



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of our academic year is not how we envisaged when we started out on our school journey on the 2nd September 2019. Every aspect of school life has been disrupted – not least those students who had been preparing for their GCSE's or 'A' level exams. From a Catholic Life point of view we were unable to complete our usual liturgical and prayer services that we had planned for Lent in preparation for the great feast of Easter. However, through the modern technology that we now have we have been able to maintain our links to our families and friends, our school and our church. Praying together as a member of all these groups we belong to has been made possible by the live streaming of mass and other resources for prayer and reflection that have been made available to us. Communication between us can take many forms and I would like to share with you this uplifting blessing for us from those who cannot communicate verbally but use Makaton signing:

<https://youtu.be/va048-XxFTI>

As we approach the end of term CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) have produced a National Assembly for all children in our country. The theme of the assembly is for our summer to be a 'TIME OF HOPE'. Please take the time to share this with your children:

<https://youtu.be/Fk8XTLhvL0s>

We have all been finding new ways of living our day to day lives over the last few months as we stayed at home. Looking after ourselves and our families has been paramount to this and trying to find a way to pray has been encouraged by our priests and bishops as a way to strengthen our faith. We have looked to those within the Church who already live a life of quiet and prayer in contemplative religious orders to give us an insight on how we could use their experience to help us. The Carmelite Order is one of these and they have shared ways in which we could use staying at home in a positive way to renew ourselves.





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As we slowly begin to return to our normal way of living their thoughts on prayer is one that we should consider taking with us:

The only thing that can sustain life in every situation, including adversity, is prayer. St Teresa of Avila said, "Even though I come to it last, it is the main thing." Praying means opening up to the Other who can support me when I need help; but when I am fine, prayer also means supporting others who need my help. Prayer is the most universal experience of Love. Pray, talk with God; the time will go by without your realising it. Talk to him about everything, he never gets tired of listening to you. Pour out your heart to him whenever you need to, and... let him pour out his heart to you! He is your Father, your Brother, your Friend. Put your faith and trust into action. If the last time you talked to God was when you made your First Communion, try it again now, when you have the time and opportunity to have a conversation with him. Perhaps you don't believe it because you've never tried. Why not give it a go now?



Pope Francis's prayer intention for July is for the family. Let us join our prayers with his in this uncertain time:

https://youtu.be/xOpi_cx1KRl

Over the last few months special Masses have been celebrated for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff every Thursday at 7pm from a different Cathedral each week. These have now concluded. The homilies given by each Bishop at these masses can be listened to on the links below:

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/cardinal-we-pray-for-healthcare-workers-quiet-heroes-of-todays-epic-struggle> - Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Diocese of Westminster, 23/4/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/bishop-know-that-christ-jesus-is-with-you-and-in-you-in-all-you-do> - Bishop Richard Moth, Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, 30/4/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/presence-of-god-found-in-the-loving-kindness-of-healthcare-staff-carers-and-citizens> – Bishop Marcus Stock, Diocese of Leeds, 7/5/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/bishop-when-the-pandemics-over-we-need-to-rethink-and-change-our-lives> - Bishop Robert Byrne, Diocese of Hexam & Newcastle, 14/5/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/bishop-praises-hidden-work-of-cleaners-shop-and-transport-workers-and-volunteers> - Bishop Mark Davies, Diocese of Shrewsbury, 21/5/2020



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<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/key-workers-hailed-new-icons-of-esteem-by-bishop>

Bishop Terence Drainey, Diocese of Middlesbrough, 28/5/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/bishop-arnold-think-globally-post-pandemic-about-the-care-we-have-for-each-other> - Bishop John Arnold, Diocese of

Salford, 4/6/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/nottingham-nhs-mass-covid19> - Bishop Patrick McKinney, Diocese of

Nottingham, 11/6/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/abp-longley-nhs-mass-180620> - Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archdiocese of Birmingham, 18/6/2020

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/bishop-alan-hopes-praises-actions-of-front-line-workers>

Bishop Alan Hopes, Diocese of East Anglia, 25/6/2020



<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/a-real-thank-you-to-the-nhs-involves-proper-funding> - Archbishop John Wilson, Archdiocese of Southwark, 2/7/2020

Catholic Churches all over the country opened their doors once again for people to attend mass in person once again. In the link below, we are able to hear from Fr. Christopher Whitehead, a parish priest in Bath, what this was like from the perspective of a priest:

<https://youtu.be/AYCH5rjWgxU>

Although churches are now open for public worship, mass each day and every Sunday continue to be streamed live from St. Chad's Cathedral and here is the link to access these:

www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Redemptorist Publications also continue to make Sunday mass available online after 12 midday every Saturday. Mass is celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R from the Redemptorist community in Chawton, Hampshire.

www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online

For information on what's going on in our local parish community in Erdington here is a link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/07/Bulletin-15th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-12-July-2020.pdf>



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Gospel Reflection – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 13:24-43



The Jewish people believed that the coming of the Kingdom of God would be one of strength, of power and authority. The way in which Jesus tried to demonstrate these attributes during his public ministry was not what they had envisaged. Jesus spoke and taught in parables to reveal his message not to conceal it. In today's gospel we have a series of parables that Jesus uses to try and illustrate what the Kingdom of Heaven

is like. Feeling safe and secure is a basic human need and is something that we are looking for at this time in the world's history. We can find this in our faith – just as the birds find shelter in the branches of the mustard tree so we can find shelter in the Kingdom of Heaven.



CALLING ALL STUDENTS TO PRAYER!

Even those close to Jesus needed help with how to pray! His disciples asked him to teach them and he said when you pray, say this:



*Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen*

The Hail Mary is our prayer when we ask Mary to intercede for us:

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

A prayer we can pray in praise of God each day:

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be
world without end. Amen*