

**ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON CHURCHES WITH ST THOMAS BECKET, TARPORLEY UPDATE BULLETIN**  
**WEEKEND OF 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**AND FOLLOWING WEEK**

**Front Page Update**

To help make access easier for people to see we have simplified the Website Front Page and put some of the links into this Bulletin.

**Contacts**

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**General Information**

For the Prayers for making a Spiritual Communion Please Click:

[When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly](#)

For the Month September Prayer Resource Sheet Please Click:

[Prayer Resource for the Month of September](#)

For this Weekend's Reflection Sheet Please Click:

[Reflection Sheet 24 Sunday](#)

**Pope Francis has also prepared two prayers to add to the end of the Rosary for use during this time of pandemic. Please Click:**

[Prayers of Pope Francis to follow the Rosary](#)

**Bishops' Conference of England & Wales' Website:** [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Go to the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales' Front Page for information, videos, meditations and prayers for this time.

**Guidelines for the Celebration of Mass and for Confession**

For your information, below are copied the Guidelines from the Bishops of England & Wales for the Celebration of Mass and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time:

[Guidance for Acts of Worship](#)

[Guidance for Confession June 2020](#)

**Father Louis and Deacon Tony have prepared two Online Holy Hours, which can be accessed by clicking the links below:**

[St Mary's Holy Hour](#) Video

[St Saviour's Holy Hour](#) Video

**Masses can be viewed online, these are some links to help:**

Diocese of Shrewsbury: [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

Walsingham National RC Shrine of Our Lady: [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

Catholic Television Channel: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)

**Volunteers to help with reopening of Churches:** Many thanks to those who have offered already. Please see the notes below in the different Parishes' Sections.

**Deanery Information**

As you are aware Face Coverings have now become Obligatory in Church, except for those who have special Exemption. Please follow the Guidance of the Stewards when coming to Church.

For further details for each of Churches, visit below the:

! **St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels' Information Section**

! **Our Lady & St Bernard's Information Section**

! **St Thomas Beckett, Tarporley Information Section**

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**Suspension of the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays still in place:** The Bishops wish to remind us that the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays is still suspended due to the extraordinary Circumstances we are still in. The Bishops state, that whilst some places may have Mass available, it is up to people themselves whether they feel comfortable coming at this stage. Please see the Bishops of England & Wales' Website: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) explaining the situation.

**Bishops' Guidelines for the Celebration of Mass (Updated) and Confession:** For peoples' information we have now placed links above to the Bishops of England & Wales' Recently Updated Guidance for the Celebration of Mass and Guidance for Confession.

**Funeral Services in Church:** You may be aware that some simple Funeral Services are happening in Church again. Due to the Virus Protection Measures these are capped at 30 people, so this is for immediate family only, or for those they have asked as part of their number. Please don't just turn up or we sadly will not be able to admit you. This same rule applies for Baptisms and Weddings as part of what the Government refers to as 'life cycle ceremonies'.

**Lately Dead:** Please pray for the following who have died recently and for their families: Sheila Galway, Mary Fernandez Hart, Brenda Payas, Laraine Blackburn, Maureen Todd, Veronica Rogers, Graham Poole, Arthur Adamson and Graeme Turner, Alan Lancelot

**Prayers for the Sick:** Please pray for Nora Williams, Lil McDonald, Eileen Jones, Marion Fletcher, Terry Gorman and Mark Wilson who have asked our Prayers

**Diocesan Mission for Catechesis:** A few Parishioners from our Pastoral Area were working with Mr Rueben Purchase from our Diocesan Mission for Catechesis. Rueben is now back at work and the Mission for Catechesis now has its own YouTube channel; you can find it on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgLVgfUIN3HarGh2AP803qA>

Also, for those who were doing the online course this still available. Again, we'll hopefully try and pick this up again when things return to some kind of normality.

