



THE PARISH OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

INCORPORATING THE CHURCHES OF



**ST MICHAEL,
SS PETER AND PAUL & ST BERNADETTE**

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*

E-mail: blessed.carloacutis@rcaob.org.uk **Website:** www.rcwlvwest.com **Twitter:** Mark Crisp @wlvrcchap

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

Parish Facebook page: @rcwlvwest

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

Business Manager: CPM Services cpm59@hotmail.co.uk 07388 994783

24th January 2021- Third Sunday in Ordinary of the Word of God (B)

Timetable of Online Masses and Services.

For Online Masses, go to www.rcwlvwest.com

Saturday Vigil Mass 24th January SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD <i>Octave of Christian Unity</i>	5.30 pm St Michael <i>Holy Souls</i> 9.00 St Bernadette <i>John Corbett RIP</i> 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul & Online <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.30 St Michael <i>pro populo</i> 6.00pm <i>Online Reflection on the Word of God</i> 2.30 pm St Michael Syro-Malabar Rite Mass.
Monday 25 th January Feast of Conversion of St Paul <i>Octave of Christian Unity</i>	9.30 am Online Mass <i>Fr Patrick Farrelly RIP</i> 8.00 pm Online Holy Hour "Monica's Prayers"
Tuesday 26 th January Memorial of SS Timothy and Titus	9.30 am Online Mass <i>Mgr Mark Langham RIP</i> 8.00pm Online Holy Hour "Blessed Carlo Acutis" finishing with Night Prayer
Wednesday 27 th January Votive mass of St Joseph	9.30 am Online Mass <i>Eileen Stenson RIP</i> 12.00 Midday St Bernadette <i>Mary Abbiss RIP</i> 1.00pm St Michael Funeral Mass <i>Valerie Rohue RIP</i>
Thursday 28 th January Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas	12.00 Midday St Michael <i>Holy Souls</i> 8.00pm Online Holy Hour "Year of St Joseph devotions with Benediction"
Friday 29 th January	9.30am St Bernadette <i>Holy Souls</i> 12.00 Midday SS Peter & Paul & Online Mass <i>Fr Andrew McGann</i> 3.00pm Online Holy Hour with Divine Mercy Devotions
Saturday 30 th January Memorial of Our Lady	9.30 am Online Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.00 am St Michael <i>Confessions</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass 31st January Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time	5.30 pm St Michael <i>Fr John Dewis</i> 9.00 St Bernadette <i>pro populo</i> 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul & Online <i>Bernadette Davey RIP</i> 11.30 St Michael <i>Beryl Hilda Pratt</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.

Remember that there is no obligation to attend Mass and, depending on your health, 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.

ATTENDING HOLY MASS

No one is under obligation to attend Church, as the Sunday Obligation was lifted at the beginning of the Pandemic. Churches are allowed to remain open for prayer & Communal Worship in accord with Governmental & Public Health England guidelines. You are not obliged to be present at Church; ultimately the decision to attend is completely yours! We have complied with all Governmental recommendations. Please acquaint yourselves with these guidelines. *For the time being Holy Mass will be livestreamed nearly every day.*

FACE COVERINGS: Must be worn in places of worship, unless you are exempt. **THIS IS NOW LAW.**

HAND SANITISATION: Please ensure you sanitise your hands on entry/exit of the Church.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Please adhere strictly to this requirement of remaining **2 metres** away from anyone who is not in your family bubble.

TRACK & TRACE: Please ensure that you have completed your Track & Trace requirements. This is covered if you have booked but if you have not booked you need to give your details to the stewards and if you have a mobile phone, scan the NHS Track and Trace Poster. Thank you!

ON LEAVING CHURCH: There is always the temptation to remove your Face Covering, and socialise with Friends. But it is this interaction at close proximity that can constitute the spread of the virus. Please **GO STRAIGHT HOME!**

PLEASE FOLLOW DIRECTION OF THE STEWARDS: Our wonderful Stewards will be available at all Masses. We are grateful that we are able to remain open during this difficult time.

