

## WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW • GIVE • BELONG

Our parish community is called to build the Kingdom of God. We gather for **WORSHIP** to strengthen our Christian unity; also included are our various ministries where you can **SERVE** those most in need with love and dignity, and opportunities to **GROW** your faith in the truth of life that Jesus provides us. We appreciate and are open to your willingness to **GIVE** of your time, treasure and talent. We want you to know, furthermore, that it is here that you have a place to **BELONG**: there is always a pew for you! This beautiful building belongs to you. Cherish your time here, as God the Father cherishes you

Dear Parishioners, from the evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March all public acts of worship in Catholic churches in England and Wales are suspended until further notice because of the risks presented by the COVID-19 virus. Although perhaps not a great surprise I am sure that it will be a great disappointment to many of you not to be able to be present at Mass and to receive Holy Communion. People will also ask 'how long is this going to last for?', at the moment the suspension is open ended and there is no indication of when it may be lifted although the situation will be kept constantly under review.

However this does not mean that the church and the parish have 'closed down'. We still need to stick together and support one another through prayer and acts of charity. I will try and ensure that the church is kept open as much as possible during the day. If you are healthy and able to be out and about you are welcome to come and pray in the church. Please remember to keep an appropriate distance away from others.

I will also continue to offer Mass each day praying for all the intentions of the parish including especially those who are ill or suffering at this time. I will also try and remember particular intentions and anniversaries as have been notified to the parish office. The church does permit a priest to celebrate Mass without any of the faithful present when there is a good and reasonable cause to do so, and the current situation is certainly such a cause.

There are many resources on the internet and on TV to help to pray and continue their spiritual journey during these difficult times. Some are listed in the newsletter, and further suggestions will follow in coming weeks. If you have come across something that is helpful to you then please let me know and we can list it in future newsletters.

It is my hope that we continue to have a weekly newsletter, available at the back of church and emailed to you if you put yourself on the list by emailing me through the parish website – it will be also available on-line through the parish web-site. It will be one way of keeping in touch. As I mentioned last weekend if you are at home on your own and would like prayer or indeed some practical help then please ring or e-mail.

One thing that we want to continue with is our support for the Dignity Packs. If you bring the bags at leave them at the foot of the altar in the Lady Chapel and I will move them to the sacristy. I am sure the demand for the packs will be greater than ever in these coming weeks.

I am sure that there will be more to share in the coming weeks, but perhaps that is sufficient for today. Let us pray for one another!

Fr Robbie O'Callaghan (Parish Priest)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Support of your parish** - Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected in any way by the virus crisis and we give thanks for the recognition of the effect on people and business in the Budget. Unfortunately, the measures announced did not include religious organisations so far. Parishes, particularly ours, are run on the same basis as a small business; bills and other outgoings are paid for by monies received. Consequently, we would urge those who may feel it inappropriate to attend Mass to continue to contribute/put to one side what they can, so that as soon as the crisis is over the Parish will be in a positive position to move forward. **Thank you**

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday: Yr A Weekday: Cycle II Psalter Wk: IV

Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> March	
11:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Joan Warren RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Sara Smith 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday/Alice McManus RIP	(Oratory 10am)
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Anne Roe RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Marion Smart RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	John Gallon RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Audrey Hilton RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Kathleen Jenkins RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	Eileen Coyne RIP	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:30am-3:00pm	Church Open for Prayer	Matlock
Private Mass	People of the Parish	(Fr Robbie in House Oratory 10am)
Parish Priest	Fr Robbie O'Callaghan 01629 582804 in Emergencies 07449835765	
Parish Assistant	Lucinda Watson – Office Closed	
Parish e-mail	✉ mail to: <a href="mailto:info@matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk">info@matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk</a>	
Parish Deacon	Rev Richard Walsh (via parish office)	
safeguarding	Representative: Paula Scully (0115 9539850)	

**First Holy Communion** catechises with Krystina and Jo - now cancelled until further notice. We shall see how things go and I will update you in the months to come.

**People of the Parish Mass Intention** - Matlock & Wirksworth are two churches, one parish. When I celebrate Mass for this intention it is for you all and your families.



### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Please see link below which is a very useful link that lists all prayer times and Mass live links throughout your day in Ireland and the UK. Many many opportunities to connect with God.

[www.churchservices.tv/timetable/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

**MASS ON TV AND ON-LINE:** EWTN Catholic Television Network broadcasts daily Mass at 12.00 noon and 6.00pm UK time. You can also watch Mass at any time through its 'on demand' service. This channel is not available on Freeview, but can be found on a number of satellite services including ones that don't require a subscription (it is channel 588 on Sky). If you have an internet enabled TV you can download the EWTN app

### Masses are still being celebrated privately, but what does that mean? What is the significance and power of Mass without the laity present?

The Mass "is not something we do," Fr. James Bradley, a professor of canon law at the Catholic University of America said. "We participate in the Mass when we come to the Mass, either as priest or as people, but it's first and foremost the action of Christ. The Catechism says that Christ is the principal actor in the liturgy, so this is something that the Lord does and in which we participate, because we participate in His life through baptism."

Catholics participate in God's communion with the Church whenever Mass is celebrated, whether they are physically present for it or not. Mass is "not something that the priest does as a private individual. He does it as a minister of the Church, involving the whole of the Church. Every Mass that is celebrated, anywhere at any time, is for everyone who is part of the Church." Bradley said the language of the Mass as illustrates that it is never a solo activity for the celebrant. "We talk about the angels and saints and they all are always present in every celebration of the Mass, the whole of the Church is present on earth, present in heaven," he said. "So, in a sense, the priest is never alone when he stands at the altar. He's always surrounded by the clouds of witnesses."



Lent in Isolation is a video series created by Peter's House, Walsingham to spiritually nourish those isolated from their faith practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[lentinisolation.com](http://lentinisolation.com)