



Weekly Newsletter

29th March - 4th April 2020

The Year of the Word



Catholic Parish of
St Francis de Sales and St Mary Magdalene

5th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

As stated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, following official advice, *all Masses* will be celebrated in *private, with no congregation*, to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS.

In these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is removed, as the current situation constitutes "serious reason."

You are encouraged to make a Spiritual Communion (see p. 3)

Mass is live-streamed from Northampton Cathedral on Sundays at
8.30am, 11am and 5.15pm
(see the Cathedral website and follow the links)

Missa na língua portuguesa às 10h do domingo: www.churchservices.tv/ccblondres

Masses this week will be offered for the following intentions each day:

Saturday (Vigil) 28th March (Violet)			MICHAEL RYDER RIP
Sunday 29th March (Violet)			PARISHIONERS CARMEL McGRATH'S INTS.
5th WEEK OF LENT			Psalter: week 1
Monday 30th March (Violet)			MICHAEL O'CONNOR
Tuesday 31st March (Violet)			DAVE EASTOE & FAMILY
Wednesday 1st April (Violet)			
Thursday 2nd April (Violet)			WENDY & GRAHAM
Friday 3rd April (Violet)			JOHNNY, MARGARET & FITZSIMONS FAMILY
Saturday 4th April (Violet)			1) JIM & AMY GAFFNEY 2) HEATHER 3) CAROL EPHIN 4) JOAN BRADY'S INT. 5) FR RICHARD BARRETT 6) MICHAEL & ANNE McMANUS RIP

Sacrament of Confession

The Bishops' Conference advises Catholics to make an Act of Perfect Contrition (see page 2) because of Churches being closed and the need for social distancing



Parish Website: www.saints-francis-and-mary.org.uk
Parish Intranet for Admin: www.diginet2.co.uk
Parish Priest email: bernard.barrett@diginet2.co.uk
PARISH PRIEST: FR. BERNARD BARRETT



Forming Intentional Disciples

Virtue Based Catechesis 28: St Joseph, Pestilence and March

What to do in Lent when no Public Sunday Masses?

Here is why having a Sunday Missal comes in handy. But if you do not have one then the following sites will enable you to put together one for the home so you can celebrate a *Liturgy of the Word* & *Liturgy of Spiritual Communion* on Sundays:

Liturgy of the Word:

See Universalis – Readings at Mass: <https://universalis.com>

See Catholic Culture – Readings [and Commentary] for the Mass in Liturgy for March: <https://www.catholicculture.org>

See www.magnificat.com/free (click "UK/IRL edition" then click ">" for Mass texts.)

Liturgy of Spiritual Communion

Following the Sunday Mass that is live-streamed. In place of communion make a spiritual communion: see page 3.

How do Catholics do this?

Celebrating Liturgy of the Word for the family on Sundays:

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/throughcatholiclenses/2020/03/celebrations-of-the-liturgy-of-the-word-in-family> **OR** Following Sunday Mass using either of these 2 sites:

Northampton Cathedral: <https://northamptondiocese.org/live>

ETWN: <https://archden.org/coronavirus/mass-online>

Why do Catholics do this?

Wherever we are we can all unite ourselves to the Sacrifice of the Mass being offered by the priests in our parish albeit not publicly, but privately, and so priests will be using the Rite of *Missa sine Populo* - a bit difficult as it is a dialogic format needing a server unlike the Tridentine Mass.

We all need to re-examine ourselves today as to how we have abused the Eucharist: by not going to confession; not believing that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ [see John 6]; taking Communion in a state of grave sin or unbelief; and taking Communion irreverently!

Lent this year has brought with it a terrible Fast for the whole Church - the Fast from publicly celebrating the Mass itself and now even our churches are all closed! ALL of us are called to enter into a true understanding, yearning and hunger for the Blessed Sacrament in and through a proper *Spiritual Communion*. Let this Lent be our time of reparation for the sins of both clergy and laity against the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and especially the sins against the 1st Commandment: '*You shall have no other gods before me*' which occurred in Rome with idols and rites of the Pachamama being brought into St Peter's Basilica last year at the so-called Amazon Synod. Coronavirus has come not because of '*sins against mother earth*' [this is Neo-Paganism] but rather because of the sins against the true Religion of God given to us and paid for by his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, namely, the Religion of the Catholic Church!

It is important today to know what is required for a **Perfect Act of Contrition**: <https://www.beautysoancient.com/one-simple-way-to-make-an-act-of-perfect-contrition-the-three-visits>

The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to healthcare workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.

