



St Winefride's RC Church

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www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10th May 2020

Fr Paul is saying Mass behind closed doors and will continue to do so whilst the church is closed. Masses this coming week, are listed below.

Mass Intentions from this Saturday are as follows:

Saturday 9th	Sheila and Thomas Topping	Sunday 10th	Ron and Maureen Jones
Monday 11th	Daniel Healy	Tuesday 12th	John Butcher
Thursday 14th	Pat Matthews	Friday 15th May	Roger Harris
Saturday 16th May	Monica Ellis	Sunday 17th May	Parish family

Parishioners who need our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick at home or in hospital, including:

Sue Lawton
 Frances Wright
 Pat Cummins
 Pat Matthews
 John Barber
 Dorothy Robinson

Patricia Davies
 Rosemary Southwell
 Sarah Alouane
 Dot Davies
 Anthony Kane
 Ted Henesy



Please do get in touch via the parish office e-mail if you want anyone adding or removing.

Good News - We have been advised by Clem that his granddaughter Emily, who is a nurse and was suffering with Covid, has recovered and returned to work.

Fr Paul Writes: Another week! This weekend we pray for the Repose of the Soul of Monica Ellis who died at home. We pray for John and his family and for all who are grieving during these difficult days. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

As I write to you, I do not have any new news on Covid-19 and the eventual opening of churches. As soon as the bishops receive this information from Government, they will inform the Parish Priests. Thank you for your patience.

As we remember V.E. Day we give thanks for our freedom. We also remember those who worked in the "Land Army" and all who served and sacrificed for the nation.

Regina Coeli: Pope prays for vocations and Covid sufferers

During his 'Regina Coeli', Pope Francis recalled Vocations Sunday and invites international cooperation to deal with coronavirus pandemic.

Courage to respond to God's call

He commented that this Day reminds us of what Jesus said, "that the field of the Kingdom of God requires much work, and we must pray to the Father to send labourers to work in His field." The Pope noted that "Christian existence is always a response to God's call, in any state of life." He also stressed that "priesthood and the consecrated life require courage and perseverance; and without prayer one cannot continue along this path."

"I invite everyone" said Pope Francis, "to ask the Lord for the gift of good labourers for His Kingdom, with hearts and hands open to His love."

Closeness during pandemic

During his words following the recitation of the Regina Coeli, the Pope again expressed his closeness to those who are suffering from Covid-19, and to those caring for people stricken by the virus at this time. Pope Francis also expressed his support for an international collaboration that is taking place with various initiatives to respond adequately and effectively to this serious crisis.

It is important, he said, "to bring together scientific capacities, in a transparent and impartial way, to find vaccines and treatments and to guarantee universal access to essential technologies that will enable every infected person, in every part of the world, to receive the necessary health care."

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Underlining the importance of prayer at this difficult time, the Pope said he encouraged, on this coming 14 May, “believers of all religions to unite spiritually for a day of prayer and fasting, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.” Pope Francis also remembered Our Lady in this Marian month of May and encouraged the faithful to spiritually visit Shrines dedicated to Mary during this health emergency.



LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES include:

- Walsingham: walsingham.org.uk
- St. Anthony’s, Wythenshawe: churchservices.tv/stanthonyswythenshawe
- Fr Denis McBride: rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online
- Bishop Robert Baron: wordonfire.org/daily-mass/
- Shrewsbury Cathedral: dioceseofshrewsbury.org
- CAFOD Children’s Liturgy: cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy
(This is a fantastic resource for children.)

Message from a parishioner:

Dorothy Barber has e-mailed to say that she has found the Mass at Christ the Prince Peace” in Weybridge most uplifting. They say Mass in the week at noon and on Sunday at 10am. If you would like to take a look the link is www.cpp.org.uk/

A message from the office

Ways to Stay in Touch with Parish News - Visit the parish website
www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk

Sign up for the weekly parish newsletter via email. To join send an email to the office at
parishoffice@stwinefridesneston.org.uk

Some useful local contacts which St Catherine’s, Hoylake have been circulating to their parishioners are below:

* **NHS Volunteer Responders Portal.** This site will provide you with further information if you are self-isolating and need support. You can find out how you can access support and things to consider if you are going to receive support. <https://royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/nhs-volunteer-responders-portal/isolating-volunteering>.

* **NHS Mental Health Crisis Line 0300 303 3972.** It covers Wirral, Chester West, Chester East and is staffed 24/7.

* **Kooth** is aimed at young people (aged 11-25) offering free, safe and anonymous support through booked, online counselling sessions. www.kooth.com

Also **Neston Town Council in conjunction with the Community Centre** are helping people who can’t get out and **need food or prescriptions collecting**. Contact on 0151 336 7805 or www.nestoncyc.uk

CHURCH OFFERTORY GIVING

Some parishioners who use Offertory envelopes have asked how they can contribute at this time.

