



St Winefride's RC Church

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www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk

Seventh Sunday of Easter

24th 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 23rd May	Parish Family	Sunday 24th May	Pauline McNulty
Monday 25th	Fr Courell	Tuesday 26th	Sue Lawton
Thursday 28th	Sheila Burrell	Friday 29th	Sue Thomas
Saturday 30th	Dr Marioth	Sunday 31st May	All hospital patients

Please do let us know if you would like a Mass said for someone by e-mailing the parish office.

Parishioners who need our Prayers

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

Dorothy Barber	Patricia Davies
Frances Wright	Rosemary Southwell
Pat Cummins	Sarah Alouane
Pat Matthews	Dot Davies
John Barber	Ted Henesy
Dorothy Robinson	Sheila Burrell



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

Daily Rosary at 10.30am with St Winefride's parish

To join in please download **Zoom.us** either as an "app" on your phone or tablet or download from the **Zoom.us** website to your laptop. It is free and simple registration with your email and a password. When you have Zoom then type in or click the link below; 'If you prefer to join in over the telephone, please ring Deacon Jim just before 10.30am.

<https://zoom.us/j/252387114> password: AveMaria

At the above same Zoom address on Wednesday 27th May at 3pm please join in a light hearted quiz and discussion on the Acts of the Apostles Ch 20-28

If you would like to join in with reciting the **Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm** each Friday you are most welcome. Please use the same Zoom login details as for Rosary.

Over the last few weeks, the Catholic Bishops of England's and Wales have written to the Prime Minister requesting for our churches be opened for the Sacraments. If the answer no, then a further request was added, that the churches be open for private prayer while all the safety guidelines would be implemented.

"Cardinal Vincent Nichols spoke to presenter Justin Webb on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 14th May about how Catholic Churches can be safely re-opened for private prayer as the UK government eases its lockdown restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Justin Webb (presenter's cue)

Is it right that you can go to a garden centre or to the council tip, but not to church? Faith leaders are meeting ministers on Friday to try and change this. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Cardinal Nichols

What we want to say (to ministers) is that the issue of how people are able to practice their faith are profound and are sensitive and we would like a bit more sensitivity from the government. And we would like to remind them that the Catholic Church certainly has put forward already detailed protocols, agreed with Public Health England about how we can start the process, step by step, of making churches available for people.

We want to do this for a couple of reasons, one is because they offer a private, quiet space for individual prayer and that helps people's inner stability, and also because the faiths are a terrific motivator for aspects of the service that are given in society today. Within a mile of here there are two Catholic institutions that feed 300 people every day and that is motivated, in a good part, by their faith.

Now, in these last weeks, we've been creative, we've been faithful. Mass has been celebrated every single day in Catholic churches. People have joined in online but there's something, a big, big feeling in the religious communities, of wanting to get back to a fuller practice of their faith, as long as we can do it safely.

Justin Webb

What would it involve in practical terms?

Cardinal Nichols

Well, to begin with, I would like churches available for people to go and kneel and say their prayers, privately, individually. It would mean a routine of supervision; a routine of social distancing; a routine of cleansing. And all of that we believe we can do.

There's another thing it needs. It needs an understanding of what goes on in places of worship is quite different from one to another. So, a personal, individual prayer in a Catholic church is not something that is much done in Pentecostal churches, which tend to concentrate on big gatherings, and it's not what's done in mosques where people pray side by side. So we need a bit of differentiated thinking.

If I could use the analogy of sport... At the moment, it is okay to play tennis with your family, in a while it will be okay to have a kick around with your mates in the park. It will be quite a time before we can go to formal football matches. It's all sport, but we need to differentiate. We are talking about the practice of faith, but we also need to differentiate to make things safe – step by step.

Justin Webb

You can see, can't you, why the government is so ill-equipped to do that in a sense. They don't want to get involved in one faith being allowed to do something that another isn't. But you are saying, if you are going to be literate about religion, you have to grasp the nettle, if i can mix up all sorts of metaphors."

Cardinal Nichols

Yes and probably be stung a bit as well.

Justin Webb

Well, that's the point isn't it?

Cardinal Nichols

This is why the task-force that meets will bring together these perceptions and the religious literacy that is needed to take this forward. But I think it can be done. We have to do it in a very co-operative way, reflecting Lord Blunkett's comments. But we've got plans; we've got preparation and we know the depth of peoples' feeling and their need, so that they can live their faith well and safely. That's what we are looking for.