**SVP Holiday Home Fundraising Link:** Many of you will know the difference that the SVP Holiday Home in Talacre ha made for families who might not have been able to have a holiday otherwise. With the COVID-19 restrictions the usual Holiday Home Fundraising Activities have not been possible. Therefore the SVP have set up a fundraising page and this can be viewed though the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chesterellesmereportholidayhome>

**Video from St Mary's Church:** A Video of Kathleen Devine singing 'Ave Maria' has been recorded at St Mary's Church and this can be viewed thorough the link below:

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/946d17311b0d29dda5a247c4d37571c220200909201509/bdcdc2190a6ef06c5bfbea68d5bc16a420200909201524/6df25b>

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES UPDATE:** Many thanks to those who have dropped off Collection Envelopes; with some opportunities for paying in cash being available now, if you are passing please put your any Collection Envelopes you may have through either Our Lady's or St Mary's Presbytery Letter Boxes and these can be dealt with. If you would like your new Collection Envelopes, please see the notes in the relevant Parishes Sections. Also, you may consider setting up a Standing Order with the details below. See also the note below in the 'St Saviour & St Mary's Section' if you are a Parishioner there. If anyone from St Thomas Becket Parish in Tarporley would like information about their Collection Envelopes please contact Canon Niall Mullaley on: 0151 355 1255 or email: [parishol@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:parishol@rcchep.co.uk)

**SETTING UP A STANDING ORDER:** We've also been asked by several folk whether they can set up either a Temporary or Permanent Standing Order during the time when our Churches are closed or not easily accessible. This is very kind of people, and this support is greatly appreciated. Our Diocesan Gift Aid Organiser, Mr Mike Russell, that many of you know, can sort out sending a form to you to set this up. Mike's email address is: [Mike.Russell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Mike.Russell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)  
He would be happy to hear from you.

Also an online giving page has been set up by the Diocesan Finance Office through 'InvestMyCommunity.com' for both of our Parishes

The page for **St Saviour and St Mary's Parish** can be found at:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/SsSaviour&MaryGreatSutton&Hooton2159>

The page for **Our Lady & St Bernard's Parish** can be found at:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/ourladyandstbernarddioceseofshrewsbury2137>

If you are visiting us from **St Thomas Becket Parish in Tarporley** where the Regional Dean, Canon Niall Mullaley, has oversight, you can donate to St Thomas' Parish at:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stthomasbeckettarporleydioceseofshrewsbury2181>

As the item mentions, Parishioners will be able to Gift Aid their Online donation. Please note that this will not involve any additional work for Parish Gift Aid Organisers – the Gift Aid will be claimed centrally by the Planned Giving & Gift Aid Service. Parishioners will need to use a password each time they donate – this is created the first time that they make a donation. All donations made by Parishioners are acknowledged by an email from 'InvestMyCommunity'. Please also be aware that donations appear on the bank/credit card statements of the donor with the narrative "Invest My School".

**THANK YOU:** We continue to pray for each other in this time, and thanks again for the many ways of support you have and are showing.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):** Please see the **St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels' Information**, Section and the **Our Lady & St Bernard's Parish** Section below for their Confession Times. At this time we are not able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **St Thomas Beckett, Tarporley Parish** for the time being but hope to have more information soon.

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For people who are not able to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) the Bishops of England & Wales have recommended that people say 'The Perfect Act of Contrition' below until such time as they are able to return to the Sacrament.

## The 'Perfect Act of Contrition':

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy on me."*

**Readings for the Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A:** This weekend's First Reading and Gospel reflect a theme of Forgiveness. As we receive Forgiveness, so we are called to pass it on. The First Reading from the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiasticus sets the scene for us.

The Book of Ecclesiasticus does not appear in the canon of Hebrew Scripture. The book was originally written in Hebrew and was translated into Greek by the author's grandson in 132 BC. The translator speak of his "his grandfather Jesus" and the book is also called 'The Wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach' and is sometimes seen as 'the Book of Sirach'. The Hebrew name 'Yesoshua' or 'Joshua' as we would say in English, means 'God-Saves'; this was translated 'Iesous' in Greek, which became 'Iesus' in Latin eventually becoming 'Jesus' in English'. Our Lord's name 'Jesus' 'Joshua' comes from the Old Testament. Other people who had the name had shown signs of 'God-Saves', Our Lord was to make that name a living thing.

The name 'Ecclesiasticus' is a Latin name meaning 'the Church's book' and may call attention to the fact that the early Christian Church drew from it whereas the Synagogue did not.

In today's passage we can see how the early Christian Church drew on this book, as it is in some ways a 'preview' of the teaching of Christ:

"Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence."

This passage speaks for itself; if we hold on to our resentments, feed them then they will grow and blind us to God's way. If we receive the gift of God's mercy, compassion and forgiveness, then we are called to share this with others. It is God's gift and we are called to share it.

In this light we look at today's Gospel from St Matthew.

Peter asks Jesus about forgiveness: "Peter went up to him and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times."

'Seventy-seven times' in this context was not describing a specific number but rather a way of saying 'multiple times' we might say something like 'umpteen times' today.

