



Parish Priest: Mgr. Mark Crisp, Giffard House, 51, North Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1RJ.

Assistant Priests: Fr Gary Mantle, OH and Fr Sean Gough

Pastoral Assistants: Sr. Lydwin & Sr. Rita, Sisters of St Ann of Providence,
173 Coalway Road WV3 7ND. **Telephone:** *See item in newsletter*

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Hospital Chaplaincy New Cross 01902 695098, Russell's Hall 01384 456111 ext. 2352

University Chaplaincy Facebook page: @rcwlvwest

Weddings and Baptisms by appointment. St Michael's Hall Bookings: stmichaelshallpenn@gmail.com

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10th January 2021- Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Timetable of Online Masses and Services.

For Online Masses, go to www.rcwlvwest.com

Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday 10th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Christmastide ends tonight	5.30 pm St Michael Fr. Patrick Farelly 9.00 St Bernadette <i>pro populo</i> 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul & Online Vernon Henry Hedgecox RIP 11.30 St Michael Eileen Breen & Family 2.30 pm St Michael Syro-Malabar Rite Mass.
Monday 11 th January	9.30 am Online Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6.30 pm Online <i>Deceased Relatives and Friends</i> 8.00 pm Online Holy Hour "Monica's Prayers"
Tuesday 12 th January	9.30 am SS Peter & Paul & Online Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 8.00pm Online Holy Hour "Year of St Joseph"
Wednesday 13 th January	12.00 Midday SS Peter & Paul & Online <i>Stefanie Intentions</i> 12.00 Midday St Bernadette <i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday 14 th January	12.00 Midday St Michael <i>Holy Souls</i> 8.00pm Online Holy Hour "Blessed Carlo Acutis"
Friday 15 th January	9.30am St Bernadette <i>Holy Souls</i> 10.30 am Funeral Mass Rosalia Finazzo RIP (by invitation only) 12.00 Midday Online Mary Rowley RIP Ann. 3.00pm Online Holy Hour with Divine Mercy Devotions 8.00pm Zoom Night Prayer
Saturday 16 th January	9.00 am Online <i>Holy Souls</i> 10.30 am St Michael Adoration and Confessions
Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday 17th January	5.30 pm St Michael Deceased members of Mulvihill & Mullarkey families 9.00 St Bernadette Mary Abbiss RIP 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul & Online Thanksgiving for God's mercy & protection 11.30 St Michael <i>pro populo</i> 2.30 pm St Michael Syro-Malabar Rite Mass.

For the moment, Mass is celebrated in private at the Carmelite Convent but the sisters continue to pray for us, day and night.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ATTENDANCE AT MASS DURING LOCKDOWN

The infection rate is extremely high around Wolverhampton now. This means we need to be particularly vigilant when attending Mass. Holy Communion will be distributed as you leave church. Please then leave immediately, and do not gather outside to chat after Mass, but go straight home. As I said in the past, if you see an old friend, wave at them and ring them up when you get home.

Remember that there is no obligation to attend Mass and, depending on your own circumstances, it may be prudent not to.

If you choose to come to Mass, it would be wise to go on a weekday instead of a Sunday so that we do not have too large gatherings while the risk of infection is high.

Booking places for Sunday Masses:

FOR ST MICHAEL, please email or ring Sr Lydwin on 01902 341343 on Thursday and Friday.

FOR SS PETER & PAUL, please ring or text Val on 07934905283 .

FOR ST BERNADETTE, please ring Judith on 01902 620 764 between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays or email judithpitt64@gmail.com

Online Services

While the infection rate is high ***please do make use of the online services provided by the parish***, whether it is online Mass or other activities such as the online Coffee morning or prayer services such as the lovely service provided by the Catholic Women's League last Thursday evening.

This week there will also be a **Zoom Coffee Morning on Wednesday at 10.00am** and **Zoom Night Prayer on Friday at 8.00pm** If you would like to join either of these please send a request to rcwlvwest@gmail.com. Please do not leave making this request until the last moment but at least 1 hour before the event. Many thanks.

