



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi. Although the institution of the Eucharist is celebrated during Holy Week at the Last Supper, which is a time when we remember the suffering and death of Jesus, it was felt that another day of thanksgiving to mark the belief that Jesus is present in the bread and wine offered at every mass should be created to celebrate the joyousness of the sacrament. Initially this was a local feast dedicated to the Most Holy Eucharist in Belgium in 1247. In 1264 Pope Urban IV declared that this feast should be celebrated throughout the whole Church. In many countries throughout the world this day is a public holiday with processions of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets as a way to express that the death and resurrection of Jesus was for the salvation of us all.

Thorough preparation underway for the safe re-opening of churches on 15 June

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has welcomed the decision that Catholic churches, that can safely do so, will re-open for individual prayer on 15 June.

Cardinal Nichols hopes people will benefit from the 'sacredness' of our church spaces and describes it as a "great blessing for individuals and for the benefit of all in society, that church doors will again be open to all who long to pray there for the peace and grace we need today."

Cardinal's Full Statement

I am grateful to the Prime Minister for his decision that our churches may now open again for individual prayer. I thank the Secretary of State for Communities, Mr Robert Jenrick and the Minister of State, Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, for their leadership of the Task Force which helped bring about this important step.



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This is a first, measured step in restoring the more normal practice of our faith and will be welcomed by so many, who have waited with great patience since 23 March when our churches were closed, by Government decision, as part of the fight against this pandemic.

I thank everyone for that patience. It is important that every care is taken to ensure that the Guidance given for this limited opening is fully observed, not least by those entering our churches. Our preparation is taking place with thoroughness. Visiting a church for individual prayer, benefitting from the sacredness of that space, can be done safely and confidently.

Not every Catholic Church will be open on 15 June. Local decisions and provision have to lead this process. But it is a great blessing, for individuals and for the benefit of all in society, that church doors will again be open to all who long to pray there for the peace and grace we need today.

This first step enables us to learn and prepare for those that will take us to a fuller use of our churches, for the celebration of Mass and other sacraments. We await that time with deep longing but patient understanding that the protection of the health of our society, especially of the most vulnerable, is a proper cause for caution and care.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone, special Masses are being celebrated for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff every Thursday at 7pm from a different Cathedral each week. This Thursday 11th June Bishop Patrick McKinney will celebrate Mass from St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham and can be found on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/bishoppatrickmckinney>

As a reminder mass each day and every Sunday can be found at:

www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Redemptorist Publications have also made 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/2020/06/Bulletin-The-Most-Holy-Trinity-7-June-2020.pdf>



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Gospel Reflection – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) – John 6:51-58



Jesus is trying to explain to the Jewish people that not only has he been sent by the Father - but that his very life comes from the Father - and that by eating his body in the form of bread we will be raised up to eternal life with the Father through him. St. Paul teaches us that the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ, and that it is this sharing that brings us together as one people under God. By partaking in the Eucharist, we receive the shared life of God himself.



*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot
now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen*

St. Alphonsus



Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore hosts a socially distanced prayer vigil for George Floyd.

Pope Francis has made a statement on racism, which you can view in the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3dz8KQLtg>