



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



## St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

Our lives have become very different over the last few months. The things that are actually important in life have perhaps become more apparent to us. As Catholics our usual rhythm of the year that we are used to in the seasons of Lent and Easter has been disrupted in a way that we thought was impossible. Churches have been closed. Our access to the sacraments, priests and ministers has been severely reduced. People have had to postpone events such as baptisms and weddings. Sadly, funeral services have had to be curtailed with limited numbers able to attend and pay their respects to loved ones. However, what we have discovered is that the essence of what the Church is has not been lost because the Spirit of the Church is active within each of us.

Our Easter season has now come to an end as we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit – the Advocate that Jesus had promised would give the apostles the strength to continue the spreading of his message to every corner of the earth. That same Holy Spirit is still present with us today and is alive and well in the Church within the people of God. If we have learnt anything as Catholics in this present world crisis surely it is that our collective prayers and thoughts for each other demonstrate in a very real way the words of the Psalm in the Mass of Pentecost, ‘Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth’.

The first tentative discussions on how to reopen our Churches has begun. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has recently talked about this in a recent interview. You can hear his thoughts in the following link:

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/cardinal-nichols-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer>

Our prayers for those who have suffered from the effects of the pandemic continue. Let us join those prayers with those of Pope Francis, which we can hear in the link below:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco\\_pregchiere\\_20200425\\_preghiera-mariana-maggio.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco_pregchiere_20200425_preghiera-mariana-maggio.html)



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Our 'One World Together in Prayer' theme continues with the prayer to the Holy Spirit translated into Portuguese, Spanish and French. Thanks once again to Ms. Egan for preparing this for us. Also thanks to Mrs. Glogowska for preparing the rosary for us in Polish. Both are attached to this email.

The Masses for the sick on Thursday evenings at 7pm continue this Thursday 28th May from St. Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. The celebrant this week will be Bishop Terence Drainey and can be found on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrHHOTIoR8TPdwQEC8IIPVw>

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/2020/05/Bulletin-7th-Sunday-of-Easter-24-May-2020.pdf>

## Gospel Reflection – Pentecost Sunday – John 20:19-23



Jesus had been preparing his disciples for this moment. However, the disciples were not aware of this until it actually happened. They had just witnessed the savage death of the person they believed had fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament – that he was the Son of God.

John tells us that they had closed themselves in the room as they now were in fear of their own lives. Jesus appears to them and brings calm to their hearts and minds issuing them with their mission from this moment on, 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you', giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit as their strength to carry on spreading the message of Jesus to all peoples in every nation.



*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in  
his consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen*