

**Saint Wulstan & Saint Thomas of Canterbury**  
Vale Road, Stourport-on-Severn

**The Holy Family Church**  
High Street, Bewdley



St. Wulstan & St. Thomas of Canterbury  
Stourport on Severn

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Richard Sharples  
The Presbytery, 32 Vale Road, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs., DY13 8YL

**Deacons:** Revv. John O'Brien & Pat Duffy (emeritus)

**Telephone :** 01299 822633

**E-mail :** fr.richard.sharples@rcaob.org.uk

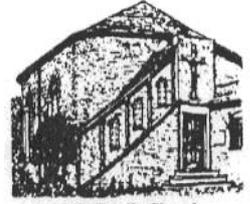
**Parish Office :** stwulstan.stourport@rcaob.org.uk

**Safeguarding:** sg.stwulstan.stourport@rcaob.org.uk

**Baptisms:** By appointment

**Website:** [www.stwulstanstourport.org.uk](http://www.stwulstanstourport.org.uk)

Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216



Holy Family Church  
Bewdley

Sunday Lectionary  
Year A  
Weekdays Cycle 2

***Fourth Sunday of Lent***  
*Mothering Sunday*

**22nd March**  
**2020**  
**Psalter Week 4**

Dear Parishioners,

Due to restrictions imposed on us by the Coronavirus Pandemic there will **NO CHURCH SERVICES** until further notice. This does not mean that we have to "shut up shop", but we will have to be a different sort of Church for the duration of the crisis. We may even learn how to better care for one another in this world where so many people already feel isolated and alone.

**Holy Family Church** will be open during the day, as usual, including 8.00 am on Sunday. Fr Richard has expressed a wish that **St Wulstan's** should be open for at least a short period every day and we are looking at ways in which that can be achieved. For this weekend we will open the Church at our regular service times, as requested by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and agreed with Fr Richard. This weekend **St Wulstan's** will be open for **PRIVATE PRAYER** on Saturday 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm, Sunday 10.00 am - 11.00 am and Monday 10.00 am - 10.30 am.

Cardinal Nichols, in his **public letter**, says "...in these emergency circumstances ... the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed". Do, please, read the letter from the Cardinal, either by finding it online or picking up a copy from the back of Church when you visit.

If you do come along at these times please be sure to follow **good hygiene practices** and keep a **sensible distance** from other parishioners to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. If you pick up a newsletter or any other information please **take it away** with you; do not leave it lying around for someone else to pick up.

We will attempt to keep everyone up to speed with developments, either by email, via the website or on noticeboards. The internet is a great resource at a time like this. You can click on a **live streamed Mass** or use the resources on the various **Catholic websites** to maintain your prayer life. Some suggestions are included in this newsletter and we will attempt to provide other ideas each week.

If you don't have access to the internet remember there are resources like **Bible Alive** where you can read the scriptures and pray every day if you want to. Church services are also **broadcast on TV**, especially on Sundays. And there is religious content on the **radio**.

Helping each other at this difficult time is part of what it means to belong to the Church and show God's love for one another. **Pick up the phone** and call your friends to check they are okay. Consider setting up a **'Whats App'** group with church friends on your mobiles so you can keep in touch easily and see what everyone else is up to. You can use **Facebook** as well, of course.

Please remember to **pray** for those who are ill and for those who look after them; check on your neighbours or anyone who you know who is incapacitated, and perhaps offer to bring shopping or collect medicines, if required. With every blessing, *Deacon John*

**A Message from Fr Richard:**

Many thanks to Mark, Angela and Deacon John for preparing this newsletter and to everyone who is helping out in the parish. Thank you all for bearing with us at this difficult time. During this time of no public Masses I will be celebrating Mass every day here at Boarbank Hall and will do so for your Mass intentions. Please continue to hand in your Mass intentions to the parish office so they can be forwarded for me to say.

Let's look after one another. I will certainly be praying for you. *Fr Richard*

**If you need a Priest urgently during Fr Richard's absence please contact Fr Lamb on 01562 822839**

## Light a Candle of Hope - A National Day of Prayer and Action

has been announced for **22nd March at 7:00pm** by the presidents of Churches Together in England. They wrote: "*At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds. Therefore, at 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.*" Wherever you are in the world, we invite you to join with us in prayer to see an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

## Parish News

**Gift Aid Envelopes** for 2020/21 have arrived. If you use gift aid envelopes for your weekly donation please collect your named pack from the back of Church. If you are a tax payer and would like to join the scheme please email the parish office.

**Easter Raffle:** will still go ahead, possibly with a revised draw date. In the meantime please return your stubs and money (£5/ book) by putting in an envelope and posting through the presbytery letterbox. We still require prizes, either Easter Eggs or wine would be much appreciated. A donations box is at the back of St Wulstan's. Look out for opening times of the church on the parish website. Thank you.

