening of Friday 20th March all public liturgies ceased and the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed until further notice.

Masses will be celebrated by Parish Priests but **without a congregation** on a daily basis. Thus, congregations can join in spiritual communion with priests.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed.

First Reconciliation and **First Holy Communion** are postponed until such time that congregations can gather safely.

Confirmation is deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

The Sacrament of Matrimony should be deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

Anointing of the Sick will only be done under extreme circumstances and in accordance with the strict hygiene guidance.

These are unprecedented times but if we work together, we will come through. God will help us.

St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church - Pray for us

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for April: Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied

NEWS FROM UGANDA Fr Vincent says, "The biggest issue is hunger. Indeed, it is tough. People have lost their small jobs where they get daily bread. All come to me for maize flour. Today, I gave out all 9 sacks I had in my store, over 60 kilos. Some left my place weeping with hunger. Many are eating the wild fruits in the villages. We still have 20 more days of lockdown. But no body yet dead from the virus. It is hunger will do it."

Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Uganda Mission Fund and made it possible for us to help Fr. Vincent in his work. God bless you all!

Prayer and Liturgy News

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer to be recited during the current Coronavirus situation

Pope Francis – Prayer to Mary for Protection during the COVID–19 Pandemic.

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Mass and Devotions: The parish website has lots of information about Masses and Devotions which are available online.

You can pray the various Mysteries of the Rosary and The Angelus through the Parish Facebook page.

Celebrating Easter at Home: see the "Stations of the Light" on the Diocese website www.rcdhn.org.uk. A spiritual journey with Christ that takes you through fourteen of the most inspiring events of His post-Resurrection life on earth.

SPUC Pro Life Prayer Chain - Monday 27 April: Stay indoors to pray for an end to abortion. Instead of a Pro-life Chain outdoors at the roadside, please promote SPUC's indoor Pro-Life Prayer Chain. Please encourage as many people as you can to commit to praying for an end to abortion on Monday 27 April 2020. We want to cover the country in prayer for unborn babies and their mothers. To achieve this, we are asking people to make a commitment to pray by going to our website here: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/Pro-Life-Prayer-Chain-2020> and filling out the form to let us know that they will take part in the Pro-Life Prayer Chain.

LIVE-STREAMING FROM THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY

In addition to the regular programme there will be the following: AN EIGHT DAY RETREAT Monsignor John Armitage will lead an Eight Day Retreat. This will start after Compline at 8pm on Sunday 19th April and finish on Sunday 26th April. Details of the retreat programme are given on the Shrine website: www.walsingham.org.uk

CATECHESIS: The Shrine is very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing us to use his Sycamore Program. We shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday 27th April. They will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.

Finances

GIFT AID Envelopes It is important that donors **do not use the remaining stock of March 2020 envelopes** if they want to take advantage of the tax relief. Please retain your offerings until we return to church when you will be able to pick up your new supply of envelopes.

Parish Finances: Please continue to use your offertory envelopes and if you wish, you can deliver them to one of our Presbyteries and they will be collected from there; alternatively, please keep them until our churches reopen. If anyone would like to make a donation, please ring the Parish Office on 01642 806469 and Fr Jeff will give you the paying-in details. Inevitably, income has reduced but we still need to pay bills, so please do what you can to help. This is an opportunity to set up a standing order with your bank which makes giving your weekly offering so much easier.

...and now for some Light Relief...



Jamie's Paws for Thought: Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.