

OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST JOHN FISHER PARISH
Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Charity No. 278742

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Our Lady of Lourdes (LOL) Church
135 High Street,
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St John Fisher (SJF) Church
Church Centre, High Street
Cambourne, CB23 6GW

Week commencing Sunday, 22nd March 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year A, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week 4

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website (www.cbcew.org.uk). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

'The Lord is my shepherd, There is nothing I shall want.'

May God bless us all.

Vincent Cardinal Nichols President Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP Vice-President

18th March 2020

NOTICES

In Memoriam: All who have gone before us, especially members of our communities whose anniversaries occur around this week: Desmond Orvis, David Anthony Burns, Percy Cracknell, Julia Hague, Michael Hayden Campbell, Fiona Gibbs, Joan Giles, Patrick Gallagher, Tony Horrell, Edmund Lawson, Livia Wutke and Krystyna Szalajko.

+ **The Funeral of Eileen Rice will take place on 24 March, at 11.00 a.m. at Cam Valley Crematorium, Great Chesterford.**

+ **MISSIO** Please leave red Missio boxes at the back of the Church to be counted and take a copy of the Spring Magazine home with you.

+ **LAST WEEKEND, THERE WERE 83 PEOPLE AT 5PM MASS (SJF), 75 PEOPLE AT 8.45AM (LOL), 86 PEOPLE AT 11.15AM MASS (LOL), AND 57 PEOPLE AT 5PM MASS (SJF). TOTAL: 311 PEOPLE ATTENDING MASS IN THE PARISH.**

* **COLLECTIONS:** Thank you very much for your generosity.

- **LOL:** Sunday collection £146, Stipends: £126, Standing Orders: £763. CAFOD: £145

- **SJF:** Saturday collection: £73.70, Sunday collection: £98.30, Standing Orders: £227.

* **DONATIONS:** If you would like to make a donation by cheque, direct debit, or standing order, please see below:

- **CAMBOURNE:** Cheques payable to **SJF CHURCH**. Bank transfer details: Barclays Bank UK Plc, Cambridge Branch, Sort code: 20-17-20, Account number 33031454.

- **SAWSTON:** Cheques payable to **LOL & SJF PARISH**. Bank transfer details: Barclays Bank UK Plc, Cambridge Branch, Sort code: 20-17-20, Account number 03187187. Please note that although this is named as a parish account it is in fact the Sawston account.

* **LEGACY & WILLS:** If you would like to leave a legacy or include the Parish in your will, please contact Fr. John or a member of the Finance Committees.

* **MASS INTENTIONS:** Apart from unforeseeable circumstances like a sudden death or illness, it is recommended that Mass intentions should be given to Pat or Fr. John a couple of weeks in advance. It is also a good idea to remind Fr John, or the supplying priest, a couple minutes before Mass about your intentions.

+ **NB to all Gift Aiders:** It is hoped that you are still able to continue your support to your Parish and the Diocese. However, if your circumstances have changed, please contact your parish priest +/ the Diocese.'

+ **Hope into Action** is very grateful for any/all offers of warm childrens clothing offered for relatives of the Syrian family we are helping. Please continue to leave these at the Church house where we can collect them and arrange for delivery.

Refugee Family: The Syrian family that we are supporting have relatives trapped in Idlib province, the focus of the enduring conflict. We are gathering warm clothes, shoes and boots for a six month old baby boy and two girls aged 3 and 5 years. Please leave any donations in the church house.

+ Due to the new development of the coronavirus pandemic, all public Masses in England and Wales will stop from Friday evening – 20th March 2020 – until further notice.

At SJF Church in Cambourne, the 7.15pm Mass on Thursday 19th March 2020 – The Solemnity of St Joseph – was our last Mass. The Annexe was full, and the participants could stay for a short time to chat. As we do not own the church building, we cannot have access to it. We will have to wait until the Administrator of Cambourne Church re-opens it. Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sawston will be still open for private prayers as usual. I will continue to say Mass in private for the parish and for your intentions. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email if you need necessary sacraments.

For live stream Masses, just type 'Catholic Mass online', or a similar phrase, on an internet search engine and you will have links for Masses all over the world in different languages.

I believe you will continue to say personal prayers, and family prayers if possible, every day. May Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us. May St. John Fisher assist us in our prayers.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for all of you during this testing time. With every blessing from your parish priest – JM.

+ **PARISH PRAYERS LIVE STREAM: You are welcome to join James for Morning Prayer at the usual time of 9.15am live every weekday morning from the comfort of your own homes. Go to either of the parish websites <http://cambournerc.com/> or www.ololsawston.org.uk at the designated time (9.15am or 6pm) and click on the audio link on the front page to listen live. The Rosary will be recited after Morning Prayer on Saturday mornings. The Angelus and Evening Prayer will be live at 6pm (Monday to Friday).**

+ **Lenten Bible Study James writes :** I would like to thank everyone who came and supported the Bible Study for Lent. Considering the circumstances we are currently living in the two sessions, that we were able to have in the Parish Hall, were very well attended. I very much enjoyed your company while presenting the first session. It was laid back and relaxed with plenty of good lively participation as I gave a general introduction to the God Who Speaks initiative for 2020 along with a talk on trusting the Bible. For the second meeting, and what turned out to be the final session, we welcomed Fr. Bruno Clifton OP from Blackfriars in Cambridge. It was fair to say that session was a lot more formal! But nonetheless it was a sobering insight into how a biblical scholar approaches and reads the Bible. I hope we were all able to take something away with us from those two sessions to ponder on. And my thanks also to those that helped putting the tables and chairs away, and of course to those that helped make the teas and coffees.

+ **Email subscription service: LOL Pastoral Council** are creating a new email subscription service in order to keep you informed of news and events taking place within the LOL Parish. If you wish your name to be added to this list please provide your email address on the slip in the church foyer. Many thanks.

