

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Newsletter for Fifth Sunday of Easter 2020

Saturday 9 th	Our Lady	12noon	Faber School Community Ints
Sunday 10 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	12noon	Mary O'Sullivan RIP Livestream
		6.00pm	Youth Mass Livestream
Monday 11 th	Easter Week 5	12 noon	Fr David Duggan RIP
Tuesday 12 th	Easter Week 5	12 noon	Philip Hargreaves RIP
Wednesday 13 th	Our Lady of Fatima	12 noon	Private intention
Thursday 14 th	St Matthias	12 noon	Private Intention
Friday 15 th	Easter Week 5	12 noon	Recently deceased Ints
Saturday 16 th	Easter Week 5	12 noon	Holy Father's Ints
Sunday 17 th	6 th Sunday of Easter	12 noon	Pro Populo Livestream
		6.00pm	Youth Mass Livestream

ALL PUBLIC LITURGIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

Please remember Mass is still being offered in our church daily for all your intentions even though the church remains locked for now.

There are many Masses livestreamed on Facebook and on the internet. See the Diocesan Website for the list of websites including St Chad's Cathedral. I Hope to livestream Sunday Masses from St John's on the Parish Facebook page Catholic Parish of St John the Baptist, Alton. or from the social media page on the website

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Some information from CAFOD

Adapting parish life to lockdown

- cafod.org.uk/parishes has a **two-minute video message from me about the appeal** – do share with your parish, and please ask your priest if he would share this with parishioners – whether in online Masses or gatherings you're doing, or just by putting the link in an email.

- Also at cafod.org.uk/parishes you'll find tips for gathering virtually, prayer resources, children's activities and our step-by-step guide to set up a **parish collection page online**.

- ideas from parishes round the country about [getting online as a parish community](#)

- we also have a programme of [online talks](#) about our response work as well as a weekly live-streamed Mass and Sunday Children's Liturgy, and next week this will include a webinar on getting your parish collections and community fundraising online.

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to

transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

Prayer in the time of coronavirus

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God,
You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.

You are a light that shines in the darkest times,
Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.
You comfort us in times of fear,

May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.
You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,

May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.
You move our hearts to acts of generosity,
May we be led to share what we have with those in need.

God of life,
We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,

May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.
Amen.



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VIRTUAL PLANT STALL. As we can't hold a Garden party this year, plants will still be available so we are operating an online plant stall. First come first served! Contact Fr Paul.

Trays of 6 plants £2 each or 2 for £3 for parish funds.

Bergonia F1. – President & Ambassador.

Alyssum.

Antirrhinum.

Lobelia. Crystal Palace (upright) & Cascade Mixed (Trailing).

Nicotiana F1. (mixed colours).

Petunia F1.

Gazania Daybreak.

Stock.

Cineraria Silverdust. - no flower – Silver/grey Foliage.

LIMITED NUMBER OF

Verbena.

Nemesia.

Seedling's. Need pricking out - to grow on.

Petunia and Nicotiana. Just Germinated. Not ready until middle June.

Aster. Cosmos & Swan river daisy.

Lavender ---8 of. This years strikes. –individual or All 8 together= special deal.

Fr Paul writes...

Another week passes by... who knows what Sunday's announcement will bring but I can't imagine we will be back in church any time soon. Our thoughts go out to those whose lives have been taken by this virus and for all who mourn their passing. It is a time of sorrow for so many. It is a time also for optimism. 7 out of every hundred attend a religious service in the UK recent statistics tell us, yet 3 in 10 are accessing some form of religious service online and that goes up to 4 in every 10 among the young. Let us pray that God will speak to the hearts of many, may he speak words of hope and consolation that are heard in the depths of people's hearts, drawing many more into conscious relationship with the Father.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay close to the Lord!