To get his point over Jesus tells a story; Jesus made up stories 'parables' to catch peoples' imagination to help them get to the point. When you hear a story you become part of it and 'enter into it'. In this story a servant owes his king a vast amount of money and he will never be able to pay it back; when confronted with this he begs the king for mercy and the king pardons him this vast amount! This servant then meets a fellow servant

who owes him a mere pittance, this man begs for time, but the other does not listen, and has him thrown into prison. When the king hears of this he says to the man he pardoned: "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" This servant is then punished for his selfishness and cruelty.

The message of the story is straightforward, if we receive we are called to share; it is God's gift, not our act. These scripture messages invite us to share a bigger picture. In the Gospel story Jesus made up, the king shares a big vision, he forgives greatly and mightily, with total generosity. The servant who is forgiven does not embrace this vision, he is 'petty' and 'mean'. Very sadly, even in international relations, we are seeing 'pettiness' in peoples' outlooks. This selfish 'petty' view, whether in our own families, our relationships or dealings between peoples and nations can build up walls of self-interest and block the life of God flowing. Forgiveness can be very hard, when things are done to us or to others, it can be very hard to forgive. Here once again, this is a call to share in the heart and vision of God. Forgiveness is not just about putting things back to where they were before 'such and such' happened or feeling a 'warm glow' towards others; it is about an attitude of heart, wanting things to be better. Indeed it may not be possible sometimes to go back to where you were with someone so to speak, but a matter of being open to allow God to build something new. It can also be great when we are the ones who are doing the forgiving, but a different matter when we are the ones who we need to be forgiven! We have all heard the expression: 'I'll never forgive such and such'; again this is not always straightforward or 'one thing or the other' there can be much hurt and pain, and indeed just anger.

This why we all need the gift of God's forgiveness; this forgiveness is more than 'wiping away a sin' it is about redemption. Through his Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Gift of the Holy Spirit Jesus 'redeems us'. He reclaims what was lost and broken and opens it to new life and growth. Just as land that has been polluted and spoiled with effective treatment and care and be reclaimed, and turned into rich and fertile soil that bears all kinds of good and healthy crops, so to our deepest and inner selves our 'Souls' can be reclaimed, forgiven and healed by God's saving act and allow the fruits and God's mercy and compassion to be seen in our lives. This new heart and spirit can call out of what is petty and mean into loving heart of our God. These sound nice words, but in my own way I have experienced them, and I know many of you will have had that grace also. They do call us to want to forgive, make things better; and when we have received that grace of forgiveness and mercy, made present in the Sacraments or in the words and actions of others, it gives us 'new heart' to make them real in our lives.

In today's Second Reading, from the Letter to the Romans, St Paul says: "The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."

This reminds us that all we have and are is God's gift and by God's gift. It is a simple call to live and share what we have received.

Although things are still difficult and uncertain, it is a time when, more than ever, when the generous, loving heart of the Lord is needed to be shared. It is easy to fall into what is 'petty', but today's readings call to look beyond, and see, feel and share with the heart of Christ. As we receive, so we can, and do give. This is about all of us, and we need each other so that playing our part together, that love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness of God in Christ can be alive in and through us.

**Care for 'Our Common Home' the 'Season of Creation' & CAFOD Webinars:** Pope Francis has asked that we keep the time from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi as a 'Season of Creation' a time when we are called to reflect on the care of the Gift of Creation, and the effects this has on peoples' lives, to care for 'Our Common Home'. This is an Ecumenical, worldwide initiative. Please go to the Bishops'

Conference of England & Wales on their Website: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) for information and resources during this time.

Myself, and the small group of people from our Pastoral Area who were seeking to consider how best to put the message of 'Care for Our Common Home' into some action, have not given up on this resolve; it is something more than ever has an urgency in these changing times. In the meantime, the videos on Care for Our Common Home prepared by CAFOD and the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, called 'Global Healing Caring for Our Common Home' and 'Global Caring Living in Harmony with God's Creation' can be easily accessed through: [www.ourcommonhome.co.uk](http://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk)

They contain a message that it's about all of us, and the difference we can really make. Pope Francis continues to express his concerns for the environment and the effect it especially has on the poorest and most vulnerable in our world. Pope Francis encourages us all to do our part because our faith call to see each other and the gift of this world and its resources through the light of God's eyes and with his heart. Again, as above with the Season of Creation, the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales on their Website: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) encourage us all to do our part. Go to the website and check on the various links.

