



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

Easter Sunday is the most important feast in the Church's year as it celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and with it the Salvation and Redemption of us all. However, the celebration of the Church is not just confined to Easter Sunday. The Easter Season continues for the next six weeks giving us time to reacquaint ourselves with the Resurrection story and the appearances of the risen Jesus in the Gospels. We are able to reflect on the readings from the Acts of the Apostles where we see the apostles growing in strength as they begin to fully understand the teaching of Jesus during his ministry among them.

As Catholics we try to capture that early excitement and enthusiasm that the early Christians must have felt and how faith and belief can be applied to our world now. Traditionally the Pope addresses the world with his 'Urbi et Orbi' – 'To the City and the World' message on Easter Sunday. This year given the situation the world is facing it was delivered to an empty St. Peter's Square in Rome, when normally it is packed with pilgrims from across the world. In his address where he spoke about how the lives of millions around the world have suddenly changed he said:

'This is not a time for indifference....
This is not a time for self-centredness.....
This is not a time for division.....
This is not a time for forgetfulness....'

Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi Message, 12th April 2020

You can read the full 'Urbi et Orbi' address in this link:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20200412_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



Music can be something that can help us with prayer and reflection. We all have songs or hymns that mean something to us. They can remind us of a person, a place or a time in our lives. Andrea Bocelli the celebrated Italian tenor has performed from the deserted Duomo di Milano that was broadcast on Easter Sunday. Here are two links – the first one is a brief introduction to the *Music for Hope* performance, which he gave as a prayer for us at this time. The second is his rendition of Amazing Grace:

[https://youtu.be/ll6nH5- J3c](https://youtu.be/ll6nH5-J3c)

<https://youtu.be/bpXwOSHTwsY>

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/2020/04/Bulletin-2nd-Sunday-of-Easter-19-April-20.pdf>

As a reminder Mass each day and every Sunday can be live streamed from St. Chad's Cathedral at:

www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

You can register for a more child friendly Sunday mass at the CAFOD website by following this link:

<https://cafodsouthwales.wordpress.com/2020/03/28/staying-connected-for-mass-and-childrens-liturgy-through-coronavirus-new-links-added/>



Gospel Reflection – Third Sunday of Easter – Luke 24:13-35

The Eucharist is about giving thanks. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus, which is the gift of himself.

Up until now the risen Jesus had revealed himself to people we know well from the gospels – Mary of Magdala, the disciples in the upper room, Thomas and to Peter and John. These are important figures in the history of the Church, however the revelation on the Road to Emmaus perhaps eclipses all the others as it confirms that the message of Salvation that Jesus brought from God the Father is for all of us no matter who we are. Each one of us regardless of status can recognise our Saviour in the Eucharist, just as these two disciples – unknown to us – recognised him when he “took the bread and said the blessing; then broke it and handed it them”.



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



At this time of illness throughout world let us pray together:

God of hope, love and mercy,
united in prayer with our global family,
we ask for quick control of the virus that is spreading in our world.

We pray for our sisters and brothers who are affected,
especially those in poor communities without healthcare.

Heal the sick, give eternal life to those who have died
and console families who have lost loved ones.

Help governments and health authorities
to make wise decisions for the good of everyone.

We pray that medicine for the sickness will be quickly found.

Hold us all in your merciful love. Amen.

Based on a prayer from the Bishops of Africa and Madagascar

CAF+D
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development