+ **Wednesday 6th May:** AGM of LOL Community at 7.30pm in the church hall. We need new members for LOL Pastoral Council. Please contact Giles for more information.- This date may well change.

DIOCESAN NEWS

+ The Diocese is recruiting a **part-time Finance and Administration Assistant** on 20 hours per week.

Details can be obtained by emailing the Diocesan office at finance@rcdea.org.uk or go to <https://rcdea.org.uk/> and click on the link on the home page. The closing date is Monday April 6th.

+ What are you doing in September?

Are you leaving school or university this summer, in between jobs or would like to do something 'different'? The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18-29 to join the Ignite Team, You would be working with young people in schools and parishes, developing your gifts such as in music, drama, art and tech. These are full-time positions, with food, accommodation and a monthly allowance provided. Ideal as a 'gap year'. For more information see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

* The Diocese is advertising for a **Stewardship and Fundraising Coordinator**. He/She will take the lead role in helping parishes to engage their parishioners to consider how they can support their local parish with their skills and enthusiasm and also financially. Working closely with parish finance committees and clergy, the Coordinator will guide them through Stewardship Campaigns and help to encourage Parish Giving through regular donations and Gift Aid. See www.rcdea.org.uk for details.

* **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place on 21st -28th August. This pilgrimage is organised by Catholic Action for Dioceses of Clifton, East Anglia, Northampton, Southwark with Stonyhurst College and the Glanfield Group. Archbishop John Wilson will lead the pilgrimage this year. The theme is: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. If you would like to join, please pick up a form from OLOL Church, or talk to Fr John. For further information, please visit www.catholicassociation.co.uk or booking with www.tangney-tours.com/CA/; Tel: 01732 886 666

* **A Mass for victims and survivors of abuse, their families, supporters and all those affected by abuse** is to be celebrated on Saturday April 25th at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham. Mass starts at 12 noon followed by buffet lunch.

* **May 8th - 10th: Ignite Festival** in Swaffham. Bishop Alan expects everyone preparing for Confirmation to come but it is also open to anyone in Year 8 and above. Please note that this year we are running it from the Friday - Sunday to coincide with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham which this year is on Bank Holiday Friday 8th May. People have the option of going to the Pilgrimage first and then coming on to the Festival. Please see www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information.

OTHER NEWS

+WANTED - Parish Secretary at St Laurence's, Cambridge

We're looking for someone to take on an enhanced role of Parish Secretary, managing the office and providing administrative and secretarial support to the clergy. The job is part-time, 18 hours per week, and will pay up to £14K. Applicants should have at least 2 years experience of a busy office environment and should have excellent organisational skills and an ability to work unsupervised. Please visit: www.saintlaurence.org.uk/ for details. Interested? Please send a CV to simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk or call Fr Simon for an informal discussion on 07946 390060. Closing date: Monday 23rd March.

Re-Dedication: A personal rededication as the Dowry of Mary. will be done in Westminster, Walsingham, every Cathedral, every cooperating parish, and as many homes as possible on Sunday 29th March 2020. Please follow the guidelines in the book 'The Angelus Promise' which can be obtained from the Shrine of Walsingham.

Please visit www.behold2020.com for information.

The Angelus Promise is a spiritual exercise created to assist you to embrace the message of Our Lady, as expressed in the Angelus. It invites you to "share in the joy of the Annunciation" by following Mary's openness to God's call, through her faith-filled "yes". Through your own faith-filled "yes", the Lord will work wonders in your life.

R: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary V: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit

As God once chose Mary to become the Mother of His Son through the message of an angel, so He chooses me this day, and invites me through the ministry of the Church or the example of another, to seek and do His Will at this moment in my life. Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: Behold the handmaid of the Lord V: Be it be done unto me according to thy Word

Mary's response to her invitation, "let it be done to me according to your Word", opened her heart to God's grace and all things became possible. Let my "yes" today take away fear, as I embrace God's Will, and like Mary "ponder these things in my heart". Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: And the Word became flesh (Bow or genuflect) V: And dwelt among us

At a moment in history, Mary's faith-filled "yes" conceived Him, first in her heart, which then led to the birth of our Saviour. Through accepting Him in my heart, enable me to recognise my role in bringing Christ to my sisters and brothers today. Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: Pray for us most holy Mother of God V: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray: O Holy Mother of God, pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your Yes at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that "the Word was made flesh and lived among us." May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our sisters and brothers in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

There will be a Plenary Indulgence for all Catholics present at the Pontifical Mass celebrated at the Shine Basilica, at the Norwich Cathedral and privately for those who make their confession, Eucharistic communion and pray for the Holy Father's intentions (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be) within a week prior or a week following this Act of Rededication.

+ **PRAYERS & MASS READINGS IN YOUR PHONE:** With modern technology, you can easily download an app and get all the necessary prayers & Mass readings onto your phone. Many people find <https://universalis.com/> useful. If you know a better one, please recommend it to Fr. John.

+ **OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: SETTING OUR HEARTS ON FIRE:** Taken from the account of a mysterious stranger who meets two people journeying on the road to Emmaus, whose identity is eventually revealed as the three of them break bread together (Luke 24:13-38), this biblical story is the starting point for this Lent course which invites us to 'open the scriptures' and read them with both our hearts and our heads. This downloadable resource can be found on <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent>.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2020.

Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

First Reading: Samuel (16:1,6-7,10-13)

David is anointed king of Israel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: (Ps 22.. R. v.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

Second Reading: St Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.
The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: (Jn 8:12)

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone
who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: John (9:1-41)(shortened version below) (1,6-9,13-17,34-38)
The blind man went off and wash himself, and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (**bow**)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.