Additional Resources are available through the CAFOD Website ([www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)) and the Fairtrade Foundation Website ([www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)) to see some huge areas of need in our world, and the real difference each one of can make for the better.

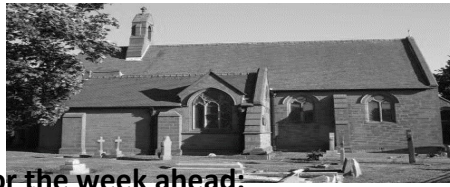
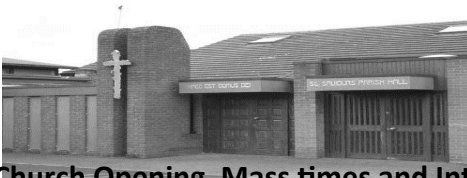
CAFOD have also asked that we let you know about their Webinars. Last week it was a privilege to hare in the Webinar that presented CAFOD's work in Lebanon, Yemen in South Sudan. We do not realise at times what other people in our world have to go through, and these Webinars have certainly open my eyes a little more, but also given hope by sharing the difference we can, and are, making. The next one will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. For information on how to join these Webinars please go to: [www.cafod.org.uk/Give/Major-Giving/Philanthropy-events](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Give/Major-Giving/Philanthropy-events)

**CAFOD Lebanon and Coronavirus Emergency Donations:** A repeat the recent note, that I am sure that you are aware of the terrible explosion in Beirut, the Lebanese capital. Lebanon has been in dire need for years, also having to cope with large numbers of Palestinian and Syrian Refugees, and recently having to deal with COVID-19 with very little resources. There is still ongoing civil tension between different communities, and successive Governments have struggled to keep the country together. This explosion in Beirut has taken many lives, caused injury and devastated homes and livelihoods. Thousands of families are now having to sleep in shattered homes, and also now are exposed to COVID-19. CAFOD have set up and emergency fund, and this can be accessed through: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Prayer Resource for the month of September on the 'Front Page' of the Web Site:** Please see the link above for the Prayer Resources for the month of September from our Diocesan Liturgy Commission

**Livestream from Shrewsbury Cathedral:** Again, from phone and email conversations I know how much people have valued being able to join Bishop Mark for daily Mass and Services at our Cathedral in Shrewsbury through the Livestream. With the opening of the Cathedral for Mass the daily itinerary at the Cathedral has changed. To see the new agenda, go to: [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org) and on the homepage click on 'View Events' and then scroll down to see the itinerary. To join Livestream Services, go back to the 'Welcome – Front Page and click on the 'Livestream' Box, you will then see the "Screen Box', then just click on the 'play' symbol.

**St Saviour & Mary of the Angels' Information**



## **Church Opening, Mass times and Intentions for the week ahead:**

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September:**

10.00am Mass and Devotions at **St Mary's Church**:- Fr Louis Int.

5.00pm Vigil Mass: **St Saviour's Church**:- Sharon Kenny B/day Rem

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September: (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

9.30am Holy Mass: **St Saviour's Church**:- Parishioners

11.30am Mass: **St Mary's Outdoor Mass in field**- *weather permitting*:- The Stanley Family.

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September: (Exaltation of the Holy Cross)**

No Mass or Service

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September: (Our Lady of Sorrows)**

No Mass or Service in the parish

11am: Mass will be offered at Scotland's Marian Shrine, Carfin, for **Mary Fernandez Hart RIP**

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September: (Saints Cornelius & Cyprian)**

No Mass or Service

**St Saviour's Church**:- 7.00pm Rosary and Novena

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September:**

No Mass or Service in the parish

11.15am: Mass will be offered at St Joseph's in Peebles for **Sheila Galway RIP**

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September:**

No Mass or Service

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September:**

10.00am Mass and Devotions at **St Mary's Church**:- Fr Louis Int

5.00pm Vigil Mass: **St Saviour's Church**:- George Bishop RIP

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September: (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

9.30am Holy Mass: **St Saviour's Church**:- Parishioners

11.30am Mass: **St Mary's Outdoor Mass in field**- *weather permitting*:- Thanksgiving

***We recognise that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended, especially for all who are elderly, sick or shielding. However we strongly encourage those who are able to return to attendance at Holy Mass***

### **Changes to Plans and Programme ahead:**

We have taken the decision to move St Mary of the Angels church to the one metre social distancing rule. We will continue to celebrate Masses outdoors at St Mary's throughout September, weather permitting, so you may still wish to bring your own folding chair and umbrella, but we will have the backup of moving indoors if needed.