Justin Webb

It was that last point I was going to finish with if we may. What have you heard from people about the need that they feel in themselves physically to be in Catholic churches?"

Cardinal Nichols

The Catholic faith has a particular structure and pattern which is built around sacraments and sacraments are explicit moments in which we are contact with the Lord. People have been distanced from their sacraments. They have been able to follow Mass every day and hundreds of thousands of people have joined in online. But every single one of them wants to be able to receive Holy Communion.

It's a fast for us = it's quite a painful fast – and that's true for other faiths. I was talking to four Imams yesterday and they would say the same. Think of the patterns of Ramadan and the sacrifice of the Muslim community is making by never meeting outside their families during Ramadan, and at the end of the big feast.

So there is a great deal of deep spiritual sacrifice being made and, okay, we're willing, but we want to know that we are appreciated and the sensitivities are recognised and that we have these opportunities to open up – safely, step by step.

Justin Webb

Cardinal Vincent Nichols thank you very much for speaking to us.

Fr Paul writes: Please the Cardinal and our own Bishop, Bishop Mark in your prayers.

Please keep in your prayers the family of Jacqueline Williams and Monica Ellis whose funerals are next week for Monica and the week after for Jacqueline. Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Be assured of my prayer at Mass for your family. Please pray for Father Chris and the many members of our Parish who live on their own. **Fr Paul**

LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES include:

- Walsingham: walsingham.org.uk
- St. Anthony's, Wythenshawe: churchservices.tv/stanthonywythenshawe
- 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.)

You can also access what the pope has to say each day be heading to <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

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

News items: 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.

We have had some lovely news from Tony and Betty Topping.



"Betty and I are celebrating as we have a new Great-grand granddaughter. She was born yesterday, Wednesday 20th May. Baby, parents, grandparents and Great-Grandparents are all well and very happy. Thank God!"

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>

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.nestoncyc.uk

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>

[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.

Reflection by Tony Topping

WHAT IS LOVE?

“Rivers do not drink their own water; Trees do not eat their own fruit. The sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.” Pope Francis.

On Monday, my sister sent me this quotation by Pope Francis. It helped me to make some sense of the jumbled thoughts that were crowding my mind over the weekend. What is love? St. John tells us that God is love but God is infinite, unfathomable, immeasurable and beyond human understanding, so how can we know what love really is? I love you! Only three little words but such a big statement. What do we mean when we say it? When we are young and we meet someone to whom we are attracted we say we are in love. We like being with him/her and we enjoy the feeling it gives us when we spend time with that person. But is it not a self-centred satisfying of our own desires? It may be the beginning of love but, at this stage, it is certainly not a perfect love.

In recent days, I have seen on television stories of women and men carers who continue to do what they do, despite the danger, not because of the money they earn, for they are grossly underpaid for what they do, but because they love the ones they take care of. Perhaps love is a giving of oneself. During these last few crisis months, there have been many who have courageously displayed unselfish and unconditional love.

God has given us all we have. He gave us life. He gave us water to drink, food to eat but most importantly, he gave us himself. Jesus, who was divine, did not cling to his divinity but humbled himself to be as we are. He was born in poverty and lived in humble obscurity until it was time to reveal himself.

He then, for us, allowed himself to be tortured, publicly humiliated and put to an agonising death. The night before he died, he prepared his disciples for all that was about to happen. He assured them that he would not leave them orphans but would send an advocate, a spirit of truth. Nowadays, when people hear the word spirit, they seem to think of ghosts and ghouls, vampires and zombies. The Holy Spirit is God; God is love and as St John tells us, “There is no fear in love, perfect love drives out fear. Fear has to do with punishment and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.” *1Jn 4:16-19.*

The young couple who fall in love, if their relationship develops, their love will grow into a giving relationship. They will learn to put the other's need before their own. As we get older, like our bodies, the passion of our youth seems to fade a little but not the love. Like good wine, with age, love matures and improves. I thank God, for He gave me a wife who has put up with me, loved and cherished me for the last fifty-nine years.

O Jesus, help me to learn to love, not for my own sake, but let me recognise you in all the young and old, the sick and the dying, the poor and the lonely and all who are in need. Help me to love you with a perfect love.