There are also Online Holy Hours at the following times:

8.00pm Monday "Monica's Prayers" (Adoration service praying for conversion of family members)

8.00pm Tuesday "Year of St Joseph" (focussing on different themes each week)

8.00pm Thursday "Blessed Carol Acutis" (Contemporary Holy Hour in honour of Blessed Carlo)

3.00pm Friday "Divine Mercy Holy Hour" (Holy Hour with Divine Mercy devotions)

Mission and Outreach

Rapid Testing Centre to open at St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton. WV1 2QN

Wolverhampton City Council are going to be opening a Rapid (Lateral Flow) Test Centre on Thursday 7th January at St. Joseph's. Opening times will be **Monday to Friday 2.00pm to 6.00pm**

We need volunteers (who are fit and healthy and not shielding) to support the work. Full training will be given, and strict infection prevention protocols are adhered to at all times.

If you could spare a few hours to help out it would be very much appreciated. Not only can we support our City in staying safe but for every test undertaken money will be donated to local charities.

Fr. Craig Fullard has been volunteering at Faith Centre Rapid Test Centres for the last month and has first-hand experience of what it entails and what it is like, so do have a word with him.

If you would like to know more, then please get in touch with Fr Craig's Parish Office on 01902 452 841 or email stnewmancluster.wmids@rcaob.org.uk

The Food Collection: We shall be collecting at our usual times of Tuesday 1-2, Thursday and Saturday 10-11, at weekend Masses at St Michael's AND at the 10.15 Sunday Mass at SS Peter & Paul, weather permitting! This week's donations have been distributed to local Penn families. In addition to cereal, UHT milk, tins of meat/fruit/vegetables/rice pudding/custard etc any donations of FRESH FRUIT would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

ADDRESSING LOCAL NEED: Much-welcomed supplies can be dropped off at any time for the Good Shepherd Ministry via 2, Richmond Rd WV3 9HY Thank you for your kindness.

"Double the Love": this Mary's Meals "porridge at school" project in a Liberia recovering from Ebola reaches orphans and the poor. Until January 31st 2021 donations to the project will benefit from UK Government Match Aid, pound for pound up to £2 million. Do consider doubling the impact of your Christmas giving! If you cannot manage website or telephone banking do you have a friend who could help? More information: Catherine on 336534

Life Charity Shop and Life Outreach for needy mums and babies: The Life Charity Shop cannot open while current restrictions are in place, so we can't at present accept any donations of goods for it. If you have clothes, books or bric-a-brac to give, we will be very grateful if you can find space to store them until the shop is allowed to open again. Life continues to support local families who are in need of baby & toddler clothes or cots, pushchairs or other baby equipment. If you can help by giving such items please ring Rosalie on 01902 330553 or email wolverhampton@lifecharity.org.uk. Anyone needing this kind of help can contact us via this email address, or by ringing the Life National Helpline 0808 802 5433.

This free Helpline tells us about requests for practical support in our locality and, importantly, offers a confidential, non-judgmental listening ear to anyone who is troubled by a pregnancy related matter.

CAFOD: "During the pandemic, CAFOD's local experts have been reaching out – from Liberia to Cambodia, Brazil to Bangladesh – helping people to **survive, rebuild and heal.**" In spite of the lack of fundraising activities during 2020, donations have continued to come in. In total we have raised £1529.96. This, of course, is in addition to any money that has been sent direct to CAFOD.

The Policy of the Bishops of England and Wales regarding the opening of Churches during lockdown

On Friday 8 January, following some questions about why our churches remain open, Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, issued the following letter explaining the position and role of our churches during the current lockdown:

We are aware that questions are being asked as to why churches remain open during this National Lockdown. We are also aware that many local authorities are calling for places of worship to close. We wish to respond to these concerns. Churches are allowed to open for prayer and communal worship at this time according to the provision of the most recent national legislation and Government guidance.

This decision is based on two factors: the recognition that our churches are safe, and that the service they offer is essential. The safety of our churches has been affirmed by Public Health England (PHE) in its current advice to the Government. This is publicly recognised to be the result of the great efforts made by many people in the implementation of procedures mandated by PHE and thereby establishing the necessary conditions within churches for their safe use. Our churches are making a significant contribution to the personal resilience and inner strength of people which is much needed at this time. Many are hubs from which essential support is offered especially to those most in need, extending well beyond the faith communities which use them. This includes the regular provision of food; the care of the homeless; and being a place of peace and reflection (which is safe) for many whose living conditions are very limited. This will become more appreciated as the programme of vaccination increases. The vital link between prayer and action is important to maintain this service.