Under the one metre rule the maximum capacity at St Mary's will be 68 and there are protocols which have to be adhered to. A suitable mask or face covering is compulsory and must be worn and contact details must be



taken for track and trace purposes. There is a new seating layout in church and this will be explained by the stewards upon your arrival. There is a one-way system in place which requires exiting the church via the sacristy at the end of Mass. This one-way system is also used at Communion time and you are asked to remain in your seat until directed by a steward to move forward, after receiving Communion parishioners return to their seats via the sacristy and church grounds. If you are unable to do this please let a steward know and remain in your seat and they will ensure communion is brought to you. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

In St Saviour's Church the one metre social distancing rule continues with a permitted capacity of 101 worshippers.

If you are attending Mass or services at St Saviour's or St Mary's please remember to bring a suitable mask or face covering which must now be worn.

***For your own safety and the wellbeing of others, please do follow any directions given by the stewards or the parish clergy.***

We would like to thank the stewards and coordinators who have worked so hard over the past weeks and continue to work hard to allow Mass and Services to take place safely.

### **Recently Deceased:**

Sheila Galway, Veronica Rogers, Graham Poole, Mary Fernandez Hart, Graeme Turner, Arthur Adamson, Brenda Payas.

Please keep all our recently deceased and their families in your prayers.

### **Baptisms in the Parish**

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September in St Mary of the Angels church, Baby Margaret Anne Leigh was welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September in St Mary of the Angels church, Baby Maurycy Jakub Brzozowski was welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Maggie, Maurycy and their families in your prayers.

Baptism services can once again take place in our churches but with certain restrictions and a limited capacity. For full details please call the Parish office of St Mary Office on 0151 327 6158.

**Parish Finances / Collections:** Weekly planned giving envelopes or cash contributions can be left in the appropriate basket in church which will be located near the exit doors. Also, they may be posted through the doors of either presbytery. Thanks to all who have been supporting the parish at this time.

### **Scotland Pilgrimage/Trip: 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

All those travelling with us should now have received a letter confirming details of the trip. The coach will depart from St Mary's church at 7am on Monday morning and picking up at St Saviour's at 7.15am. We will be stopping at Tebay Services en-route, however due to current guidelines and restrictions it may be advisable to bring a 'packed breakfast.' All parishioners and your intentions will be remembered in the prayers & Holy Masses celebrated by the group.

### **Weekly Parish Bulletin:**

The postal delivery of bulletins has now ceased. However, If you are housebound or continuing to shield, please let us know by contacting the parish office on 0151 327 6158. We will then ensure that you continue to receive the bulletin sheet. If you know of any parishioner in this situation and not currently receiving this bulletin who would wish to do so, please do let us know.

***If you need to speak to the clergy regarding any concern, requests for ministry or area of need please call the Parish office of St Mary Office on 0151 327 6158.***

With our continued prayers & support.



### The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth**

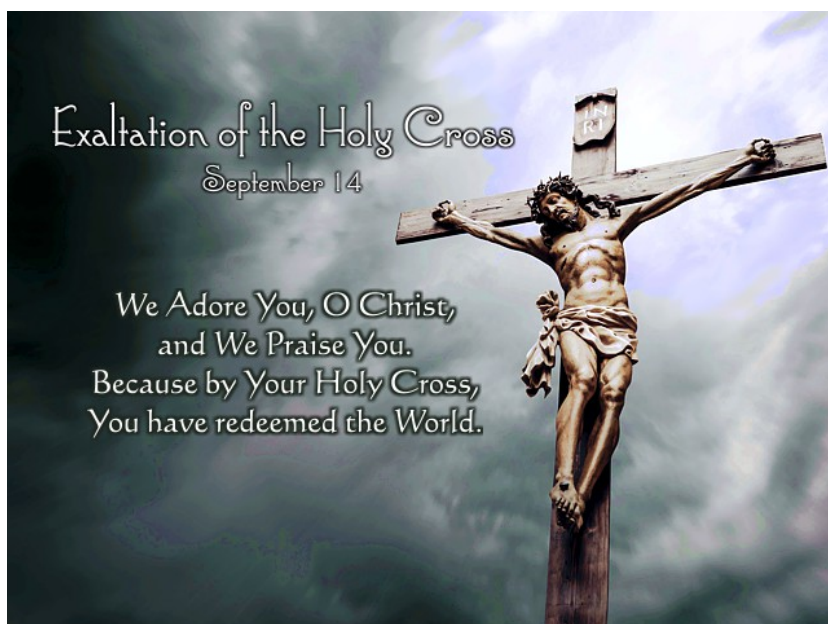
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, *(all bow)***

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.**



## **Our Lady & St Bernard's Information**

**Mass at Our Lady's:** Many thanks again to all who helped in enabling us to open for Mass at Our Lady's. We now have two Masses on a Sunday Morning, at 9.30am and 11.00am and then, generally speaking, one in the week at 12.noon on Fridays; Masses on other days will continue to be private Masses.

As we move into the autumn weeks we may have to review what we are able to do and 'cut the cloth to fit' so to speak. Towards the end of September I am hoping that we may be able to restore the Saturday Evening Vigil Mass. Due to the fact that some of our Stewards will have to go back to work and their commitments we may have to curtail some of our weekday celebrations so as to free the available Stewards for Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms. Obviously the more Stewards we have, the more we will be able to provide, so once again I would draw your attention to the note below entitled '**Urgent Request for help at Our Lady's with Stewarding and Cleaning!**' Please keep checking the Service Times information. At present, for their own well-being we are still not allowed to invite those who are over 70 to act as Stewards, though the Bishops of England & Wales are seeking clarity on this, and hope it may change soon it is hoped that this may change. The over 70's may carry out other roles provided we have done a 'Risk Assessment' and that this has been approved.

Please, as not everyone has access to the internet, if you could pass this information on to anyone who might be asking about Masses restarting in Our Lady's, this would be greatly appreciated.

For the time being we will not be able to hold services in St Bernard's for the immediate future; I'll say a little more about this, and the Mass arrangements below. So for this week the Public and Private Mass intentions will be:

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September (The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

- 9.30am Mass in Our Lady's Church: Parishioners
- 11.00am Mass in Our Lady's Church: Priest's Intention

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross) - Private Mass – Mary-Anne Delaney Intention**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September - (Our Lady of Sorrows) – No Mass today**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September (Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian) - Private Mass – Mark Wilson Intention**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September - Private Mass – Richard Murphy**

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

- 12.noon Mass in Our Lady's Church: Private Intention

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

- No Mass during the day

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September (The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

- 9.30am Mass in Our Lady's Church: Parishioners

– 11.00am Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Priest’s Intention

**Mass Times Sheet in Our Lady’s Church:** There is a sheet available to take with you listing Mass and Service Times in Our Lady & St Bernard Parish on the front and St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels’ Parish on the other side.

**Celebration of Mass in Our Lady’s Church:** It is good that we have at least been able to have limited public Mass again in Our Lady’s. As with other Churches we have had to put the Safety Measures in place as directed by the Government.

You may be aware that the Government has now stated that, **the wearing of face coverings for those attending Church is now obligatory** excluding those who have a special exemption. In this light, at Our Lady’s we have now gone to the one metre plus rule, enabling us to accommodate 78 people at each Mass. This also means that we have gone to ‘Option Two’ of the Bishops’ Guidance for the distribution of Holy Communion. This means that the Priest only will receive Holy Communion at the usual Time, he will then say the Concluding Prayer, Blessing and Dismissal. He will then put on a face covering, sanitise his hands and then the Stewards will guide people up for Holy Communion; once you have received the Sacred Host in your hand and consumed it, please leave the Church and do not return to your place. **Please, to help us, we ask that you that you lower your face covering before the Priest puts the Sacred Host in your hand and then to consume the Sacred Host before moving off, and not walk away with it in your hand.** We have seen people almost at the door before consuming the Host; we realise that people are just trying to do the right thing and keep things moving, but do ask that you just take a moment to receive the Sacred Host reverently before moving off.

The measures that we have in place are temporary and emergency ones that have enabled us to reopen for Mass. These are not something we have just thought up here, they are part of the measures the Bishops of England & Wales have agreed with the Government authorities that have enabled us to reopen. I would draw your attention to the link above marked ‘**Guidelines for the Celebration of Mass and for Confession**’ and click on the links below for the Bishops’ Guidelines that we are obliged to follow.

I know one of these measures that is very difficult is receiving Holy Communion at the end of Mass and going straight out at Our Lady’s. This not about giving time for the Church to be cleaned. The Bishops of England & Wales’ guidelines, which you can view above, asks that we do not prolong the Celebration of Mass so as to lessen the time people may be exposed to infection. Now that we have gone to one metre+ at Our Lady’s, and with us almost up to full capacity at each Mass, if we were to give Holy Communion at the usual time and allow people to go back to their places this would add about another 10 to 15 minutes to the Mass, and would also involves people having to make contact with others whilst moving out and coming back, thus increasing the possibility of passing on infection. Also the end of Mass might involve a larger group of people ‘clogging together’ at the exit. When we had the smaller number at first this was easier to manage, but now the larger numbers make what are now doing a safer option.

