

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Castle Hill Rd, Alton, Staffordshire -
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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Newsletter for Fourth Sunday of Easter 2020

Saturday 2 nd	St Athanasius	12 noon	NHS Thanksgiving
Sunday 3 rd	4 th Sunday of Easter	12 noon	Agostino Bavaresco RIP
Monday 4 th	The English Martyrs	12 noon	Philip Hargreaves Ints
Tuesday 5 th	Easter Week 4	12 noon	Betty Cotter RIP
Wednesday 6 th	Easter Week 4	12 noon	The lonely and fearful...
Thursday 7 th	Easter Week 4	12 noon	The sick and their carers...
Friday 8 th	Easter Week 4	12 noon	Recently deceased Ints
Saturday 9 th	Our Lady	12noon	Faber School Community Ints
Sunday 10 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	12noon	Mary O'Sullivan RIP

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.



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MISSIO APPEAL- The Holy Father has established an emergency fund to come to the aid of those people and communities who are being tragically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. He has asked each one of us to contribute what we can to help the Church overseas, through Missio. Any gift that you can give at this time will help our missionaries reach out to the most vulnerable people and offer them spiritual and practical support; and any prayer you offer for them will surely be heard. Our partners, the Mill Hill Missionaries, are working in Coronavirus hotspots across the world. They are on the front line of giving pastoral, spiritual and material support to those in greatest need.

Please read this special message from Missio's National Director Fr Anthony Chantry
COVID19_Letter.qxp_Layout 1 22/04/2020 13:15 Page 1 Missio 23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU
020 7821 9755 | info@missio.org.uk missio.org.uk

Lockdown in a sprawling slum with no sanitation, no running water and no money must be close to hell on Earth. Father Michael, a Mill Hill Missionary in Malaysia tells us: 'Due to the lockdown, many poor people have lost their jobs because they are paid on a daily basis. They need our help for the daily sustenance of their families. Also very important is the work of encouraging them in their faith, praying with them and bringing them the hope that only God can give.' Thank you for your support in the past, it is already enabling the Church to respond. In Guinea and Chile, churches and convents that you have helped to build are opening their doors to shelter the vulnerable and care for the sick. In Peru, the Catholic community is preparing food packages, Visit the mission website for more information!

which are being delivered by parish priests to homes of families living in extreme poverty. I know that as a sponsor of future priests, you will stand alongside our missionaries in prayer and solidarity. If you can, please contribute what you can to our special appeal to help the Church overseas respond to this global crisis. Pope Francis has reminded us that 'we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together'. I hope that when the storm has passed, humanity will seize the opportunity to find new ways of living together in harmony with each other and Creation.

Fr Paul writes....I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. These are challenging times for us all, tho we are especially blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world. It has been a delight to hear of ways many and varied as to how people are reaching out to help one another and to help ease everyone's burdens and concerns, and also how people are helping keep peoples spirits up and feel connected. Our wonderful retreat team, now reduced to 6, or the Quaran-team as they're becoming known are working on ways to maintain and grow their ministry to the young and the not so young during these times. We have also done lots of work on the parish and convent gardens and hope to be able to share the fruits of their labours with you asap when we are able to be back at church. Until then please know of my continued prayers for you and yours! Do tune in for Mass on Sundays! You don't need to be a Facebook account holder, just enter Catholic Parish of St John the Baptist, Alton. Facebook into your search engine and you should be able to click on the link and watch mass from there...

Love and prayers,
Fr Paul

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