



# St Winefride's RC Church

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From the Secretariat  
of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales

## Closure of Churches following the instruction that the Prime Minister gave on Monday night.

There has been an inconsistent message from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the opening of churches. In the published guidelines, it states that "places of worship should remain open for solitary prayer."

The instruction is very clear on the occasions when someone can leave home:

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

**None of these four specific reasons for leaving home concur with the visiting of a church for solitary prayer. In addition, keeping churches open could undermine the desire of the Government for people to remain at home**

The very fact of them being open may draw people out of their homes, many of which would be the most vulnerable to infection. Keeping churches open sends an utterly inconsistent message and **therefore they must be closed for the benefit of others and stopping infection.**

We must now make full use of the opportunities of live streaming and of social communication, to continue being united in prayer and in the pastoral care of so many who are now isolated in their homes. May I also suggest that in the daily physical exercise which allows many people to leave their homes we might recommend the devotional practice that our parishioners greet the Real Presence of Christ in the Tabernacle from outside of our churches as they pass with a prayer, an act of spiritual communion or a simple Sign of the Cross.

Live Streaming can be found the Diocese website. The address is

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

Be safe and look out for our neighbours and offer help if you can.

Regards Fr Paul

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Fr Paul is saying Mass behind closed doors and will continue to do so whilst the church is closed. Masses this week, from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> have been said for the following intentions:

- Ken McMahon (Monday)
- Michelle Durand (Thursday)
- Pat Cummins (Tuesday)
- Isabelle and Joseph Loughe (Friday)

### Masses Intentions for this week from Sunday are as follows:

<b>March</b> Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas and Millie Corcoran	Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Maureen Bainbridge Parish family
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	John White	Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dot Davies
<b>April</b> Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Agnes & Laurence Bins	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jo Freeman (belated birthday wish)
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Family	Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Theresa Keogh Louis O'Sullivan
<b>Please note Mass Intentions for the 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> have been given a later date</b>			

### Parishioners who need our Prayers

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

Sue Lawton	Patricia Davies
Frances Wright	Rosemary Southwell
Maureen & Ron Jones	Pat Cummins
Pat Matthews	Dot Davies
John Barber	Sarah Alouane
Dorothy Robinson and son John Robinson	



Please get in touch if there are any alterations. Information taken from the March Prayer List in church. Do e-mail the office, if you want anyone adding or removing.

A note of Bible readings through lent has been put together and is on the website. Please take a look.

Please note the website has the Mission Sunday news sheet for you to see and also an information booklet with regard to the Coronavirus.

**The Pope's invitation to join him in prayer is livestreamed at midday, Rome time, from the Library of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.  
Below is one of his prayers this week:**

*"As trustful children we turn to the Father. We do it every day, several times a day; but right now we wish to beg mercy for mankind, so sorely tried by the coronavirus pandemic. And we do this together, Christians of every Church and Community, of every tradition, of every age, language and nation.*

*We pray for the sick and their families; for health workers and those who help them; for the authorities, law enforcement agencies and volunteers; for the ministers of our communities.*

*Today many of us celebrate the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary, when her humble and total "Behold" reflected the "Behold" of the Son of God.*

*We too entrust ourselves, with full confidence, to the hands of God, and with one heart and one soul we pray:*

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