The COVID-19 Virus is still around and is sadly on the increase again as we have seen; it is a real and dangerous threat that we have to take seriously. Nobody wants these measures we are having to take, and we all long for things to be back to normal, **but in this situation these Temporary and Emergency Measures are necessary to help keep everyone as safe as possible.** Please, we ask your continued patience and understanding so we can help each other through this time. Thank you so much for all everyone is doing, it does make a real difference and is greatly appreciated.

As we have said above, the Virus is still about, and sadly cases are once again on the rise, so once you leave Church we have been asked to remind you that you are strongly advised, for everyone’s safety, not to remove your face coverings and have a chat in groups. It’s been a long time, and it’s natural to want see old friends

again, but do please keep the safe distance and do not linger as it is thought this is one of the factors that has seen a rise in COVID-19 cases again.

As before, the Entrance is only through the main door on Enfield Road, opposite the Restaurant. On entry the Stewards will guide you to sanitise your hands and a Steward with a clipboard will ask your name and a contact number. This is to cover us with the Government's 'Track & Trace' to prevent the spread of the virus. If on your own, all you need say is, for example "Mr Jones, 07123 456789" or if coming with the family, for example someone might say "Mrs Smith plus three, 07123 456789". These sheets will be kept for 21 days only, then shredded. Mass will be shorter, and there will be no collection during Mass, but as you leave there will be collection baskets by the door to place any offerings in without having to pass anything to anyone.

Rather than a long list of 'dos' and 'don'ts' which will put folk off, it's easier to sum up by saying:

**! PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE PRIEST AND THE STEWARDS AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY ON ARRIVAL AND LEAVING**

Once again, sorry if this all sounds a great deal of 'palaver'; these restrictions have been agreed by the Bishops of England & Wales and the Government Health Advisors to minimise the risk of spreading the virus and keeping people safe. Following these procedures has enabled us to reopen for Mass.

During Mass me (Father Niall) and the Stewards will guide you. When Mass is finished you will be asked to leave through the Car Park Door.

**Please note also that, again because of Infection Prevention Regulations, we are unable to open the Toilets for these times. Please take this into consideration before coming out**

**Also, please note that if you are shielding, or in a vulnerable category of any kind, it would be unwise for you to come to Church until all restrictions are lifted. *This is for your own protection and well-being. The Coronavirus is still around, and this is part of the measures to minimise the risk***

**Again, just to remind you, that the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended, so if for any reason you do not feel able to come please don't worry. You may wish to come during the week when this is available or join in spiritually through a livestream link.** Even if we seem to be praying alone, in Christ we are never alone.

All that being said, it is lovely to welcome you back to Our Lady's Church for Mass!

As I've said before, although we are pleased that some are able to open for Mass, some other of our Parishes in our West Cheshire Deanery, we are having to proceed a little more slowly until the necessary measures are in place and approved. Also, as we have mentioned, due to the difficulties of setting up and maintaining Infection Protection Measures, it will not be possible to open St Bernard's for the immediate future. Please be assured that St Bernard's will eventually reopen, and we look forward greatly to that day.

**Confessions in Our Lady's Church:** As you can see from the 'Guidelines for Confession' linked above this is not just a matter of opening up the Confessionals again! We have been holding Confessions on Fridays from 11.00am to 11.30am. This is on the left hand side looking up, of the Altar. Please be careful coming up the steps, there will be a reversed kneeler two metres from the priest. Please stand if you are able, but do please sit if you need to. If you do, a steward will have to wipe down the seat after you; this is no problem, but if you are the next in the queue, please wait for the steward to do this. The priest will look away, for those who wish to be anonymous, but if you want to say your name, he will turn to face you. If you cannot make Fridays we will try to do a request on Sundays, but please note that the time between Masses is occupied, but we will try do what we can. Do please give us a call on: 0151 355 1255 between 9.00am to 4.00pm on weekdays if you can, if you want to arrange something. Sorry if this sound complicated but we are having to work within

certain restrictions. Please also check the Service Times information as we might not be able to provide this option every Friday.

