



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



## St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

Our traditional observance of Lent and celebration of Easter together as a faith community was changed beyond recognition as a result of the pandemic in the world resulting in a new phrase that has now become part of our daily vocabulary – social distancing. Collective worship by definition means being together to pray, to reflect and to praise God. However, despite not being together physically we have discovered that our prayer, our reflection and our praise of God has still been collective through our spiritual connection with each other and our belief that our individual prayer is not alone.

Our Muslim brothers and sisters have just begun their holy month of Ramadan. This is one of the most important months in the Islamic calendar – a time for fasting, spiritual reflection, prayer and spending time with family and friends. Let us pray that during this time of restrictions on being together, that like our experience during Lent and Easter, they may find the holy month of Ramadan one with many graces and blessings.

We have become used to thanking all those who work within the NHS and those involved in caring for the most vulnerable in our communities by standing outside and applauding every Thursday at 8pm. The Church has responded to this appreciation by beginning a series of masses being offered for the sick and those caring for them. Cardinal Vincent Nichols explains in this short message:

<https://youtu.be/WoeOGSHH2J0>

These weekly masses will take place every Thursday at 7pm. The mass this week is from Arundel Cathedral and will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Moth and can be found on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/qZ2VqGgrmJ8>

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

[www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)



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This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Easter also known as Good Shepherd Sunday and is designated as a day when we are asked to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Archdiocese of Birmingham has produced an assembly presentation on vocations, which is attached to this Parentmail. A prayer card is also attached.

Last term our Year 7 students have been receiving the Wednesday Word leaflet to take home each week. The Wednesday Word for this week is attached to this week's parentmail.

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-3rd-Sunday-of-Easter-26-April-2020.pdf>



## Gospel Reflection – Fourth Sunday of Easter – John 10:1-10

In the gospel today, Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples that he is the fulfilment of the prophets. In the Old Testament God is the shepherd. The message Jesus now brings is that he is the shepherd appointed by God of the whole human race. When they didn't understand what he meant Jesus has to be more direct and tells them: **'I am the gate of the sheepfold.'**

We need to recognise his voice and follow him wherever or however we hear it.

## For a Household in Lockdown- Prayers for the Pandemic

God of the indoors,  
Who knew the confines of domestic space  
at a time of little comfort,  
help us in this time of confinement,  
help us to see it as an act of love, in solidarity  
with those who care for us and put their own lives  
on the line for the sake of others.  
Help us to 'make room' for each other, even if the room is scarce,  
help us to find reserves of patience we never knew we had,  
to take offence less easily, to find in our hearts  
an easy apology when we're petulant.  
Help us to be attentive, careful, and thoughtful.  
May we draw deeply from the well  
of our most loving times. Amen

Raymond Friel