Please stay at home if you can; keep **SAFE & WELL**; and always be generous with each other during this stressful time.

Parish News and Activities

SUNDAY OF THE WORD See the back page of the bulletin for more explanation of this new feast, **but we have a special Online Service this Sunday afternoon at 6.00pm.**

It lasts an hour and using the pictures from the Old Testament that we have displayed around our churches, through reflections and prayers, it relates the Old Testament to our lives today. Parishioners from all three churches have provided the readings, see if you can recognise who they are before the final credits come up!

New Parish email address The old joint email address of rcwlvwest@gmail.com no longer is in operation. From now on, please use the new parish email address: blessed.carloacutis@rcaob.org.uk

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

While the infection rate is high **please do make use of the online services provided by the parish,**

Little Fishes Online A parents, baby and toddler group now to meet online via Zoom
Tuesday mornings fortnightly from 10.30am to 11.30am



Chat A chance to chat and share a virtual coffee with other parents

Create Small group creative activities will be offered within the meeting for those interested.

Share Finishing with a story time for all!

If you are interested in joining Little Fishes online please contact Judith at wolvesdy@gmail.com for further details on how to take part. *****First session Tuesday 9.2.21*****

Carlos' Coffee Club A new opportunity for anyone over 60 to be part of an online group.

When Tuesday mornings fortnightly

Where online via Zoom

Time from 10.30am to 11.30am

Each fortnight along with the chance to catch up with others whilst sharing a coffee, there will be a guest speaker. If you would like to join, but are uncertain of the technicalities of using Zoom, practical help is available to guide you through the process. All you need is either a mobile phone, tablet, computer or laptop and we can help sort the rest.

Interested? Email Judith at wolvesdy@gmail.com for more details on how to participate.

*****First session Tuesday 2.2.21*****

Mission and Outreach

The Food Collection: 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 Mass at SS Peter & Paul. This week's donations have been delivered to local families via Stratton St Methodist Church. In addition to cereal, UHT milk, tins of meat/fish/vegetables/fruit/rice pudding/custard etc any donations of FRESH FRUIT or VEGETABLES would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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 Mark has been volunteering for the last two weeks so if you need to know more, have a word with him.

If you would like help, then please get in touch with Fr Craig's Parish Office on 01902 452 841

or email stnewmancluster.wmids@rcaob.org.uk

"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.

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.

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

Offertory Collection for Sunday 17th January 2021

	SS Peter & Paul	St Michael	St Bernadette	Second Collection:
Non-Gift Aid	86.50	170.21	340.35	
Gift Aid	300.00	32.00	8.00	

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Rose Catch, Paul Green, Dr Biswanath Dey, 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, 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: Patricia Byrne, 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

*These parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered as a charity
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What is the Sunday of the Word of God?

Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, with the Apostolic Letter in the form of a *Motu proprio* "Aperuit illis" issued on 30 September 2019. The Pope intended it to be a day dedicated to the celebration, reflection and dissemination of the Word.

We are also in Christian Unity Week, which is a reminder that through our common Baptism we share in our reverence of the Word of God in the Bible.

The American Bishops Conference has a useful guide to the Bible on their website showing how we are called to take an intelligent, spiritual approach to the Bible.

Listed here are 10 points they give for fruitful Scripture reading.

1. **Bible reading is for Catholics.** The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. Reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to in himself.
2. **Prayer is the beginning and the end.** Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.
3. **Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition.** A Catholic edition will include the Church's complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic edition will have an *imprimatur* notice on the back of the title page. An *imprimatur* indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.
4. **The Bible isn't a book. It's a library.** The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.
5. **Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't.** The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.
6. **The sum is greater than the parts.** Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after – even in other books – helps us to understand the true meaning of the text.
7. **The Old relates to the New.** The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God's plan for human beings.
8. **You do not read alone.** By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God's Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.
9. **What is God saying to me?** The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?
10. **Reading isn't enough.** If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective." (Hebrews 4:12).