



St Joseph's Catholic Church
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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Fifth Sunday of Lent 29.03.2020

The church is closed and there are no public Masses until further notice. I am

desperately sad about this but it was in the end unavoidable. I will continue to offer private Mass daily for all the people.

Information on parish website

www.stjosephscarterton.uk. I will give Holy Communion and hear Confessions at church (briefly) if you let me know when, or at your home (briefly) respecting 2 metre rule. I am available to be contacted by email or telephone (email preferred): 01993-842463 andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com and the following email and telephone number of John Brennan is a 'clearing house' for requests for help of all kinds: 07725 732981 john.brennan621@btinternet.com Finally, **priests are no longer able to visit hospitals:** tell me BEFORE ADMISSION if possible and I will administer sacraments at home.

***Prayer for England.** O blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen

Please pray for those who have died: Kevin Southwood, Anne Rooney, Esme Lyons, Janet Mansell, Mateo Bantug, Allan Tomkins, Phil Hocknell, Bridget Valentine, Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Christopher Murphy, Joan Clements.

Anniversaries: Dick & Jessie Turner, Irene Murphy, Jim Fleming, Ernest Walters, Isabela & Andrew Pinto, William & Doris Statham.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Angela Overton, Kate Gargan, Pat Hay, Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Peter Doran, Lukasz Konieczny, Brendan Reynolds, Marie Whelan, Brendan Farrow, Phil Rice, Loretta Walcott, Natalia Romanek, John Middleton, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Bernadette Lewis, Ann Heaton, Monica Owen, Marie Drew.

***Live streaming of Mass.** To watch Mass from Corpus Christi, Headington, Oxford, visit: www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/oxfordshire Scroll down past the adverts to 'live streaming' and click the Headington picture.

***Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary** O Holy Mother of God, pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your 'yes' at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that "the Word was made flesh and lived among us." May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our sisters and brothers in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Rededication on Sun 29 March.*

***Please pray for Olive Harcourt who has died in hospital and for Margaret Murphy's son, Christopher, who died suddenly.**

***Memorial garden.** Access during hours of daylight. Can be visited and used for prayer.

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (A) 29.03.2020

First reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I shall raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. ¹³ And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people, ¹⁴ and put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Second reading Romans 8:8-11

Those who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. ⁹ Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. Indeed, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ, you would not belong to him. ¹⁰ Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; ¹¹ and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead has made his home in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel John 11:1-45

¹ There was a man named Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha, and he was ill. ² It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. ³ The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' ⁴ On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death, but it is for God's glory so that through it the Son of God may be glorified.'

⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ yet when he heard that he was ill he stayed where he was for two more days ⁷ before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go back to Judaea.'

⁸ The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews were trying to stone you; are you going back there again?' ⁹ Jesus replied:

Are there not twelve hours in the day? No one who walks in the daytime stumbles, having the light of this world to see by; ¹⁰ anyone who walks around at night stumbles, having no light as a guide. ¹¹ He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is at rest; I am going to wake him.'

¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is at rest he will be saved.' ¹³ Jesus was speaking of the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep'; ¹⁴ so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe.

But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Then Thomas -- known as the Twin -- said to the other disciples, 'Let us also go to die with him.'

¹⁷ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. ¹⁸ Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, ²² but even now I know that God will grant whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

²⁵ Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live, ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

²⁷ 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' ²⁹ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him.

³⁰ Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him.

³¹ When the Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³² Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who had come with her, Jesus was greatly distressed, and with a profound sigh he said, ³⁴ 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus wept; ³⁶ and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' ³⁷ But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man. Could he not have prevented this man's death?' ³⁸ Sighing again, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day since he died.' ⁴⁰ Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took the stone away. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. ⁴² I myself knew that you hear me always, but I speak for the sake of all these who are standing around me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.

⁴³ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with strips of material, and a cloth over his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what he did, believed in him.

Homily for 29.03.2020

‘this is a crisis in which the inconceivable can become inevitable inside a week.’