



St Winefride's RC Church

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

17th 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 16th May	Monica Ellis	Sunday 17th May	Parish family
Monday 18th	Jaqueline Williams	Tuesday 19th	Fr Chris
Thursday 21th	Ethel Anne Woodburn	Friday 22nd	Anastasia Corbett
Saturday 23rd May	Parish Family	Sunday 24th May	Pauline McNulty

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
Ted Henesy



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

Good News – John Kane, our Health & Safety Rep whose brother Anthony was ill with Covid 19 has messaged to say his brother is back home and has been for about a week and is recovering slowly each day. He wanted to say thanks for your prayers.

Nurses are the guardians of life

Pope Francis opened his Message for International Nurses Day by noting that due to the global health emergency in which we find ourselves, “we have rediscovered the fundamental importance of the role being played by nurses and midwives”.

Those who put others first

He said each day, as we face this critical time, we witness the courage and sacrifices made by healthcare workers and by “nurses in particular”. They dedicate themselves, “to the point of putting their own health at risk”, he said, adding that, sadly, this has been demonstrated through the high number of healthcare workers who have died “as a result of their faithful service”.



“If nothing changes, healthcare worker deaths could reach the thousands”

“I pray for them”, said the Pope, “and for all the victims of this epidemic”. “The Lord knows each of them by name”.

Guardians of life

“Nurses have historically played a central role in health care”, said the Pope. He noted that this year, on this exact day, we face the bicentennial of the birth of Florence Nightingale, “the pioneer of modern nursing”. He described nurses as “guardians and preservers of life” who never cease to offer “courage, hope and trust” as they administer necessary treatment.

Dear Nurses”, said Pope Francis, “moral responsibility is the hallmark of your professional service”. Nurses are tasked with “continuous listening”, as they take care of women and men, children and the elderly, “in every phase of their life, from birth to death”, said the Pope. Before each unique situation, nurses do not only follow a protocol, but a constant effort of “discernment and attention”.

Carrying out the mission of Jesus

Nurses are amongst the Saints next door, said the Pope. “You are an image of the Church as a ‘field hospital’ that continues to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, who drew near to and healed people with all kinds of sickness and who stooped down to wash the feet of his disciples. Thank you for your service to humanity”, he added.

Healthcare provision

Addressing leaders of nations throughout the world, Pope Francis noted that in many countries the pandemic has also brought to light a number of “deficiencies” in the provision of healthcare. He asked that leaders “invest in healthcare as the primary common good by strengthening its systems and employing greater numbers of nurses, so as to ensure adequate care to everyone, with respect for the dignity of each person”.

He expressed the importance of enhancing nurses and midwives’ professionalism and involvement with the suitable “scientific, human, psychological and spiritual tools” necessary for their training, “so that they can carry out their service in full dignity”

The role of the associations

The Pope noted that in this regard, associations of healthcare workers play an important role. “In addition to offering comprehensive training, they support their individual members, making them feel part of a larger body, never dismayed and alone as they face the ethical, economic and human challenges that their profession entails”.

A special word to midwives

Addressing a “special word” to midwives, Pope Francis noted that their work is amongst the most notable professions, “for it is directly dedicated to the service of life and of motherhood”. Today, too, he added, “the Holy Father looks at you with gratitude”.

Finally, Pope Francis assured all nurses and midwives of his prayers for them, their families, and all those for whom they care. Imparting his Apostolic Blessing to each of them he concluded, saying, “may this annual celebration highlight the dignity of your work for the benefit of the health of society as a whole”.

Fr Paul writes:

Another week passes by. This week we bring before the Lord those who have died because of Coronavirus. We remember all who loved them. Within our parish community we pray for those who died because of the illness. We pray too for those who are trying to fight for life. May the Lord bless and keep them in the palm of His hand.

We pray for **Jacqueline Williams** who died Saturday in Chapel House Nursing home. Jacqueline’s funeral will take place on Tuesday 2nd June at Blacon Crematorium, may she rest in peace.

The Catholic Bishops have asked the Government to give permission for our churches to open, as from now for private prayer. The Cardinal is awaiting their decision.

This week the Government have begun this lifting some parts of the Lockdown. Let us look after one another and keep safe. Be assured of my remembrance. **Fr Paul**

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 the parish:

Margaret and Ken Unsworth have found some difficulty getting onto the Shrewsbury website for Mass, especially on a Sunday. So, they have found another service which they would like to share and recommend. www.churchservices.tv and going to **St John the Baptist Church in Uddington Glasgow**. It is an elderly Irish priest Fr Dominic Towe and he gives lovely homilies with the real catholic messages. At the moment, it being the Month of Our Blessed Lady he is taking about the different appearances of our Lady and her messages to us. It’s quite funny because if you wait a few minutes when Mass is finished he puts the candles out and he has his black Labrador on the altar with him. Weekly Mass is 9 30am in the Morning and Sunday at 11am.