* Your donation can be put into your envelopes as usual and then put into the collection once Masses recommence. You can just use one envelope to do this if you prefer.

* Alternatively, you could set up a Standing Order. Please contact the Parish Office for details of how to do this. The office can either send a form out or give details of the parish bank if you use online banking. parishoffice@stwinefridesneston.org.uk

* An online donation page has also been set up by the Diocese to simplify the process of giving online. The webpage allows you to make a one-off donation or a regular monthly payment. You can access this by following the details that follow. There is a minimum donation of £5.00.

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NEW “Online giving to the Parish”

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page, to allow you to donate to the Parish, has been added to the Parish website. There is a new Online Donation button on the home page of our website. By clicking on it, it will take you to the Online Donation website run by **InvestMyCommunity**.



Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further.

If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order.

Things to note:

- * You will need to use a password each time they donate – this is created the first time that they make a donation.
- * All donations made by Parishioners are acknowledged by an email from **InvestMyCommunity**.
- * Please also be aware that donations appear on the bank/credit card statements of the donor with the narrative “Invest My School”.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mike Jevons – mike_jevons@hotmail.com

Thank you for your continued support

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/StWinefrideNeston2218>



In this time of lock-down and social distancing please do not go out especially in order to obtain food donations for us. Text and on-line financial donations are just as welcome.

If you are shopping and would like to donate food items we are currently high-lighting a priority for:

Instant mash, Cup-a-soup, bottles of cordial / squash.

We try to keep the "Most Needed Items" list on our website as up to date as possible so that you can consider including them. Donations can be

left in Sainsbury's Neston.

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donatefood>

Activities for the children - Lynne Vaughan who runs the Sunday school at St Michael's church has put together various activities for the children to get involved in each week. If you would like a copy of the materials or know a family who would like to receive them, then please get in contact with the office via e-mail and the information can be sent over.

Marriage Week 2020

11th – 17th May is the week that is nationally set aside to celebrate commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage. The theme this year is "**The Forever Conversation**," recognising the need for continual open communication to enable a marriage to be long lasting. Marriage Encounter is working in partnership with Marriage Week UK to promote events and celebrate marriage. For more information see <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM TONY TOPPING “THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

At the start of lockdown, to keep my mind active, I decided to write down my thoughts, my reflections, on what was happening during this crisis. Drawing inspiration from the daily mass readings, I have managed to write five reflections, one a week but this week I had seemed to run out of inspiration, my mind was blank. But then, on Monday the feast of English Martyrs, I read a text from St. Matthew's gospel (10:19) telling me not to worry, the Spirit would tell me what to say. I decided to just scribble whatever thoughts came into my mind. The following is the result. I hope it is acceptable.

At the beginning of WW2, Winston Churchill promised nothing but “blood, toil, sweat and tears” but he inspired the country to fight them on ‘the beeches- we shall never surrender’. In the present crisis, the government has promised difficulty and hardship but has urged us to stand together and help each other for we are all in this together, we are not alone.

It is true, we are not alone. Sunday was Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Old Testament, God is referred to as the shepherd of his people. Jesus is the Son of God and he himself claimed to be the Good Shepherd. Saturday was the feast of St. Athanasius, who attended the Council of Nicea and, as bishop of Alexandria, fought vehemently and ceaselessly against Arianism. For me, if Jesus was not wholly God, he could not have redeemed us for only one who is consubstantial with God the Father, creator of all things, could wipe away our sins and only one who is wholly man could atone for the iniquity of mankind. I believe that Jesus is the Christ, both God and man. He said, “I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark” (John 12:44-50). Jesus is the light of the world, not a created light but one which is divine.

During this Corona tragedy, there are people who want to personally gain from the crisis and are working in the dark to prey on the weakest and most vulnerable but the light has shone brightly on those who are valiantly and courageously putting themselves forward to help those who are suffering. There is so much love and appreciation shown by all good people; all the ordinary people who are showing so much care for their neighbours. When Betty and I go for a short walk around the block for exercise, those we meet give us a wide berth, not to show contempt for us but to show us love and respect. When those who are taking advantage of the weather by working in their gardens, when they see us, they smile and say hello. People are so much more friendly. Family members are so much closer and supportive of one another. I am moved when I see on the news the stories of good people who are making isolation more bearable for the lonely and the needy. We are not alone! The good shepherd never takes his eyes off us.

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine: so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You, none of it will be ours, it will be You who shines through us upon others. O let us thus praise You, in the way which You love best, by shining on all those around us (St. John Henry Newman).