**Urgent Request for help at Our Lady's with Stewarding and Cleaning!:** As I have said before, it is due to the hard work of our cleaners and stewards that we have been able to reopen for Private Prayer and Mass. **We desperately need more help to keep this going.** If you feel you can help please call: 0151 355 1255 or email: [parishol@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:parishol@rcchep.co.uk)

**Weekday Masses and Services at Our Lady's:** As I have been saying, it has only been through the generous support of our Stewards and Cleaners that we have been able to reopen. Once again, a big 'thank you' to those who have recently volunteered to help as Stewards and, or Cleaners, and continued thanks to all have kept things going over these last few weeks. As I have said above, now that our Schools are going back, some of our Stewards involved in Schools and Education will no longer be available during the week. This will affect our ability to offer Services in the week, so I do draw your attention to the request for people to act as stewards, especially in the week. The Stewards are also helping with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals in Church. We do not advertise these as they are number restricted to family and invited guests only. **We are having to 'cut the cloth to fit' so to speak** and that is why would again draw you attention to the note above entitled '**Urgent Request for help at Our Lady's with Stewarding and Cleaning!**'

**Our Lady & St Bernard's Collection Envelopes:** As we have said above, a few people have been asking their Collection Envelopes. We have these ready, and if you would like yours please call Our Lady's on: 0151 355 1255 during Office Hours 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday or email: [parishol@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:parishol@rcchep.co.uk) and we can arrange collection.

**Our Lady & St Bernard's Tote Situation:** The gentleman, John, who has run the Tote at Our Lady & St Bernard for a while now, quite understandably, feels that is now time for him to stand down from this role. Our grateful thanks go to John for the hard work he has done in keeping the Tote running for so long. John has said that if anyone feels they could take on this role, then he would be happy to talk this through with them and show them what was involved. If anyone felt they could take on this role, or would to find out more information, please call us on: T: 0151 355 1255, E: [parishol@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:parishol@rcchep.co.uk)  
If no one can take this on, we will wind up the Tote and arrange refunds for anyone who has already paid funds in.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Please pray for Nora Williams, Lil McDonald and Mark Wilson who have asked our Prayers

### **St Thomas Becket Tarporley Information**

Welcome if you are joining us from St Thomas Becket Parish in Tarporley. As I said before that I, Canon Niall Mullaley, was sorry that as the final Lockdown came very quickly I was not able to get any information prepared for you. I have also been very limited as to when I could go out. As the situation is a little better I have been to see Father Joe to talk about the best way forward. Thank you to the Tarporley Parishioners who have been in touch with me; do please call or email if there is anything I can help. If you have emailed me and not yet received a response, I do kindly ask your patience and I will get back to you. These days have been busier than we imagined and time does seem to be flying past. If it's been a while, do please send me a reminder. Thank you.

**Update on the Opening of St Thomas Becket for Worship and Private Prayer:** As we said last week, that many of you will be aware that, with the necessary completion of Risk Assessments, and the appropriate facilities and stewarding being in place, that some Churches are open again for Mass and Prayer. You will see from the 'Guidelines for Mass' on the Front Page that this is not just a matter of opening the doors and setting up as before!

A group of us are working with Father Joe towards a simple Celebration of Mass towards the end of September or early October. To do this a Risk Assessment and safe seating plan are being prepared. To enable this to happen we do need people willing to act as Stewards. Thanks to those who have already, volunteered and given me their contact details. If anyone else would be willing to act as a Steward could you please contact me here, or leave your name and details with our Secretary. Please call us on T: 0151 355 1255 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm if possible) or E: [parishol@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:parishol@rcchep.co.uk) and we can get this set up.

Below, for the meantime, I'm just listing the Websites for the neighbouring Chester Parishes with information of when they might be open for Private Prayer and the Celebration of Mass:

- ! **St Werburgh's, Chester:** [www.stwerburghchester.co.uk](http://www.stwerburghchester.co.uk)
- ! **St Francis, Chester:** [www.stfrancischester.co.uk](http://www.stfrancischester.co.uk)
- ! **St Columba & St Theresa, Chester:** [www.stcolumbachester.wordpress.com](http://www.stcolumbachester.wordpress.com)
- ! **St Clare's, Lache, Chester:** [www.stclares.co.uk](http://www.stclares.co.uk)

**Donations to St Thomas Becket Parish:** I have been asked about how to make donations to the Parish at this time. Please feel free to get in touch with me or go to the 'Setting up a Standing Order' Section above and either contact Mr Mike Russell or follow the link for St Thomas Becket Parish.