At this phase of the pandemic, which is causing alarm and fear, our churches will exercise their role with increased diligence to ensure continuing safety and service. Our clergy will ensure that all are aware that there is no duty or responsibility to come to church and communicate to all there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. They will review, in each local area, the provision offered by the church in order to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained. This will include a review of the role of stewards, the provision of additional social distancing within the church, a review of cleansing routines, and consideration of the personal circumstances of the priest(s) and people. On this basis there will be a local evaluation and decision about the possible reduction in the times of opening and the frequency of communal worship.

In conclusion we recognise the higher levels of fear and anxiety which the new strain of the virus has prompted and we have a very proper awareness of the care which must be exercised by everyone,

under the guidance of PHE health professionals. We recognise, too, that isolation is having a profound detrimental effect on people and that the role of churches in easing that isolation in ways which are safe and supportive has been recognised as a positive and beneficial contribution to the common good. We pray for the dedicated work of the NHS and continue to provide spiritual support to staff and patients through the network of chaplains working both in the hospitals and the community.

A further statement was issued yesterday regarding concerns about the new variant of the virus. Here is the relevant part of the Bishops' statement:

Public Health England on behalf of the Government faith task force have been asked to review whether the guidelines (of the bishops) are still fit for purpose.

The initial view pending a detailed review is that because the places of worship guidance is strictly adhered to are even stricter and safer than those in place for workplaces and essential retail, there is no evidence that places of worship are any less safe. The hypothesis that the new variant means places of worship should close remains just that, a hypothesis, until we know more.

According to Public Health England, which undertook a review for the faith task group of Government, Places of worship, according to the PHE Review, have contributed a fraction of 1% of contribution to infection rates since re-opening after the first lockdown.

Message from Fr Mark

Given this encouragement from the bishops, we are keeping our three churches open for the public celebration of Mass. Obviously it is important that everyone adheres to the guidelines very carefully and that we do not put each other at risk. As there is a review taking place, please do watch the Website News Page so that I can let you know immediately if there are any important updates.

God bless and stay safe, Fr Mark.

Finances Many thanks to all who have started using Standing Orders for their offerings to the parish. The total of Standing orders for December 2020 was St Michael's £1510.75, St Bernadette's £935.18, SS Peter & Paul £266.00

SS Peter & Paul 200 Club Subscriptions There are still many subscriptions overdue. This can be done by putting cash with a note indicating your 200 Club number into an envelope and leaving it in the Mass Collection Basket. Alternatively, you can give your subscriptions to Val Walsh and Mary Faherty

Offertory Collection for Sunday 3rd January 2021

	SS Peter & Paul	St Michael	St Bernadette	Second Collection:
Non-Gift Aid	36.00	197.26	20.13	
Gift Aid	281.00	350.00	27.50	

Gloria and Brian Dyce wish to thank Father Mark, Father Gary, Fr Sean, and all parishioners for their prayers and wishes during their recent exploits with Covid. God Bless you all and keep safe.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: John Owen, R. J., Keith Tomlins, David Souberry, Ben Sherry, Holly Burke, Mason Kavanagh, Paula Box, Peter Holmes, Alice Stevens, George Brown, Chris Starkey, M Mary, Thomas Mackin, Stephen Briggs, Hilary Elsdon, Katherine Poole, Teresa Mitchell, Ann Bayley, Peggy McHale, Patrick Quinn, Fred & Celia Norton, Jean Hollingshead, Margaret Stokes, Leah Nixon, Pat Pool, John Dolan, Liam Dolan, Marie Looker, Lorna Ciraulo, Pat Eades, Helen Porter, Mary Kirby, Sheila O'Toole, Tony McGinn, Brendan Bleakley.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Anne Middleton, Mary Abbiss, Peter Paul Jarai, Jamie MacFarlane, Stephen Brooks
May they rest in peace.

Safeguarding Representatives: Steve & Chris Callow (St Michael) 01902 340775, Ann Shorthouse (St Bernadette) 01902 326334

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