

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISHES OF

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
& St Swithin, Croxteth**

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**St Teresa of the Child Jesus
Norris Green**

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*In the Pastoral Area of St Raphael and St Paul
with Blessed Sacrament 474 2682*

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Fallon Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly

Deacons: Chris Housbey, Malcolm Fletcher, Donagh McKillop

Sunday 3rd May 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Your prayers are asked for those who have died recently, especially,
Anne Pugh, Irene Riley, Kath Scott, Fr Joe Weston.

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time
Winifred Curran, Elsie Downes, Mary McCauley, Catherine Fenlon
Catherine Dunn, Barbara Green, Kenneth Cox, Nellie Byrne

**Please pray too for all those who are lonely or housebound and for
those who are sick, at home or in hospital, especially**
Janet Clark, Raymond Doran, Peter Fraser, John Murphy, T. C. Sheila
Willcox, Andreas Samaras, John Walker, Sr. Kathleen Hamilton, David &
Julie Pearce, J. G., Mary Mousley, Paul, Angela Adlen, Emily Purdie,
Giles Rowe, Angela Gregory, Joyce Rhodes.

Live Streaming System

All public worship in churches is still suspended but you can now follow Mass and other service live from both our churches via the links on the parish websites. Masses are also live streamed from the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream.

SATURDAY 2nd May

6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's

6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

SUNDAY 3rd May

10.00am Mass: St Teresa's

11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

MONDAY 4th May

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

TUESDAY 5th May

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

WEDNESDAY 6th May

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

7.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

THURSDAY 7th May

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

FRIDAY 8th May

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

SATURDAY 9th May

6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's

6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

SUNDAY 10th May

10.00am Mass: St Teresa's

11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

*All Masses are live streamed via
the parish websites.*

World Day of Prayer for Vocations***Sunday 3rd May 2020***

"The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice."

On this, Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Find more information at www.ukvocation.org

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for May 2020***For Deacons***

As numbers of priests decline, the role of the deacon becomes increasingly more important. Deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, assist at Mass, administer the sacrament of Baptism, and officiate at weddings and funerals. Deacons may evangelise through helping the sick and needy. They may be school, hospital or prison chaplains. This month Pope Francis invites us to join this month's prayer intention. **"We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church."**

10th-16th May is Christian Aid Week. As Coronavirus sweeps the globe, we are reminded how closely we are connected. Consider how you and your family can play a part in eradicating poverty.

Recruitment of Cathedral Choristers

The Cathedral Choir is recruiting boys who in Years 2 & 3 and girls in Year 5.

All choristers are educated at Runnymede St Edward's School (Boys, Years 3-6) and St Edward's College (Boys & Girls, Years 7-11.) The Junior Choir School, Runnymede St Edward's, is becoming a Voluntary Aided School from September 1st 2020 so, for the first time ever, there will be NO school fees payable for any choristers at the Metropolitan Cathedral. This means that a first class Catholic chorister education for boys and girls in Liverpool is available at no cost. Full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral can be found at: <https://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/>

Due to the current lock-down and social distance procedures in place, recruitment for boy and girl choristers for September 2020 will likely be carried out exclusively 'on-line' via Zoom video conferencing.

Hospital Patients - Mgr. Peter Fleetwood reminds us:

It is important for priests whose parishioners are in COVID-19 wards to encourage families to ask the ward staff to invite one of the chaplains to visit their loved ones. The hospital will usually ask relatives if there is anything they believe their loved ones would like or need, and that would be the moment for families to tell the hospital staff that their loved one would appreciate the services of one of the chaplains - for the Sacrament of the Sick, the Commendation of the Dying or Prayers for the Dead. The hospital will often - understandably - not invite the chaplain onto the ward without being prompted by the families of their patients.

New resources now available from the Archdiocese include:

- Reflection for Fourth Sunday of Easter
- Christian homemaking
- Dealing with the COVID-19 crisis for the divorced or separated
- Messy Church at home
- Sustaining faith in difficult times: the Word of God

All can be accessed/downloaded at

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

New Message from the five Metropolitan Archbishops of England and Wales

You can find a message from the Archbishops to Catholics in England and Wales at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-recognise-pain-of-catholics-who-cannot-pray-in-church-or-receive-the-sacraments/>.

One by one

The scene in this weekend's first reading could not have taken place under our present lockdown: Peter addressing a crowd of people and three thousand being baptised because of his preaching. Some of us are old enough to remember the 1960s when the number of people attending Mass in the Liverpool Archdiocese reached its peak of 242,000 every Sunday. Even before the Coronavirus closed our churches, weekly Mass attendance was down to around 40,000 and who knows how many people will return to regular Sunday Mass once the restrictions are lifted. Some people may be reluctant to gather again after so many weeks of staying home. Others who had long ago given up coming to church may have realised during the lockdown how much they miss and need the Eucharist, so perhaps that will balance out. Do these numbers matter?

The phrase that struck me from today's Gospel about Jesus being both the true shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold was 'one by one': the real shepherd doesn't lead his flock out all together but calls them one by one, and one by one they recognise his voice and follow him.

This Good Shepherd Sunday is the time when we pray most especially for 'vocations'. We used to think of it just as praying that men and women would answer God's call to serve God's people in the priesthood and the religious life, and these days we would of course want to add the diaconate, because our Church needs priests, deacons and religious to carry out their specific ministries in service of the whole community. We sometimes spoke as if they were the only people who had a vocation, but the Church has always taught that each baptised person is called, individually and by name, to follow Christ and be his disciple, and in recent times we have come to realise more fully the dignity and challenge of the vocation of all the baptised.

So perhaps the question this Gospel poses to each of us is not, 'When I get back to church, how many other people will be there?' but 'Am I listening for the voice of Jesus calling me by name to follow him?' If each baptised person, one by one, was ready to leave the safety of the sheepfold and follow wherever the shepherd leads, I don't think we would have to worry about the numbers.

Fr Chris