Information for the current situation with Covid-19

FROM THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:	<p>The Diocesan Director of Finance and Development asks us to remind parishioners of the importance of the weekly Sunday collection, to our Parishes – the loss of income from Masses being suspended will put huge pressure on Parishes and on the Diocese as a whole. Whilst many parishioners already give by standing order, the Diocese is asking if more of you would consider doing so.</p> <p>Our preferred method, as a Parish, is for you to set up a standing order with our Parish bank account with Nat West. Sort code 600611 Account no: 46715061 Name: St Francis de Sales & St Mary Magdalene Parish.</p> <p>Whilst this is our preferred option, if this is not possible, you can also give through the Diocesan website: https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/. Please ensure you indicate the parish name and area that your donation is intended for, in the notes section of the donate page, namely: St Francis de Sales & St Mary Magdalene, Milton Keynes. You can also use this for an Easter Offering ... in this case, please specify the name of the Priest and the town and that this is an Easter Offering for him. You can gift aid a donation to the Parish, but not your Easter Offering to the Priest.</p>
SUNDAY MASS	<p>Mass is live-streamed from Northampton Cathedral on Sundays at 8.30am, 11am and 5.15pm on the Diocesan website: www.northamptondiocese.org and follow the links (or click the link from our website to take you straight there). THESE MASSES ARE ONLINE ONLY – DO NOT TRAVEL TO THE CATHEDRAL!</p>
MISSA NA LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA	<p>Missa da capelania brasileira em Londres às 10h do domingo: www.churchservices.tv/ccblondres</p>
THE VINE	<p>Our Diocesan newspaper is available online at www.ChurchPaper.co.uk</p>
REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY	<p>Pope Francis has sent a letter to Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The Holy Father “prays that the act of re-dedication will inspire all to persevere in the urgent task of sharing the joy of the Gospel with the men and women of our time”. The Holy Father once more entrusts “Mary’s Dowry” to her maternal protection and willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of grace and peace in the Lord [see https://www.ewtn.co.uk/video/6609/rededication-england-dowry-mary].</p> <p>The Re-dedication will be livestreamed from Walsingham with a Mass at 12 noon on Sunday 29th March at www.behold2020.com</p>
OFFER FROM ‘MAGNIFICAT’ AND THE CATHOLIC HERALD NEWSPAPER	<p>To help you with Mass & prayers and to keep up with news, the publishers of “Magnificat” and the Catholic Herald Newspaper would like to offer the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Free access to Magnificat online, available at www.magnificat.com/free 2) For the Print Edition there is a special one-off 4-month subscription to Magnificat, April to July (including the Holy Week special issue) for £14 3) 3-month subscription to The Catholic Herald at a substantially discounted price: Catholic Herald 3 months (13 weeks) for £25 4) Both Catholic Herald <i>and</i> Magnificat (as above) £36. <p>Order by calling Margaret on 020 7448 3607 or Paul on 020 7448 3618 between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email: margaret@catholicherald.co.uk</p>
<p>Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; Exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.</p> <p>Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.</p> <p>SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: for those unable to receive Holy Communion at Mass. My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things: I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least into my heart. I embrace You, and I unite myself entirely, to You as if You had already come. Do not permit me to be ever separated from you.</p>	

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Francis de Sales,
Radcliffe Street, Wolverton.
Tel: 01908 313162

St Mary Magdalene,
105 High Street, Stony Stratford.
Tel: 01908 564363

An Opportunity For Fellowship & Important Things You Need To Know

MAINTENANCE CO-ORDINATOR	Alvah is the Parish Maintenance Co-Ordinator. Any maintenance issues, please email parishmaintenance@diginet2.co.uk or tel. 07961 500350
SVP CONTACT	* * * Please note the new contact number * * * Tel: 07873 352672
GOING INTO MK HOSPITAL?	Note: please call the Chaplaincy on 01908 996061, for up-to-date information on what the hospital is currently able to permit in the way of visits or Sacraments from the Catholic Chaplain.
SACRAMENT OF THE SICK	Please contact the Parish Office for up-to-date advice.

Meetings of all parish groups, guilds, societies etc. are cancelled

SENTINELS	No meetings at present.
GUILD OF ST ALOYSIUS	Cancelled until further notice.
FAITH & CONFIRMATI & PIZZA SESSION	Cancelled until further notice.
YOUTH RCIA	Cancelled until further notice. <i>A new course starts in the autumn - see p.5</i>

Other information:

ONLINE REGISTRATION	<p>Do consider the importance of registering as a Parishioner! We are unable to store your data, without you having registered (or re-registered) following the introduction of the new Data Protection legislation. Are you registered? Or did you "assume" we already have your data because you have been a parishioner here for many years? In light of the current situation with Covid-19, it is currently very important that all parishioners are registered and that we have your address and contact details, in case of illness!</p> <p>It is now possible to register online, either through the parish intranet (diginet2) or the website. You will see a link straight to the registration form on both of these.</p>
NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	<p>Sign up is online. The preferred method of giving is by standing order - please pick up a form from the porch at either Church and return it to your bank if you would like to give by standing order. Envelope boxes will be made available when possible - please do not use your current box number after the end of March as it won't be valid. You can then donate one single envelope, with your new number on it, when we are able to re-start regular services.</p> <p>Although many people are currently facing financial uncertainty, the same applies to the Church - our utility bills etc. will also continue to arrive! If you are therefore able to set aside your usual weekly contribution, this would be very much appreciated. Many thanks to all who are able to do so!</p>
ELDERS PRAYER LINK April intentions	<p>Although this is the "elders prayer link," the intention is to allow those who are housebound (and that's most of us at the moment!) to join in a Communion of Prayer! So everyone is invited to pray for the following intentions this month:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the light of the coronavirus pandemic we pray for protection for the NHS and all health workers caring for the critically ill. We pray for all key workers continuing to offer services to the public, and for police and armed forces on the front line. 2. For full and speedy recovery for those suffering from the virus, for protection of family members and those at greater risk of getting the virus. 3. For God's abundant mercy on the souls of those who have died from the virus. For strength and consolation for their grieving families. 4. In reparation for the sins against Christ and his Church, reparation for sins of laity against the Eucharist and for offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This week's newsletter runs to 5 pages, because of all the information in it! So please keep scrolling down to read the rest!

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Parish Courses and Important Things You Need To Know

Please register for all courses as you would usually do.

This means we will know names, contact details and numbers for when we are able to start these - and should avoid unnecessary delay.

HOLY MATRIMONY	The next course, for those who attend Mass in this Parish every Sunday, will start in September 2020, preparing for matrimony in summer 2021. For further information please email matrimony@dignet2.co.uk . One year's notice is required.
BAPTISM COURSE	The summer baptism course is registering: email the baptism catechists (see above). Registration is Sat. 9th May at St Francis (contact the office to book a slot) and the course runs on 23rd and 30th May, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June at St Mary's. See page 3 for details of the Anchor course you need to do.
RCIA ADULTS – APOLOGETICS	For those who would like to become Catholic, or learn more about the Catholic Faith. We hope to start a new course in September, meeting on Monday evenings at St Francis presbytery. For info, email rcia@dignet2.co.uk , contact Fr Bernard or see the leaflets in the porch entitled: "Do you want to become Catholic?"
YOUTH RCIA	This is for children & young people aged 9-17 years who would like to be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and/or Eucharist. We hope to start a new course in the late autumn. Register online. (Children aged 7 or 8 join the regular Sacraments courses, not the Youth RCIA).
ANCHOR COURSE	All parents who are in, or have done, the Sacraments Preparation courses for their children (baptism, Confirmation, First Communion) need to Anchor in this Parish. Please sign up online, so we know names and numbers can order books. If we are able to run the course as planned, the course dates will be: 23rd and 30th May, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June from 9am to 10.30am in the meeting room at St Mary Magdalene presbytery. FURTHER UPDATES LATER.
* FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION * NEW COURSE REGISTERING	For children currently in Year 2. Apply online. You need to upload a photo / scan of your child's baptism certificate and to input a current and valid offertory box number or standing order number - so make sure you have these to hand! <u>If circumstances allow</u> , there will be a Parents' Registration Day on Saturday, 25th April when there will be someone in the Parish Meeting room from 10am-1pm for parents who have registered online to drop in during that time, to complete registration. (This currently seems unlikely to take place!) Other important dates and information are in the leaflet "First Communion" at the back of the Churches ... make sure you note all dates, as you must attend all sessions (and fill in all forms by the required dates) for your child to join the course, and to remain on the course. You also need to do the Anchor course if you have not already done it in this Parish - see below.

The Admin team in the Parish Office will be working from home at present.

Email: office@dignet2.co.uk

Or use the "contact us" button on the website

Or text or call: 07761 583307

SACRED SERVICE	To volunteer for Sacred Service, email: parish.service@dignet2.co.uk
THANK YOU FROM SPUC	SPUC has written to thank parishioners for their generous second collection earlier this year.
GDPR COMPLIANCE	All members of all Parish groups, Guilds etc are reminded they MUST complete the GDPR compliance form online at the GDPR site (found on the parish intranet www.dignet2.co.uk). If you do any form of Sacred Service in the Parish, you need to do this - no matter how small or humble you feel your service to be!
GDPR	Details of how we process your data, and your rights, are on the full Privacy Notice which may be seen in the Parish Office, on the Parish website, on the Diocesan website, or contact parish.data@dignet2.co.uk .

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