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

Also, do you have any good news stories that you would like to share, here in the Parish Newsletter? Are you celebrating a special birthday, anniversary? Birth of a child/grandchild? Do let us know and spread the happiness! Send your good news story and a photo (only if you want) to the parish office e-mail above.

Some useful local contacts 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.nestoncc.org.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 on the next page. There is a minimum donation of **£5.00**.



FOODBANK

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>

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-donor/page/StWinefrideNeston2218>

SVP Twinnage newsletter will be available to look at this weekend on the St Winefrides' website. Please do take a look.

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/>

WAYS TO PRAY

A few months ago, just before we realised how serious Covid 19 was going to affect the UK Fr Paul had asked for people to share the ways they are able to pray. We had some responses back and I now include a few of the responses we received back.

Prayer Pictures – Finding the right medium and paper to suit the spirit, in silence I doodle a person's name then embellish it. The artwork is the prayer itself, not an image of the prayer, just contemplating in colour. Every time I look at the artwork I hold that person in prayer.

Meditation – Following Fr John Main's teaching to sit in total stillness, repeating a little word, his choice is Maranatha, said slowly Ma-ra-na-tha, but any little word can be used. It is simple but the mind comes up with all sorts of stuff. He says to acknowledge these thoughts and then let them go. Tom Keating SJ says it is in the coming back to the word over and over again rather than the numerous interruptions that is the prayer. The World Community of Christian Meditation is a worldwide community (wccm.org) – Fr Laurence Freeman, OSB, is the director and his many books and YouTube clips which are very helpful. A minimum of 20 mins twice a day really does open the heart.

Our Father – This idea was in the Mail letters a few months ago now so you may already be using it. When we have been told by the Government to wash our hands for at least 20 seconds and to sing Happy Birthday it was suggested instead to say the "Our Father". What a great idea.

Reflection by Tony Topping

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

*Mary, let perpetual succour
Be the answer to our prayer;
For thy son, of all the wretched
Gives to thee perpetual care.
Ever ready help hast thou,
Let thy children feel it now.*

Last weekend we celebrated VE day and during one of the masses, Fr Edmond, in one of his homilies, mentioned Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and this week on Wednesday 13th is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. It all brought back a lot of memories for me. I don't know how reliable my memories are for they are of times long ago when I was young.

I returned with my family to this country in 1946 after spending the war years in Co. Wexford with my mother's sister and her family. We evacuated there when I was only weeks old. Although I had no experience of the war, the years following were difficult. Rationing was still in force, war in Asia was still being waged and families were desperately struggling to rebuild their lives. After being demobbed from the RAF, my dad was able to get a council house not far from where the family had lived prior to the war and a job with the Birkenhead Transport Dept. He had a great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. There was a statue of her in the corner of our living room opposite the door, which stood on a metal stand which Dad had made especially for it. The statue was the first thing one saw when entering the room. Each evening, Mum would gather us all together before the statue to say the rosary.

The parish in which I grew up was dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of Mary the mother of Jesus. Every Sunday in May, it held a procession around the garden of the convent next door to the church. A statue of Our Lady was carried and the climax of the ceremony was its crowning. St. Anne's brass band, of which my dad, my brother and I were members, played the hymns as the people processed. I was only eleven years old at that time. Dad was killed in a road accident two years later.

We were married with two boys and a little girl on the way when we moved to St. Winefride's, Neston. Fr. Briscoe was then parish priest and as well as a May procession, every Thursday evening throughout the year, he held a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. I still have a booklet with all the prayers.

Now that I am old, I realise how much influence Our Lady has had on my Life. There was a short prayer I often used in time of temptation- "Jesus mercy, Mary help". I regret to admit that I have often taken Our Lady for granted and not been as devoted to her as I should. I do not mean that I ignored her and did not pray to her, but lately, I have come to understand that she has always diverted my attention from herself to her son, Jesus. I am sure that, after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, Mary stayed with the apostles quietly comforting, consoling and encouraging them by talking to them about her son and reminding them of all the things that happened to him throughout his life. Through her apparitions, she has spoken to us and encouraged us to pray the rosary which is a meditation on the story of Jesus' life from conception to ascension.

I resolve to increase my devotion to Our Lady throughout this month of May and beyond.

*Mary, from thy sacred image
With those eyes so sadly sweet,
Mother of perpetual Succour!
See us kneeling at thy feet.*