

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

## **Newsletter for the Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 2020**

|                           |                           |         |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Our Lady on Saturday      | 12 noon | Ann Watts RIP          |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>    | Palm Sunday               | 12 noon | Pro Populo             |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Monday of Holy Week       | 12 noon | Those who have died... |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Tuesday of Holy Week      | 12 noon | NHS Staff              |
| (Thanksgiving....)        |                           |         |                        |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday of Holy Week    | 12 noon | Those who are sick...  |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7.00pm  | Pro Populo             |
| <b>Good Friday</b>        | Solemn Liturgy            | 3.00pm  |                        |
|                           | Maria Dolorosa            | 7.00pm  |                        |
| <b>Holy Saturday</b>      | Easter Vigil              | 8.00pm  |                        |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b>      | Holy Mass                 | 12 noon | Pro Populo             |

**ALL PUBLIC LITURGIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**  
**The Sacred Triduum will still be celebrated in the church.**

### **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

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.**

**Bounty Club winners are £35 Asher Heritage £25 John Carrington £15 Margaret Whiston**

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**On Good Friday evening I shall be livestreaming the Maria Dolorosa Devotion. For those unfamiliar with it, it is a beautiful devotion for the evening of Good Friday. It is basically the Stations of the Cross but in reverse, the idea being that it is Our Lady's Journey back from Calvary, and we accompany her on her way back as she thinks back through her day. It is a beautiful devotion that I commend to you.**

**MEDITATION ON PALM SUNDAY:** Donkeys despite their use as beasts of labour are rarely portrayed in a positive light. Even Milne's Eeyore in Winnie the Pooh struggles with an image issue. Often these animals are seen as dumb, stubborn or stupid not to mention unattractive. Poor Eeyore ponders his existence cogitating on the fact that his ears are too long and awkward and his feet too short. Is this any way for a King to travel? God in his wisdom chooses the lowest of animals for Jesus to enter the fullness of his role not unlike the donkey that Mary rode on seeking to deliver Jesus in Bethlehem.

It is interesting to note how the Evangelist describes this situation with the donkey... "**The Lord has need for him**". The insignificant donkey and its colt performed the assigned role in carrying Christ both for his birth and for his death in the crucifixion. Neither would have been possible without the role of the donkey and the colt. This small image serves as a reminder that God takes the least for the work of his Kingdom. Little did the

owners know that their act of submission and obedience to Jesus' need would bring about such a glorious event — the Triumphal Entry that is described in the verses. So the question each of us needs to ask today is this: "What does the Lord need from me?" May our responses be the same as the unnamed owners of the donkey. How do you think he might be calling you and I in our simplicity to a Kingdom work of witness this Holy Week? Singing Hosanna is great but there is no singing of Hosanna without the servile humility of the donkey!

