

# Extraordinary Parish Newsletter for the Catholic Parishes of St John Vianney & St Monica and St Cuthbert, Blackpool

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**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

*Dear Parishioners,*

Greetings and prayers to you all! Thank you to those parishioners who have been in touch with us by phone and email – it is always great to hear from you. Painful, though it is, in accord with government directives, our churches, as with all places of worship remain closed and secured at this time and there are no public Masses being celebrated in them. Nonetheless, we unite our pain and discomfort at being separated physically from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Church's Sacraments with the Passion of Our Lord which we especially call to mind during these days. We are also mindful of all those throughout the world who are persecuted for their Catholic Faith and their love of the Mass as well as those Catholics in parts who are not within easy reach of a Catholic Church in order to attend Sunday Mass. It is true that the routine of our own Church-going is paused and our churches may be closed, but Christ is not quarantined & His Gospel is offered to everyone. Each of us can seek Him in the tabernacles of our own hearts.

## **HOLY WEEK 2020 CONTINUES**

Our Holy Week journey with Christ through His sorrowful passion, death and glorious resurrection, this year, will be very different to any other, but the 'Great Week' with Him goes on through the hands of your priests and through your Spiritual Communion with Him in acts of prayer and charity at home. We would urge you to continue to make *An Act of Spiritual Communion* using our own [Parish Prayer Card](#). This card is (as is this Newsletter) placed prominently on both Parish Websites as a pdf.

This Holy Week, we will be celebrating **one Sacred Triduum** (online only) for our two parish communities and this will be transmitted online through the fast-growing Facebook account of the Catholic Parish of St John Vianney & St Monica, Blackpool: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishofSJVandStM/> To join these online liturgical celebrations simply create a Facebook account for yourself and then 'like' and 'follow' our Parish account.

**Our Holy Week & Easter** online programme is as follows and is advertised on both Parish Websites:

### **5<sup>th</sup> April: Palm Sunday**

Mass: 10.15am

### **6<sup>th</sup> April: Monday in Holy Week**

Mass: 12noon

### **7<sup>th</sup> April: Tuesday in Holy Week**

Mass: 12noon

### **8<sup>th</sup> April: Spy Wednesday**

Mass: 12noon

### **9<sup>th</sup> April: Maundy Thursday**

Mass of the Last Supper: 7.00pm *followed by Watching until 9.00pm*

Night Prayer: 9.00pm

### **10<sup>th</sup> April: Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross: 10.30am

Solemn Liturgy: 3.00pm

### **11<sup>th</sup> April: Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil: 8.00pm

### **12<sup>st</sup> April: Easter Sunday**

Mass: 10.15am

Easter Benediction: 4.00pm

Mass in the Extraordinary Form: 6.00pm

**N.B.** In the days of the Easter season (that is *after* Easter Sunday), during the pandemic, Holy Mass will be streamed by the clergy at 12noon: Monday – Saturday and at 10.15am & 7.00pm on Sundays.

**Easter Duties:** As Catholics it is our ‘duty’ to go to confession at least once a year and to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during Eastertime. Given the current situation, the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales have dispensed this obligation, for this year only, as well as the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for as long as the pandemic situation lasts.

### **FAITH IN THE HOME**

There are numerous opportunities as the ‘domestic Church’ to pray at home, by our personal prayer, our participation at Mass (remotely), our reading of the Sacred Scriptures, our finding and engaging with approved Catholic catechetical materials (we know you will want to exercise a care-filled discernment here – as not everything on the internet with the name ‘Catholic’ attached to it will be so) explaining all that takes place in these days, by praying the Stations of the Cross or watching a re-enactment of the Passion on TV and so much more; pray the Rosary, read from your Bible, try to pray as a couple and as a family.

Links for various online resources can be found at: <http://stjohnvianneyblackpool.com/coronavirus-2/>

### **YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

Given that we will not be gathering for public Masses for some time, our Parishes are likely to see a significant reduction of income should the current crisis continue for a protracted period. The practical ramifications are likely to be extremely serious and far-ranging for our Parishes. Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated. Consequently, we now need to urgently ask that our parishioners arrange their giving to their Parish by Standing Order or Bank Transfer – using the following details:

Account Name: **‘LRCDTR - The Catholic Parish of St John Vianney & St Monica, Blackpool’**

Account Number: **11334611**

Sort Code: **40-27-02**

*and:*

Account Name: **‘LRCDTR - The Catholic Parish of St Cuthbert, Blackpool’**

Account Number: **11334603**

Sort Code: **40-27-02**

Alternatively, cheques may be issued for: ‘The Catholic Parish of St John Vianney & St Monica, Blackpool’ or for ‘The Catholic Parish of St Cuthbert, Blackpool’ and then sent in the post to the one address: The Presbytery, 26 Glastonbury Ave, Blackpool, FY1 6RD (UK). All these details have been made available on both Parish Websites. Thank you to those who have already made these new arrangements for their own giving and also to those individuals reaching out to our Parishes from elsewhere via the internet. Otherwise, parishioners may simply want to keep hold of their regular contributions in order to bring these to Mass/the presbytery once our present situation improves.

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

You will appreciate that, although your priests are not allowed to visit people who are ‘self-isolating’ at home at this time, parishioners can still request prayers by telephoning their priests or emailing at: [catholicsinsouthblackpool@gmail.com](mailto:catholicsinsouthblackpool@gmail.com) Mass intentions remain welcome and can still be requested by phone or email. Mass intentions presented for the period 5<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> April are as follows: People of the Parish, Deliverance from Covid-19, James McLoughlin (Anniv), John Hughes, Mary Kearney RIP (x2), Marie Boileau RIP, Michael Corkery RIP, Kath & Tom Kearns RIP, Holy Souls, The Acton Family, Mgr Michael Tully (Anniv).

Do please stay in touch via our parish websites and social media accounts. The popular St John Vianney & St Monica’s website and its linked Facebook and Twitter accounts are updated each day, throughout the day, with the best Catholic news and articles at: <http://stjohnvianneyblackpool.com/news/>

With every good wish and prayer – especially for all those with coronavirus and those caring for them,

As ever in Christ,

*Your Priests*