**Foodbank.** Our next delivery will be on Monday **30th March**. For items in short supply please see posters on noticeboards or pick up a 'shopping list'. Please check the website/look out for further announcements about when the Church will be open for you to drop off your donations. Please **do not** leave donations outside the church. Thank you. *G. Kelly, SVP.*

**Christian Aid Lent Lunches** have been cancelled.

**Wyre Forest Justice & Peace Group:** "*Memories of a WWII Evacuee*" by Derek Smith. This meeting has been postponed and will now take place at a later date.

**Exhibition of Methodist Art** at the Bewdley Museum. This event has been CANCELLED along with the associated **Ecumenical Lenten Services of Reflection** on Sunday evenings.

The Lent addition of the Diocesan magazine **The Sower** is still available. It's packed full of interesting articles including a tribute to Canon Gerry Breen. It is **FREE** so **please take one!**

**Catholic Herald:** this will continue to be available and is a good way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the Church.

**Parish lottery:** Saturday 14th March, No 14, Veronica Urwin.

**Collections:** Last week's Offertory collections came to £426.36. *Thank you for your generosity.*

## Two New Auxiliary Bishops Appointed

News to cheer us all up! **Canon Stephen Wright** and **Canon David Evans** have been appointed to be the new Auxiliary Bishops to serve our Archdiocese. This follows Bishop Robert Byrne's appointment to Hexham and Newcastle last March and Bishop David McGough's retirement. Canon David will continue to have pastoral responsibility for the deaneries in Birmingham and Worcestershire (and therefore becomes "our" Bishop) while Canon Stephen will have pastoral responsibility for the deaneries in Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and the Black Country. Some of you will know Canon David as he has said Mass here recently and also came to confirm pupils from St Wulstan's school in January. We wish them both well in their new appointments.

## Coronavirus COVID-19 news

You can read the letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon by logging onto the website for the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

You will also find other useful information there about how the crisis is affecting the Catholic Church and what you can do to keep in touch with the prayer life of the Church.

There is a leaflet that you can download: "*When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly*", copies of which will be made available in Church for use in private prayer.

More information can be found on our local Archdiocese of Birmingham website <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk> where you can find a message from Archbishop Longley.

You can **Follow Mass and other services online:**

Try some of these websites:

[www.walsingham.org.uk/home](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/home) and click on the livestream.

The rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary will take place at Walsingham on **Sunday 29th March** and you will be able to watch live. Learn more at [www.behold2020.com](http://www.behold2020.com).

**Bishop Robert Barron** invites you to join him online for Mass at his **Word on Fire** ministries. He says: "In recent weeks, the coronavirus outbreak has had a profound impact on countries around the world. It is at this exact moment that our faith is most needed. In an effort to continue the practice of our faith in these trying times, I would like to invite you to join us online for daily Mass. Join me, or Word on Fire CEO Fr. Steve Grunow, at <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass>."

**Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio** is an online UK radio broadcasting 24/7 from St John's Seminary, Guildford with over 250 live Masses a week and other features and music to appeal to a Catholic audience. [www.heavensroadfm.com](http://www.heavensroadfm.com)

## Vice Principal - St Ambrose Catholic Primary School

Required for May or Autumn 2020

Salary range £48,807 - £53,855

**Application packs** from Lucy Meadows 01562 823568 or [patocsel@stnicholasowen-mac.org.uk](mailto:patocsel@stnicholasowen-mac.org.uk)

**Closing date** Monday 30th April, 12.00 noon

**Interviews** Monday 4th May

**Please pray for all parishioners who are sick, especially:** Luke Allin, Emma Caldwell, Simon Cashe, Elaine Collins, Terry Coy, David M Davies, Mary Graham, Izzy Griffiths, Helen James, baby Phillip Mansel James, Mary Lawson, Tony Maye, Anne Maughan, Josephine Maughan, Martin Maughan, Daphne Nealon, Janet Offord, Nicola Saunders, Steven Thomas, Jill Toombs. **Please also remember all those in nursing homes and the housebound. May the healing presence of Christ be with them.** If you or someone you know would like to be included on the sick list please notify the clergy via the Presbytery or parish office. Similarly, if any person can be **removed** from the above list please let us know.

**Please pray for the souls of those who have died recently:**

**and all those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:**

Michael O'Malley, John Dormer, Stuart Imrie, Stani Pszon, Irene Russell, Winifred Whiteman, Cecil Smith, Stephen Cooke, May Bennett, Michael McSherry, Ann Jeffery, David Bowen, Patricia McGinley, Jimmy Forte, Edward Robinson, Nancy Corrigan, Margaret Hammond, Mary Nicholson, William Delaney, Ada Ward, Thomas Sandford, Kathleen Clegg, John Dunne, Jack Harris, Paddy Cawley, Heinrich Repukat, Helen Packwood, Candace Reeve, Thomas & Cecilia Rogers, Dorothy Keelan, Annie Larkin, Tom Davies, John Higgins, Geoffrey Connolly, Tim Bridgford

**Grant eternal rest, O Lord, to the souls of the faithful departed. Amen**